Conseil des ministres sur la francophonie canadienne

Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie

Access to Justice in French

Agora

People-Centred Justice

June 2026 — Winnipeg

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Introduction

The Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) is an intergovernmental collaborative forum that brings together ministers responsible for French-language services, Acadian and Francophone affairs, the Canadian Francophonie, and official languages. In 2024, the MCCF launched the Agora, a two-day gathering that draws on diverse perspectives to propose innovative responses to the challenges facing the Canadian Francophonie.

This second edition of the Agora aimed to shed light on the challenges around access to justice in French in Canada, while identifying solutions already being used across the country. The event took place on June 26 and 27, 2026, in Winnipeg. Participants from the legal, community, academic, and government sectors shared their perspectives and proposed ideas to help improve access to justice in French from coast to coast.

> This report on the MCCF's Agora on Access to Justice in French summarizes the topics covered and outlines the proposed solutions that emerged from the discussions and working groups, without assessing their feasibility.

The Honourable Glen Simard

The Honourable Marc Miller

Opening remarks

The MCCF co-chairs, the Honourable Glen Simard of Manitoba and the Honourable Marc Miller of the Government of Canada, thanked the participants for attending and acknowledged from the outset that access to justice in French is a complex issue.

Minister Simard noted that, like the first Agora on economic development, this second edition was an opportunity to build bridges, share ideas, and identify innovative ways to improve access to justice in French.

Minister Miller emphasized that access to justice in the official language of one's choice is essential for the growth and development of Francophone minority communities. He stressed the importance of the event, adding that the best solutions often come from people working on the ground.

In conclusion, the ministers said they hoped that the ideas shared at the Agora would inform the future work of governments and partners in the justice sector.

> "Along with several of my colleagues in government, I am here to participate. We will carefully consider your proposed solutions and identify necessary follow-up actions to amplify the impact of this Agora."
> — The Honourable Glen Simard

> "Every Canadian should be able to understand their rights, be heard, and receive services in the official language of their choice. It is a matter of trust in our institutions and, ultimately, in our democracy."
> — The Honourable Marc Miller

Intersecting views on people-centred justice

Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnelly, Assistant Professor at McGill University's Faculty of Law, provided a historical overview of people-centred justice, a concept that emerged in response to the access-to-justice crisis.[1]

A significant proportion of Canadians experience legal problems, but in many cases, those affected never receive justice. In addition to financial and time-related barriers, geographic, physical, psychological, and linguistic obstacles can impede access to justice at any stage of the process.

Since the 1960s, approaches to access to justice have moved beyond a formal, court-centred system to embrace a broader vision that includes alternative dispute resolution models and preventive and proactive law.

These changes have led to the emergence of people-centred justice, a concept now central to many Canadian and international strategies. Grounded in empirical evidence, people-centred justice prioritizes accessible, flexible services tailored to people's needs. It takes into account social, economic, and health factors while promoting autonomy and encouraging individuals to take an active role in resolving their problems.

Prof. Boulanger-Bonnelly gave practical examples, including medical-legal partnerships that integrate legal services into health care settings and U.S. front-line justice initiatives that support community workers who help people resolve their legal problems.

> "We must centre justice on people, not systems. Systems are necessary, but a much broader perspective is needed to effectively address the access-to-justice crisis."

1 Access to Justice and People-Centred Justice

In closing, Prof. Boulanger-Bonnelly noted that the access-to-justice crisis affects communities unevenly, hitting the most vulnerable the hardest.

Evolution of language rights

Moderated by the Honourable Glen Simard, the panel included François Larocque, Full Professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, and Roger Bilodeau, a lawyer who played a major role in several landmark language rights cases. Together, they reviewed key advances in legislation and case law.

Prof. Larocque traced the evolution of language rights since the constitutional conferences of 1864. He emphasized the importance of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which guarantees minority language educational rights. He also underscored the importance of provincial and territorial French-language services laws and policies in supporting the vitality of Francophone communities and strengthening the presence of French in public life.

Timeline: Evolution of language rights in Canada
Key milestones in language rights

Date	Event
1864	At the constitutional conferences in Charlottetown and Quebec City, the concept of a country with bilingual legislatures and courts is already present.
1867	Section 133 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* establishes legislative bilingualism in the Parliament of Canada and the Houses of the Legislature of Quebec.
1870	The *Manitoba Act* guarantees legislative and judicial bilingualism in response to the demands made by Louis Riel and the provisional Métis government.
1890	Manitoba adopts a law designating English as the sole official language, putting an end to legislative and judicial bilingualism in the province.
1959	The House of Commons begins offering simultaneous interpretation, reflecting gradual progress toward bilingualism at the federal level.
1963	Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson establishes the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.
1969	The first federal *Official Languages Act* is enacted; New Brunswick also adopts official languages legislation.

