



# The Court of Québec

*A Modern Court*

*Three-year Vision*  
*2012-2013-2014*

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## *Message from the Chief Judge*

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Every organization or institution that actively pursues openness and excellence must take a look at its accomplishments from time to time as well as imagine—on the basis of shared values—what it aspires to be so that it can stay in tune with the society it serves.

The purpose of this three-year vision statement of the Court of Québec 2012-2013-2014 is precisely that: to identify the measures the Court of Québec intends to take during this period to help improve access to justice.

*Élizabeth Corte*

Élizabeth Corte  
Chief Judge  
Court of Québec

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## Our Vision

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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.

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# The Court of Québec

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## Our Values

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### *A court that is defined by its judges*

A court that is built on its judges' competence, integrity, probity and humanity

### *A court that adapts to citizens' needs*

A court that responds to citizens' needs within targeted time frames

### *A court that innovates*

A court that promotes case management, appropriate dispute settlement methods, and the use of various means of communication

### *A dynamic court*

A court that provides leadership and advocates dialogue, cooperation, and involvement with partners from the legal and judicial community

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# The Court of Québec

## *A court that is defined by its judges*

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### **SELECTING THE BEST CANDIDATES**

Selecting the best candidates for judicial office continues to be an important priority.

- Share acquired expertise with the competent authorities and see that legislative and regulatory provisions help ensure that the best candidates are selected
- Provide selection committee members with advanced training, in accordance with the regulations in effect

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### **MENTORING**

The Court sponsors a mentorship program that helps judges, particularly newly appointed ones, acquire the relevant skills for the position.

- Set up a committee of judges to oversee all mentorship-related activities
- Design and implement a mentor training program in 2012–2013

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### **JUDICIAL EDUCATION**

The Court has a judicial education policy and remains committed to offering seminars to meet judges' needs.

- Develop a program of continuing education that aims to expand knowledge, develop skills, and advance the role of judges
- Examine new educational methods and how to make better use of communication methods
- Revise the Judicial Education policy to consolidate gains and ensure that activities effectively contribute to the excellence of the judiciary

Taking  
concrete  
action

Concrete  
actions

# The Court of Québec

*A court that is defined by its judges*

Concrete  
actions

## **PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF JUDGES**

The involvement of each judge in the Court's activities is essential to its vitality.

- Promote judges' participation in Court committees, including training and development committees
- Encourage judges' collaboration with initiatives and programs set up by the Court and partners from the justice community
- Work closely with the permanent advisory committees
  - Maintain the advisory committee on civil and administrative justice and ensure it functions properly
  - Set up advisory committees on youth, criminal and penal, and aboriginal matters to recommend concrete measures and legislative amendments in view of optimizing the conduct of hearings

## **THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND APPEAL DIVISION**

The Court created a specialized division to respond to needs in this area of law.

- Take stock of the experience acquired by the Division since its creation and identify priorities to strengthen its foundations and clarify its objectives
- Provide Division judges with the support they need to perform their duties in a spirit of cohesion and collegiality

Concrete  
actions

# The Court of Québec

*A court that is defined by its judges*

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## **LEGAL SUPPORT**

The Court provides judges with a research department staffed by lawyers whose role is to support the judges, mainly in cases that have been assigned to them.

- Meet emerging needs in legal and social-legal areas
- Help design and update guides on various areas of daily practice law

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actions

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Competent judge's assistants play an essential role in helping judges perform their duties and ensuring that hearings are conducted properly.

- Set up a working committee charged with orienting and training judge's assistants and maintaining the skills they need to perform their duties
- Ensure sufficient support staff for judges and identify increasingly specialized needs, particularly in matters of case management
- Ensure necessary support staff for coordinating judges and associate coordinating judges in the performance of their administrative duties



# The Court of Québec

## *A court that adapts to citizens' needs*

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### **JUSTICE ADMINISTERED WITHIN TARGETED TIME FRAMES**

The Court seeks to promote access to justice and directs its actions to help ensure justice is rendered within targeted time frames.

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- Maintain a balance between the volume of activity and the number of judges in each coordination region
- Provide judges in management positions the tools they need to perform their duties

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### **JUSTICE IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

The Court seeks to play a concrete role in improving justice in the various aboriginal communities

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- Help implement the recommendations contained in the report entitled *La justice en milieu autochtone : vers une plus grande synergie*, and, more specifically, help develop resources such as justice committees, community integration agents and paralegal advisors
- Ensure judges perform their duties in the best possible conditions with respect to material organization of the premises and the transportation and safety of individuals
- Coordinate actions aimed at improving the services provided by the Court in aboriginal communities; to this end, encourage judges to enrich their knowledge of aboriginal realities
- Adopt operating procedures and rules of court that are adapted to the specifics of aboriginal communities

# The Court of Québec

*A court that adapts to citizens' needs*

## **THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE**

The Court embraces the underlying objectives and principles of therapeutic justice and encourages the use of therapeutic justice whenever it is realistic to do so, in light of all circumstances.

