

Crown Prosecutor

The lawyer who prosecutes crimes for the public. A salary grid, a pension, and a courtroom nearly every day.

TYPICAL PAY

\$140,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$90k to \$230k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

7 to 10 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Courthouses and Crown attorney offices in every city and region

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Strong marks in English and any writing-heavy course.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any subject. Write the LSAT (law school admission test).
- 3 Law school (JD, juris doctor)** 3 years
Take criminal law, evidence, criminal procedure and trial advocacy. Do a criminal moot if you can.
- 4 Licensing** About 1 year
Article at a Crown attorney's office if you can get in, or at a criminal defence firm. Both count. Then the bar exams.
- 5 Get hired** 0 to 3 years
Apply to your province's Attorney General or to the PPSC (Public Prosecution Service of Canada). Openings are competitive. Many start on short contracts.

Pros and cons

- + Courtroom every day, from your first year
- + Salary grid, pension, and none of the business side of law
- + You decide which cases go forward: real responsibility early
- Caseloads are heavy and never shrink
- Violent and sexual crime files, day after day
- Court time limits mean constant pressure to move cases

Good to know

The R in R v Smith means the King

Criminal cases are brought in the name of the Crown, so every case is styled R versus the accused. R stood for Regina, the Queen, until 2022. It now stands for Rex, the King.

A Crown is not supposed to want to win

In 1955 the Supreme Court of Canada wrote that a prosecutor's job is not to get a conviction but to lay the evidence before the court fairly. Crowns are trained to drop cases they should not win.

Optional boosts

Guns and gangs, sexual assault, homicide teams. Appeals. Management. The bench.

Where these numbers come from

Public Prosecution Service of Canada
Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General
Law Society of Ontario: Becoming a lawyer
Job Bank: Lawyers and Quebec notaries, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/crown-prosecutor>



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