Date	Event
1974	In the *Jones* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada confirms that constitutional language rights guarantees are a floor, not a ceiling.
1979	The *Forest* and *Blaikie No. 1* rulings clarify Manitoba's and Quebec's legislative language obligations.
1982	The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* entrenches several language rights guarantees in Canada's supreme law.
1986	The Supreme Court of Canada issues three major language rights rulings: *Société des Acadiens*, *MacDonald*, and *Bilodeau*.
1990	In the *Mahé* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada interprets section 23 of the *Charter*, which protects minority language educational rights.
1999	In the *Beaulac* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada confirms that language rights must be interpreted liberally and purposively.
2026	In the *Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada clarifies certain aspects of institutional bilingualism.

Drawing on his personal experience, Roger Bilodeau described how his challenge to an English-only traffic summons led him to play a pivotal role in advancing language rights in Manitoba. His legal

action contributed to the *Bilodeau* case and the *Reference re Manitoba Language Rights*, in which the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed Manitoba's obligation to enact and publish its laws in both official languages. Mr. Bilodeau also highlighted persistent barriers to putting language rights into practice, including limited resources and institutional capacity.

> "Language rights rulings are like bricks laid one on top of the next. Together, they have built what we have today. There is still work to do, of course, but we have made remarkable progress."
> — Roger Bilodeau

Both speakers stressed the importance of ongoing training in justice-related matters and of developing common-law terminology in French for judges, lawyers, and court staff. They also emphasized the need for adequate funding and a stronger active offer of services in French.

Impact of different justice administration models in Canada

Serge Rousselle, Full Professor at the Université de Moncton Faculty of Law, presented a comparative analysis of different models for delivering justice in French across Canada.[2] The analysis was prepared specifically for the Agora.

Information was gathered from officials responsible for French-language judicial services across the provinces and territories to better understand how governments meet their language obligations in practice. The consultations identified a range of models, which were classified into three levels of maturity.

1. **Structural model**: Constitutive bilingualism is backed by well-developed administrative design. The obligation is built into the system itself. The system anticipates demand.
2. **Sectoral model**: The justice system fulfills its obligations in some areas, such as criminal law or family law, but has limited capacity in others.
3. **Fragile capacity model**: Access to services in French depends largely on the efforts of individuals. Services are activated on a case-by-case basis and offered as accommodation measures.

2 Access to Justice in French: Between Theory and Practice

Active offer was identified as essential to ensuring meaningful access to justice in French. Prof. Rousselle's findings suggest that the most effective models inform people of their rights at first contact, record their language choice at every stage of the process, and make French-language services part of institutions' regular operations rather than treating them as accommodations.

Prof. Rousselle also identified recurring challenges reported by the officials consulted: recruiting and retaining qualified bilingual staff; ensuring resources are available; coordinating the various stakeholders in the justice system; and considering language needs when designing policies, programs, and technological tools.

> "Substantive equality is a capacity that is built up quietly, from the best practices. Position by position, form by form, system by system. From one end of the country to the other, substantive equality is within reach when it becomes a structural choice rather than a convenient accommodation."
> — Prof. Serge Rousselle

In closing, Prof. Rousselle argued that access to justice of equal quality in French depends on institutions implementing language rights proactively and systematically. In his view, substantive equality becomes possible when French-language services are part of the justice system's architecture rather than treated as a convenient accommodation.

Working group

Administration of justice

This working group was facilitated by the Honourable Paul S. Rouleau, Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Participants included:

- Dr. Marie-Hélène Girard, Associate Professor and researcher at McGill University
- Julie Laliberté, Counsel for French and Interpretation Services at the Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Despite progress made over the past two decades, people's ability to exercise their language rights still depends on institutions making those rights visible and accessible. Dr. Girard's research identifies three key drivers of progress:

1. Supportive policies
2. Strong institutional leadership
3. Ongoing consultation among justice system stakeholders

> "Policies create possibilities, leadership creates momentum, and collaboration creates coherence."
> — Dr. Marie-Hélène Girard

To inform the discussion, participants were given the following table, which sets out barriers and levers for increasing the demand for—and the offer of—justice services in French.

