

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-16

Service in French Language

Every person has the right to:

1. File documents with the Court Registry in English or French;
2. Obtain the *Rules of Court*, forms, and practice directions from the Court registry in English or French;
3. Communicate with a clerk or designated staff person who speaks and understands English or French at each stage of the Court's administrative processes;
4. Speak in English or French and produce documents in English or French in a trial or hearing;
5. Request a transcript that includes the evidence given in English and French; and
6. Have word for word translation, if an interpreter is present.

The Senior Judge has the power to assign judges. There is no positive obligation to provide a bilingual judge, clerk, or officer of the court, or an interpreter. However, there are bilingual deputy judges who may be available from their home court for assignment to French or bilingual trials in Yukon.

The trial judge assigned has the obligation to conduct a fair trial. This may require interpretation and a transcript that includes interpretation of the original French and English voices. It may also require that filed documents be translated, so that no party is disadvantaged in the trial process. Directions of this nature will be made to the Trial Coordinator or Court Clerk.

Any indication that French will be used in court should be communicated in writing as soon as reasonably possible to the Senior Judge, the Trial Coordinator, and all parties. Any party may apply for directions or pre-trial conference.

It is the practice of the Court to issue judgments in both official languages when trials, hearings, or applications are conducted in both official languages.

Veale J.
January 15, 2016