### **Domestic violence**

- Ensure domestic violence cases continue to receive individualized treatment, particularly at the Montréal Criminal and Penal Division
- Assess the possibility of using a similar approach for citizens in all regions

### **Mental health and homelessness**

- Inventory, assess, and promote concrete measures identified in reports produced by various stakeholders working in these areas

### **Drug addiction**

- Set up a pilot drug treatment program at the Montréal Criminal and Penal Division to provide structured treatment, subject to court supervision, with the support of community services
- Provide citizens in all regions access to a drug treatment program that takes regional differences and resource availability into account

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actions

# The Court of Québec

## *A court that innovates*

### **CASE MANAGEMENT AND APPROPRIATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT METHODS**

The Court takes steps to increase access to justice. It implements innovative and alternative measures in the Civil, Youth, and Criminal and Penal Divisions to facilitate more efficient administration of justice.

#### **Civil and administrative matters**

- Monitor conciliation and case management projects in the judicial districts of Chicoutimi, Hull, Longueuil and Terrebonne and assess the advisability of implementing these measures elsewhere in Québec
- When appropriate, employ any means of communication likely to reduce travel by the parties and attorneys
- Promote the use of settlement conferences when the parties agree to such
- Make it possible to consult practice and case merits roles online, and when appropriate, set up an online hearing date reservation service for civil matters
- In outlying districts, make judges available upon request when the parties are ready to proceed on the merits

#### **Criminal and penal matters**

- Optimize the use of case management judges in accordance with the *Act to amend the Criminal Code (mega-trials)* – S.C. 2011, c. 16
- Promote case management when preliminary inquiry requests are filed and make the necessary representations to ensure that the powers of the trial judge are also conferred on the justice of the peace presiding over the preliminary inquiry
- Follow up on the report of the Comité sur la révision du processus en matière criminelle

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actions

# The Court of Québec

*A court that innovates*

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## Youth matters

- Monitor the Montréal case management pilot project regarding adoption and child protection and assess the advisability of introducing it elsewhere in Québec
- Promote the introduction of judicial conciliation for youth matters in all judicial districts in Québec

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## *A SPECIAL “ONE FAMILY, ONE JUDGE” APPROACH*

- Assess the advisability of implementing a pilot project allowing the same judge to hear child protection and criminal cases involving the same parties

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## *COMMUNICATION METHODS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*

The Court encourages the use of communication methods and technology tools that promote access to justice. It is involved with Université de Montréal’s Cyberjustice Laboratory project as well as the various working groups that are active in this area.

- Assist Ministère de la Justice in its efforts to introduce an integrated justice information system
- Revamp the judiciary’s intranet infrastructure to facilitate access to the various databases and Court-produced legal documentation
- Participate in the information security committee’s (COMSI) efforts to maintain a high level of security for the judiciary’s information assets

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*A court that innovates*

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actions

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## **COURT REGULATION**

In the wake of legislative amendments—notably to the *Code of Civil Procedure* and the *Criminal Code*—the *Regulation of the Court of Québec* will be re-examined.

- Update the regulation
- Create a permanent process for reviewing the regulation

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## **MUNICIPAL JUDGES**

The Court of Québec's associate chief judge responsible for the municipal courts oversees the municipal courts. The municipal judges come under his authority.

- Design an efficient system to manage the assignments of judges who sit in court
- Develop solutions in response to the decrease in the number of municipal judges who sit in court
- Facilitate access to legal documentation
- Develop training and development partnerships as well as joint training and development programs with judges from other jurisdictions

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actions

# The Court of Québec

## *A dynamic court*

### **OUTREACH**

Court of Québec judges are active in various provincial, national, and even international committees and organizations with a view to maintaining a constructive dialogue with lawyers and judges from other jurisdictions and sharing their expertise.

- Actively participate in working sessions with the Québec Bar, local bar associations, Association des avocats et avocates de province (AAP) and the Canadian Bar Association (CBA)
- Take part in round tables and liaison activities in all regions of Québec
- Step up cooperation with university law faculties in Québec and at the University of Ottawa
- Pursue the ongoing dialogue with École nationale de la magistrature de France (ENM)
- Maintain the Court's involvement in judges associations, both nationally and internationally

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### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Court is committed to the quality of its communications.

- Review the Court's methods of communication with the media, those appearing in court, and the general public
- Update existing Court documents in light of new media

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February 7, 2012