Barriers and levers for increasing demand and offer

	… to increase demand	… to increase offer
Barriers…	• Longer wait times and a perception of lower quality • Lack of awareness and information about language rights and available services within the population • Limited access to resources and services in French • Geographical and access constraints	• Shortage of bilingual legal professionals (judges, lawyers) and justice staff (clerks, interpreters) • Insufficient awareness-raising among Anglophone stakeholders • Lack of French training • Linguistic insecurity and limited use of French • Institutional frameworks and operational constraints
Levers…	• Orientation and access tools (directories, single point of access) • Availability of resources in French (documents, forms, websites) • Awareness of language rights (information, reading of rights) • Access to services in French from the moment of arrest	• Policy and legislative frameworks • Language standards and qualifications • Team structure and capacity (bilingual teams, planning of French-language trials) • Operational means and resources (technologies/AI, mobility of judges, funding)

The information provided in this table is taken from a pan-Canadian study on access to justice in French in minority settings, led by Dr. Marie-Hélène Girard and her 1J1A project team involving legal experts, organizations and governments.

The Court of King's Bench of Alberta's experience with French-language services shows that practical, low-cost measures can be introduced gradually. The Court created a dedicated webpage and email address, then adopted a policy on the use of French in 2021 and a policy governing the filing of French-language and bilingual documents in 2024. These initiatives have led to a significant increase in the number of cases handled in French in Alberta.

> "The growth and sustained use of French at the Court have been beneficial. Now that French is no longer treated as an exception, everyone involved is better equipped to meet demand."
> — Julie Laliberté

Issues identified by participants

- The availability of bilingual staff remains a challenge. Recruitment, retention, and recognition of staff members' language skills are essential, particularly since those skills can lead to heavier workloads without additional compensation.
- Outcomes are negatively affected and language rights are harder to exercise without an active offer and a seamless continuum of French-language services throughout the judicial process.
- A lack of empirical data hinders resource allocation. Effective planning requires access to data on service delivery and on the system's internal capacity, as well as mechanisms to identify rights holders and assess future needs.
- A lack of accountability and inconsistent reporting hinder improvements to French-language services.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Incorporate awareness-raising activities into the judicial system** to reinforce the fundamental nature of language rights.
- **Map local resources** that could strengthen French-language services across the judicial system and establish processes to make them easier to use.
- **Encourage the creation of virtual service desks** to strengthen the active offer.
- **Designate a judge** within each court to oversee French-language matters.
- **Establish a complaint process** to document problems, measure progress, and strengthen accountability.
- **Appoint a French-language services** lead to monitor issues, support staff, and coordinate improvements.
- **Develop paid internships and mentorship programs** with law faculties and colleges to build a pool of bilingual talent across all occupations and professions that support the administration of justice.
- **Add a mandatory field** for the preferred official language to intake forms and case-management systems used by police, administrative services, and courts.
- **Establish a community of practice** for French-language services leads from various bodies to share tools, models, training, and best practices on a regular basis.
- **Conduct a pan-Canadian assessment** of the costs and consequences of insufficient French-language services to inform planning and investment decisions.
- **Create a national directory** of specialized bilingual resources—such as interpreters, trainers, and expert witnesses—to improve access to those resources across jurisdictions.

Working group

Justice and technology

This working group was facilitated by Christine O'Doherty, Executive Director of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. Participants included:

- Valentin Callipel, lawyer and Head of Mission at Université de Montréal's Cyberjustice Laboratory
- Philip Louis, Senior Director, Innovation and Digital Transformation at Lavery

Mr. Callipel presented several initiatives born of a Canadian framework for dispute resolution that uses digital technologies and artificial intelligence to guide people through a fully online settlement process.[3] One example was Ontario's Condominium Authority Tribunal (CAT), which reported a 65% settlement rate according to 2023 data. The guided legal pathway was used 66,464 times; 1,168 applications were filed and 321 cases resulted in a Tribunal decision.

The deployment of new technologies also raises concerns about reliability, security, accountability, and digital inclusion. The responsible and equitable use of technology hinges on the development of French-language tools that are adapted to Canada's legal context and supported by appropriate human oversight.

3 Working Group on Justice and Technology

People-centred justice in the age of AI — Christiane Saad
Examples of application: predictive policing, risk assessment, analysis of evidence, research, drafting

Challenges of AI integration	Principles to be strengthened in the face of AI challenges
• Lack of relevant data, transparency and interpretability of AI decisions • Integrated bias and discriminatory impact • Threat to confidentiality and human rights • Ethical responsibility of rulings	• Algorithmic transparency and explainability • Ethical guarantees against discrimination and prejudice • Human oversight and remedy mechanisms • Inclusion and people-centred design • Strong privacy protections

