

COUR DU QUÉBEC



THREE-YEAR VISION

2015

2016

2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUDGE

At the Court of Québec we periodically take time to reflect on existing measures worth pursuing and new ones to adopt, in our many spheres of jurisdiction, as part of our quest to remain at the forefront of accessible justice adapted to citizens' needs.

The 2015-2016-2017 Three-year Vision is the fruit of this reflection. Like the previous one, this vision is based on our four core values: a court built on its judges' competence, integrity, and humanity; a court that responds to citizens' needs within targeted timeframes; an innovative court that promotes sound case management and the use of an array of dispute settlement methods; and a dynamic court that provides leadership and advocates dialogue and cooperation.

As we continue down the path traced for us by the Court's previous vision statement, we have targeted concrete actions, projects, and objectives that are the hallmarks of a forward-looking, high-quality justice system. For the next three years we have chosen to focus on evolving facets of the justice system; on responding to the realities and needs of specific clienteles; on putting an end to working in silos; on respecting the mission and role of every partner in the system; and on proactive judicial planning that takes emerging needs into account.

The Court of Québec's new three-year vision reflects the values we share and our commitment to the concerted efforts, initiative, openness, and creativity that will ensure we remain a contemporary court solidly anchored in the society we serve.



Élizabeth Corte
Chief Judge
Court of Québec

OUR VALUES

A court
that is defined
by its judges

A court
that adapts
to citizens'
needs

A court
that innovates

A dynamic
court

OUR VISION

The Court of Québec seeks to be recognized as the court whose judges and presiding justices of the peace stand out for their sense of belonging and their dedication to administering justice that is respectful of all citizens.

Constantly
evolving
justice services
in every sphere

Implement the new Code of Civil Procedure (NCCP), which modifies the Court's monetary jurisdiction and provides for sound case management:

- Help lay groundwork for NCCP enactment
- Provide professional development for judges who will administer the NCCP, publish newsletters, and create other training tools
- Contribute to the Small Claims Issue Table and promote related initiatives
- Take part in pilot projects on mandatory mediation for parties in Small Claims Division cases
- Develop a harmonized case management process that meets NCCP requirements

Ensure optimal use of resources in the Criminal and Penal Division, in light of the increasing length and complexity of cases heard and the growing number of accused individuals appearing without legal counsel:

- Study the report of the committee on the treatment of penal cases
- Develop a program to monitor the progress of long and complex cases
- Develop an ongoing evaluation process for Court activities (other than hearings)
- Identify best practices in specific areas (e.g., sealing and unsealing of warrants)
- Consolidate criminal case management programs
- Draft and publish guides for judges sitting in criminal cases (e.g., on treatment of individuals appearing without legal counsel)

Constantly
evolving
justice services
in every sphere

Implement the Court of Québec's new jurisdiction regarding youth related matters introduced by the NCCP, and keep abreast of proposed amendments in youth protection and adoption:

- Introduce parenting after separation information sessions
- Introduce family mediation and encourage mediation as an option under appropriate circumstances
- Closely monitor cases of overlapping jurisdiction (e.g., criminal and youth), and train judges as necessary
- Monitor progress of the committee on the application of the *Youth Protection Act*
- Help develop the content of proposed amendments to youth protection and adoption legislation
- Draft and publish guides for judges sitting in youth matters (e.g., adoption)

Diversify and adapt Court of Québec services and practices in every field of its jurisdiction to better meet the evolving needs of citizens using the justice system:

- Overhaul the *Regulation of the Court of Québec*
- Provide, promote, and consolidate appropriate conflict-resolution mechanisms, including informal settlement, management, and facilitation conferences
- Develop guidelines on the use of recording and communication technologies (e.g., email, videoconferencing, audio communications)

A justice system
sensitive
to the realities
and needs
of specific
clienteles

Provide better justice services to aboriginal people in all communities, including large and small urban centres:

- Consolidate improvements already made to the itinerant court in northern Québec
- Coordinate actions designed to improve court services in youth and criminal cases, particularly in the Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent RCM (Basse-Côte-Nord)
- Better utilize technology to offer enhanced services in urgent matters (centralize handling of urgent matters)
- Hold consultations required by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement on operating rules of the Court

Propose and implement adapted measures for people with mental health issues:

- Implement a provincial project for children and parents with mental health issues, with respect to youth protection
- Draw up and publish a guide for judges establishing best practices for clinical examinations and institutionalization
- Implement, in the Criminal and Penal Division, judicial district of Montréal, a framework for better responding to the needs of accused persons with mental health issues

Maintain specialized services for people struggling with drug addiction issues:

- Analyze the assessment of the Court of Québec Drug Treatment Program in Montréal, and implement recommendations
- Expand the Drug Treatment Program to include non-detained individuals
- Determine other regions that could benefit from a court-sponsored drug treatment program and support the development of such programs

Strong leadership with partners and the public

A firm commitment
to putting an end
to working in silos,
coupled with respect
for each partner's role

Take part in efforts to better inform users of the justice system with such measures as enhanced use of communication technologies:

- Update the Court of Québec website and make reports easier to understand for the general public
- Contribute to the work of the Small Claims Issue Table
- Take part in Small Claims Division information sessions for parties offered in every region by bar associations, young bar associations, and community justice centres
- Take part in the annual *Rendez-vous avec la justice* information sessions
- Work in concert with other Québec courts in areas of shared interest (e.g., guidelines on use of technology during hearings)
- Use social media appropriately (e.g., constantly updated Twitter feed)

Encourage opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and concertation with partners from Québec and beyond and build on the synergy created to pursue innovative projects:

- Launch the Québec Forum for Access to Civil and Family Justice and actively contribute to its work
- Maintain collaborations with other courts, Ministère de la Justice, bar and young bar associations, law faculties, lawyers' associations, Éducaloi, community justice centres, etc.
- Play an active role in the Canadian Council of Chief Judges and the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges
- Maintain cooperation with France's École nationale de la magistrature

Proactive
judicial planning
that takes
emerging needs
into account

Review certain aspects of the Court's organizational structure to ensure optimal use of its resources:

- Implement new structures for per diem judges
- Review the attributions of presiding justices of the peace
- Implement the Court's position as defined in the recommendations of the report of the committee on the treatment of penal cases
- Define the Court's position on the organization of the municipal justice system

Determine, document, and express the Court's needs in every aspect necessary for the execution of its mission:

- Judge positions
- Support staff for judges and coordination teams
- Courtrooms, security, and office space
- Technology, IT equipment, and electronic communication
- Tools judges need in management positions

Develop and use performance indicators to more effectively monitor the Court's judicial and administrative activities:

- Examine best practices in Canada and abroad by such means as participation in the Canadian Council of Chief Judges' work to develop performance indicators
- Review the Court policy on targeted timeframes
- Integrate use of indicators into the Court's operations

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the Office of the Chief Judge of the Court of Québec,
300 boulevard Jean-Lesage, Suite 5.15
Québec City, Québec G1K 8K6
Telephone: 418-649-3424

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