

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-16

Service in French Language

Every person has the right to:

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

The Chief Justice has the responsibility of assigning judges. Currently there are a bilingual resident judge and several bilingual deputy judges. If they are unable to be scheduled to hear a matter in the language of the hearing, another judge may hear it with the help of an interpreter.

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 testimony. 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 by the trial judge to the Trial Coordinator or Court Clerk.

Any indication that French will be used in court shall be communicated in writing as soon as reasonably possible to the Chief Justice, 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.

Duncan C.J.
September 3, 2021