Issues identified by participants

- The reliability of AI-powered legal tools is a major concern. In addition to the inherent risk of hallucinations, AI models are trained primarily on English-language data, with several consequences:
  - AI has a limited and incomplete understanding of legal concepts in French, particularly with respect to common law in French.
  - AI translates and interprets data, which undermines reliability.
  - Data confidentiality and security may be jeopardized.
  - Linguistic bias limits the development of suitable tools of equivalent quality.
  - AI's ability to distinguish civil-law data from common-law data is uncertain.
- Digital exclusion, particularly among vulnerable populations, could create new inequalities in access to justice.
- Large firms can develop technological tools that remain out of reach for smaller firms.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Develop guidelines** governing the use of AI in delivering justice services in French, including requirements for human validation.
- **Use AI** to help produce selected legal content in French or translate it into French, subject to human review before distribution.
- **Expand the availability of French-language legal content and data**, drawing on Canadian sources, to improve the performance of technological tools.
- **Fund the development of French-language AI tools** that reflect Canadian legal realities, including bilingualism and bijuralism.
- **Provide training** to justice system stakeholders on the responsible use of AI.
- **Evaluate how new technologies affect access to justice in French**, particularly for Francophone minority communities, with a focus on vulnerable populations and people in remote regions.
- **Develop closed, secure tools** that give legal professionals answers grounded in a range of sources and contexts, along the lines of the Linguee translation tool.
- **Encourage associations** of French-speaking legal professionals and/or law societies to expand training on the use of generative AI in legal practice, including linguistic considerations.

The participants emphasized that technological development must prioritize governance and accountability, as well as the meaningful participation of justice system users.

Remarks by the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada

Kelly Burke, who took office as Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages in March 2026, reaffirmed her commitment to the full application of the modernized *Official Languages Act*. She said that she favours a results-oriented approach and is prepared to use all the tools at her disposal.

Ms. Burke also highlighted recent advances in the Supreme Court of Canada's language rights jurisprudence, particularly with respect to institutional bilingualism and the substantive equality of official languages. She noted that this progress reflects the concerted efforts of legal professionals, courts, governments, and communities.

> "Behind every achievement are people like you, determined to advance our collective interpretation of rights while promoting access to justice in the official language of one's choice."
> — Kelly Burke

Remarks by the Minister of Justice of Yukon

The Honourable Laura Lang, Yukon's Minister of Justice and a member of the MCCF, opened the Agora's second day by stressing the ongoing need to improve access to justice in French across Canada. She noted that justice rests on people's ability to understand the processes that affect them, to be heard, and to have confidence in the system.

> "Justice only has meaning if people can fully understand it, be heard within it, and navigate its often-complex systems with clarity."
> — The Honourable Laura Lang

In describing Yukon's approach, the minister listed several measures to strengthen access to justice in French, including funding for bilingual services, capacity building within the courts and victim services, and an initiative to improve legal support for litigants from their very first steps in the process.

> "Access to justice is more than opening the doors of the system. It is about ensuring that people can walk through those doors with confidence."
> — The Honourable Laura Lang

Minister Lang also acknowledged ongoing challenges associated with access to information, the availability of bilingual services, and capacity constraints. She affirmed the importance of continued collaboration and innovation.

International perspective

Markku Suksi, Modeen Professor of Public Law at Åbo Akademi University in Finland, offered an international perspective on access to justice in a bilingual context.[4] He noted that Finnish and Swedish enjoy equal status under the Constitution of Finland and that both languages have been used in court proceedings for more than a century.

Finland's framework combines individuals' right to use their language in court with a system that organizes language services according to the linguistic designation of each municipality and region. The Constitution guarantees every person the right to use their own language, either Finnish or Swedish, in their dealings with judicial institutions. Parliament is responsible for specifying how these rights are implemented and has passed numerous laws to that end. All legislation in Finland is enacted in both national languages.

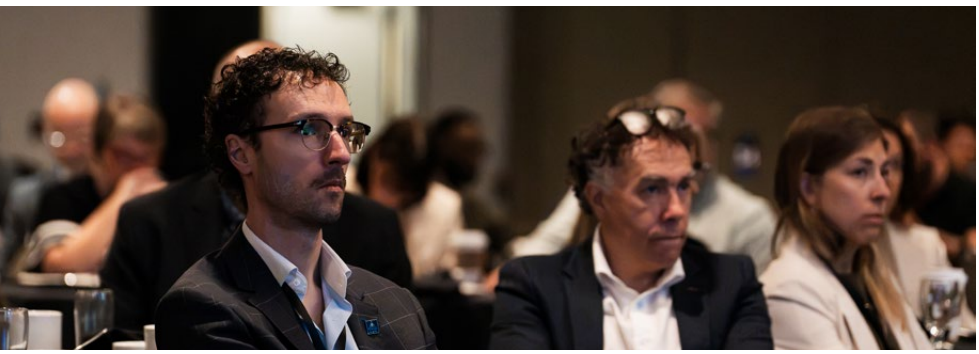
Courts are designated as unilingual or bilingual based on the linguistic profile of the regions they serve. Finland's legislation sets language requirements for judges and court staff to ensure that bilingual courts can provide services in both national languages. As a general rule, people in these positions must have excellent proficiency in their region's majority language and satisfactory proficiency in its minority language. Because these requirements generally favour Finnish, they are reversed for some positions to help address the shortage of Swedish-speaking staff.

