

## **ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COURT ADMINISTRATORS (ACCA)**

### **CORE COMPETENCIES FOR COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

#### **10: Visioning and Strategic Planning**

##### **Introduction**

In studying core competencies for Canadian court administrators, ACCA looked at a number of approaches. In the end, ACCA decided to endorse the core competencies<sup>1</sup> as defined by the American National Association for Court Management (NACM), subject to commentaries identifying distinct Canadian issues. ACCA's decision to endorse NACM's core competencies for court administrators is based on the great similarity of issues relating to court administration in the United States and Canada, the high quality of what NACM has produced, and the great resources and time invested in creating these core competencies.

##### **Canadian Context**

The NACM core competency relating to Visioning and Strategic Planning<sup>2</sup> is highly compatible with the Canadian Court system. There are no overarching issues that would distinguish the Canadian context, subject to the detailed comments below.

##### **Commentary**

From the perspective of Canadian jurisdictions, ACCA suggests that the following distinguishing points be kept in mind when reviewing or studying the NACM description of Visioning and Strategic Planning:

1. Introductory Page

References to the American governmental and court structures must, of course, be adjusted to the Canadian context. For example, references to "local, state, and federal data" should be read as "municipal, provincial, and federal data".

2. Curriculum Guidelines: Required Knowledge, Skill and Ability

(i) *Visioning and Strategic Planning Fundamentals*: In many Canadian jurisdictions, particularly the Provincial jurisdictions, court administrators are organizationally separate from the judiciary, and therefore, some references to

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<sup>1</sup> Core Competency Curriculum Guidelines, online: National Association for Court Management [http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg\\_homepage.htm](http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg_homepage.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Core Competency Curriculum Guidelines, online: National Association for Court Management [http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg\\_10\\_corecompetency\\_visioning.html](http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg_10_corecompetency_visioning.html)

“courts” in this document could more accurately, in Canada, refer to “court administrators”.

(ii) *Court [Administration] Purposes, Jurisdiction, Structure, Processes, and Performance*: There is a reference to Trial Court Performance Standards. Although these are not generally applied in Canada, they are a highly detailed and useful set of standards by which crucial aspects of the performance of any trial court can be assessed. Further detail on these standards may be found on the Internet from the United States Bureau of Judicial Assistance at: <http://bja.ncjrs.org/publications/default.asp>

One additional purpose of the courts should be added, namely “to enhance the credibility of the Rule of Law”.