

36 new sheriffs have been hired in BC to address court backlog

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36 new sheriffs have been hired in BC to address court backlog, something the BC Government and Service Employees Union says is 'a move in the right direction'.

The BCGEU's Dean Purdy says his group is pleased the government has listened to the concerns of the sheriffs, the judges and the public

"This is a move in the right direction obviously, and I think it will help to ease the pain the court system has been experiencing over the past year. We've seen on many occasions judges around the province refuse to run their courtrooms without the presence of a deputy sheriff to provide security. The shortage and lack of sheriffs have caused a number of trials to be adjourned or stood down including a home invasion trial and a murder trial in Vancouver"

Purdy says the government needs to continue to replace the more than 100 sheriffs he says have left for higher paying law enforcement jobs.

Purdy was speaking on CFX 1070 with Ryan Price Monday afternoon.