4 Markku Suksi, "Two National Languages as Languages of Procedure in Finland," *Just. Journal of Language Rights & Minorities / Revista de Drets Lingüístics i Minories* 4, no. 2 (2025): 187–228, https://doi.org/10.7203/Just.4.30695

Despite this robust framework, Prof. Suksi identified several ongoing challenges, including a shortage of staff with the necessary language skills, declining Swedish-language proficiency among the general population, and the tendency of some individuals to relinquish their language rights.

> "Uncertainty about the linguistic capability of bilingual courts to deal with Swedish-language cases leads Swedish speakers to voluntarily use Finnish, which means that they are actually relinquishing their linguistic rights."
> — Markku Suksi

Prof. Suksi said Finland's model shows that a strong legal framework is an essential foundation, but that making language rights a reality requires ongoing investment in recruitment, training, and institutional capacity.



Working group

Family law – Is justice equitable and accessible?

This working group was facilitated by lawyer Elsy Gagné. Participants included:

- Marie-Josée Poirier, lawyer, Justice Canada
- Nicholas Liang, Family Resolution Service, Manitoba Justice

Family-law cases are often emotionally charged, so it is especially important that people can use their official language of choice throughout the legal process. The profile of Canadian families is also evolving, with an increasing number of cases sitting at the intersection of family law, immigration law and, occasionally, criminal law. This raises complex issues requiring approaches adapted to cultural and linguistic realities. Marie-Josée Poirier noted that recent amendments to the *Divorce Act* have strengthened language rights protections. She also drew attention to the challenges of delivering services in French.

The Access to Justice Francophone Service Hub, launched by the Government of Manitoba, illustrates the potential of integrated models that bring together government officials, justice professionals, and community organizations. Nicholas Liang described the many benefits of housing multiple services and organizations under one roof, including the province's Family Resolution Service, the Association des juristes d'expression française du Manitoba, Victim Services, the Small Claims Court, the court office, and the Court of King's Bench.

Issues identified by participants

- Family-law matters often involve the use of complementary services (mediation, legal aid, psychosocial services and victim services) whose availability in French varies widely.
- In the absence of an active offer, many families are unaware that services are available in French.
- Families often need to navigate between several organizations and services before receiving the help they need.
- Too often, legal documents are not updated in both official languages at the same time, undermining the credibility of French-language content.
- Few family-law professionals practise in French.
- The DivorceMate software platform, which is widely used by mediators, lawyers, and judges, is only available in English.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Schedule designated bilingual hearing days** in the various courts on a regular basis (some provinces do so monthly) to ensure the availability of bilingual staff and to provide greater predictability for parties.
- **Consider creating single-window or multiservice points of access**, and develop online services in remote or underserved regions.
- **Work with software companies** to produce French-language versions of popular specialized tools used in family law, including calculation and case-management software.
- **Provide orientation services** for self-represented individuals and help them prepare for court appearances.
- **Add a language-preference question** to every form used throughout the process, so language needs can be identified the moment a case is opened.
- **Systematically update** French-language forms, guides, and resources on separation, divorce, and parenting responsibilities.
- **Conduct outreach and educational activitie**s on language rights and French-language family services.

Working group

Criminal law – How to federate resources

This working group was facilitated by Sarah Boily, Director General of the Official Languages Branch at Canadian Heritage. Participants included:

- Jean-Benoît Deschamps, Administrative Crown Counsel for Bilingual Prosecutions in British Columbia
- Laura Nagy, Manitoba criminal defence lawyer

In a joint presentation,[5] Jean-Benoît Deschamps and Laura Nagy reviewed key Supreme Court of Canada decisions governing the interpretation of language rights provisions. The *Beaulac*, *Arsenault-Cameron*, *Bessette* and *Tayo Tompouba* decisions reaffirmed that the law guarantees the equal status of French and English before the courts.

> "Substantive equality, as opposed to formal equality, is to be the norm, and the exercise of language rights is not to be considered a request for accommodation."[6]

However, the exercise of this right remains inconsistent across the country and often hinges on the system's ability to provide French-language services at every stage of the judicial process.

5 Criminal law: How to federate resources – Crown and defence perspectives

6 *DesRochers v. Canada (Industry)*, 2009 SCC 8, accessed August 11, 2026

Conducting a trial in French depends on the cooperation of many professionals, including police officers, defence counsel, prosecutors, judges, court clerks, sheriffs, interpreters, and other court staff. The effective exercise of language rights can be compromised by a shortage of bilingual staff, additional delays, the absence of an active offer, and a lack of consistent resources. Access to criminal justice in French goes beyond the legal framework: justice system users and personnel must also be made aware of language rights. Better coordination among the system's various stakeholders is also essential.

Issues identified by participants

- A person's first contact with the police and their initial court appearances are decisive moments for the exercise of language rights, yet people do not always receive the information they need to make informed choices.
- Additional delays associated with French-language proceedings may discourage some accused persons from exercising their language rights. For the prosecution, the timelines set out in *R. v. Jordan* (2016) put pressure on the justice system's bilingual capacity.
- Bail proceedings were identified as a particularly challenging part of the justice process, where access to French-language services remains uneven.
- Several jurisdictions have a limited number of police officers, prosecutors, judges, and court clerks who are able to work in French. Individual language skills are often inadequately assessed or not known.
- For defence counsel, practising in a minority-language setting is not very appealing because it involves additional work (such as translation, revision, and bilingual communication with parties), with no guarantee of increased compensation.
- A considerable number of best practices have already been implemented at the regional level. Sharing them nationally could substantially expand the availability of French-language services.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Strengthen legislative protections**, including by expanding the scope of section 530 of the *Criminal Code*, so that French is available throughout the criminal justice process, including at bail hearings and in appeal proceedings.
- **Systematically inform accused persons** of their language rights at the time of arrest and at their first court appearance; audio recordings could support this information-sharing.
- **Create an internal resource directory** to help mobilize appropriate resources when a French-language case is initiated.
- **Establish mechanisms** for sharing specialized resources among justice-sector institutions to make it easier for people to access French-language services, particularly in smaller jurisdictions.
- **Create a virtual legal-support platform** for legal professionals.
- **Provide mandatory training** on language rights and the active offer to police officers, prosecutors, and other front-line personnel.
- **Assess the bilingual capacity** of court staff involved in delivering French-language services.
- **Ensure that court documents are available** in both official languages.

Working group

Victim support services – The availability, quality, and relevance of services in French

This working group was facilitated by the Honourable Annie Piché, Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. Participants included:

- Liliane Tshiama Kalonji, lawyer and Director, Centre juridique pour femmes de l'Ontario
- François D'Aoust, Superintendent, Ottawa Police Service

For crime victims living in minority-language communities, access to justice means more than being able to obtain occasional services in French. It means receiving support in their own language throughout the process—from their first contact with a health care worker or police officer to their final court appearance.

> "When a victim is not understood in their own language, it is not a minor service issue; it is a matter of safety and justice."
> — François D'Aoust

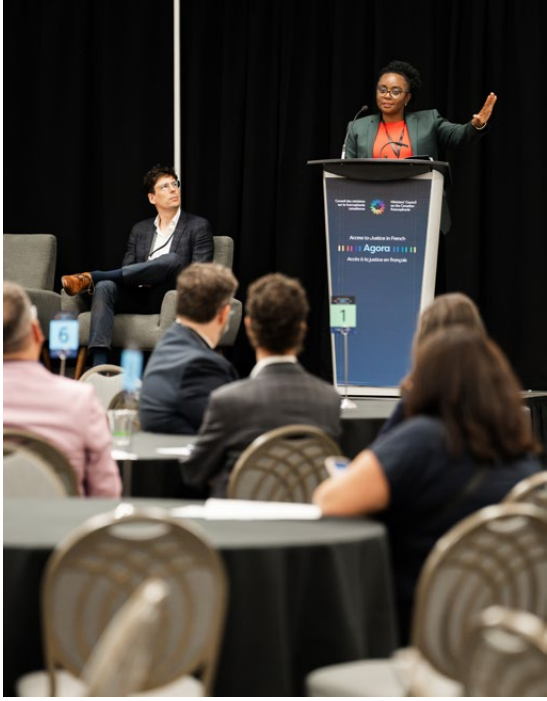
This requires collaboration between police, health care institutions, community organizations, victim services, and justice system personnel. Integrated support models, such as the one used by the Centre juridique pour femmes de l'Ontario, represent promising approaches.

Issues identified by participants

- After a crime has been committed against them, Francophone victims may encounter multiple gaps in French-language services as their case moves through the justice system. Shifting between languages at different stages of the process can increase the likelihood that victims will disengage and can significantly affect the quality of their testimony, their understanding of proceedings, and their sense of safety.
- The justice system is structured around the individual appearing before the court, and the accused's language rights are recognized. Although the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* recognizes victims' rights to information and participation, it does not expressly stipulate that those rights may be exercised in the official language of their choice.
- Access to services in rural areas was identified as a major challenge, sometimes compounded by misunderstandings related to cultural differences.
- In cases involving Francophone victims in minority-language settings, the prosecution must often serve as both a guide and an interpreter and coordinate the various organizations and people involved.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Explicitly recognize language rights** in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*.
- **Create an easily accessible directory** of French-language organizations, service providers, and services available to victims to facilitate referrals and direct people to the information they need.
- **Establish a referral protocol** that allows police, health care professionals, and victim support organizations to immediately direct victims to French-language resources.
- **Designate a point person** to support Francophone victims throughout the process and ensure continuity of services between organizations.
- **Establish virtual office hours** and mobile service points to provide regular access to French-language services in rural, remote and underserved areas.
- **Develop and deliver active-offer training** for personnel tasked with supporting victims of crime and family violence.
- **Adopt coordination policies** to help victims access government programs and services in French. For example, in British Columbia, legal aid lawyers who can provide services in both official languages may be assigned outside their local area.
- **Consider integrated models** that combine legal expertise, psychosocial support, and safety planning; these were identified as promising practices for improving access to justice in French.



Working group

Francophone immigration – New realities on the ground

This working group was facilitated by lawyer Nicolas Rouleau. Participants included:

- Aissa Nauthoo, Vice-President, Strategic Development and Service Integration, Centre francophone du Grand Toronto and head of the Francophone legal clinic
- Ruphine Djuissi, lawyer, Association des juristes d'expression française du Manitoba

Francophone immigrants are essential to the vitality of Francophone minority communities and represent an important pool of talent for the justice sector.

The need for legal services among Francophones from immigrant backgrounds is growing: Between 2021 and 2023, the legal clinic at the Centre francophone du Grand Toronto recorded a 128% increase in service requests. Yet many newcomers know little about their rights or how Canada's justice system works, making them more vulnerable in matters such as immigration, housing, employment and family law.

At the same time, many French-speaking legal professionals trained abroad struggle to have their credentials recognized, even though their skills could help alleviate the justice system's shortage of bilingual personnel. Despite their experience and expertise, their integration is hampered by complex accreditation pathways that are often available primarily in English. This situation illustrates the paradox raised by Ruphine Djuissi: "If that's where the problem originates, why can't the solution come from there, too?" These immigrant professionals could broaden the availability of French-language services while bringing a deep understanding of the linguistic, cultural, and legal realities of immigrant communities.

Issues identified by participants

- French-language legal information can be scattered across different sources, difficult to find, or not sufficiently tailored to the realities of immigrants.
- Some immigrants may mistrust the justice system because of negative experiences in their countries of origin or because they fear that exercising certain rights could affect their immigration status.
- Many newcomers are unaware of their language rights or are reluctant to request services in French in predominantly English-speaking environments.

Ideas inspired by the discussions

- **Include a module on language rights** and French-language justice services in the settlement pathway for prospective immigrants, beginning with pre-arrival services (for example, through a webinar).
- **Offer newcomers** a legal orientation session upon their arrival in Canada, covering potential challenges relating to immigration, housing, employment, family law, and criminal law.
- **Develop and distribute plain-language legal information sheets** to settlement agencies, schools, and Francophone community centres.
- **Develop training** to help practitioners understand and respond appropriately to diverse cultural expressions in legal settings.
- **Create online directories** of French-language legal services including legal clinics, community organizations, legal-aid organizations and government resources.
- **Promote available tools** through social media.
- **Establish referral mechanisms** between settlement agencies and French-language legal services so that people can be directed promptly to appropriate resources.
- **Inform English-language service providers** about the existing French-language resources available to their Francophone clients.
- **Create internships**, job-matching initiatives, and mentorship programs for Francophone legal professionals trained abroad, in partnership with professional orders and associations and employers in the justice sector.
- **Develop a bilingual guide** outlining credential-recognition pathways and employment opportunities in Canada's legal sector.
- **Compile an inventory** of French-speaking legal professionals or improve existing mapping efforts to support recruitment strategies and address labour-force needs in regions across the country.
- **Improve access to common-law training** for Francophone legal professionals who arrive in Canada with a civil-law education.

Perspective of the judiciary

This conversation between the Honourable Caroline Magnan, Justice of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, and the Honourable Richard Chartier, former Chief Justice of Manitoba (2013–2022), explored the role of the judiciary in improving access to justice in French. The discussion highlighted how judicial institutions enable people to exercise their language rights, the importance of listening to the public, and the need for the justice system to give greater consideration to linguistic duality. It also addressed efforts to raise the judiciary's awareness of language rights, conditions that promote meaningful access to services in French, and institutional factors that contribute to the vitality of bilingual justice in Canada.

Ideas raised

- **Dialogue with the judiciary:** Legal associations and communities could directly inform chief justices of barriers to access to justice in French, to encourage concrete institutional responses.
- **Education:** Language rights could be covered in judicial education, both in initial training and in ongoing professional development.
- **Active offer:** Judges and court staff play an important role in informing litigants of their language rights from the earliest stages of proceedings.
- **Mobile bilingual courts:** In some regions, existing teams could establish mobile bilingual courts to provide specialized services where they are needed.
- **Tools for judges and practitioners:** A reference guide could be created to bring together key legislative provisions, procedural rules, and case law on access to justice in French.
- **Language skills assessment:** Better mechanisms could be developed to assess and recognize the language skills of judges who may hear cases in both official languages. Such assessments could also help judges maintain those skills.

Next steps: Avenues of action

The closing panel was moderated by the Honourable Mary T. Moreau, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Participants included:

- The Honourable Réjean Aucoin, Senator for Nova Scotia
- The Honourable Marianne Rivoalen, Chief Justice of Manitoba
- Jacqueline Sirois, lawyer at McDougall Gauley LLP

Speaking as a legal professional at the start of her career, Jacqueline Sirois highlighted both the extent of the community's needs and the challenges facing lawyers in private practice, who play an essential role in facilitating access to justice in French. Because law firms in minority-language settings are rarely equipped to provide French-language support, bilingual lawyers may be called on to translate or interpret—essentially serving as legal secretaries. The need to balance professional specialization with the multisectoral needs of French-speaking clients is another challenge that Anglophone lawyers never have to contend with.

Senator Aucoin recommended that associations of French-speaking legal professionals meet annually with their province's or territory's chief justices and justice ministers to discuss needs and find solutions. He also hoped that the Agora would inspire the creation of committees to develop concrete measures for improving access to justice in French.

Chief Justice Rivoalen acknowledged the concerns raised during the Agora about language rights training for judges and intends to bring the issue to the Canadian Judicial Council. She stressed the importance of identifying champions of access to justice within the courts and justice ministries, and expressed her hope that a "mini-Agora" could be organized in Manitoba.

Drawing on her experience as a former chief justice, Justice Moreau spoke about the importance of engaged, bilingual leaders. One idea worth exploring: invite unilingual chief justices to designate a judge responsible for language matters, as is done for administrative, family, and criminal matters.

The panellists emphasized the active offer, the importance of leadership, the education of future Francophone legal professionals, and the need for stronger collaboration between institutions and organizations working to increase access to justice in French.

> "As the working groups have shown, we need to break down silos, remove barriers, lay one brick on top of the next, and remember that slow and steady wins the race."
> — The Honourable Mary T. Moreau

Conclusion

A common theme emerged throughout the Agora: the importance of the active offer. In every working group and panel, participants emphasized the need to make French-language services visible and to provide them not as an accommodation, but as a right that people are entitled to exercise. Many of the proposed ideas could help put language rights into practice, often at little cost.

Another recurring issue was the need to improve access to information. Legal professionals, peer-support groups, the judiciary, specialized support organizations, people in vulnerable situations, and the general public all face information gaps; too few mechanisms exist for sharing best practices and promising initiatives.

At the close of the event, Agora participants were invited to identify two actions they could take in their own communities to improve access to justice in French. As this report shows, there is no shortage of ideas.

Presentations

Access to Justice and People-Centred Justice
— Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnelly

Access to Justice in French: Between Theory and Practice
— Serge Rousselle

Working Group on Justice and Technology
— Valentin Callipel

Two National Languages as Languages of Procedure in Finland
— Markku Suksi

Working Group on Criminal Law: How to Federate Resources – Crown and Defence Perspectives
— Jean-Benoît Deschamps and Laura Nagy

Access to Justice and People-Centred Justice

Justice Agora – Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie

Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnelly

June 26, 2026

McGill | Faculty of Law | Faculté de Droit

Outline

1. **Foundations of the Crisis**: Causes and Consequences
2. **Responses to the Crisis**: Historical Milestones
3. **Contemporary Perspective**: People-Centred Justice

Source: Unsplash

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TVA NOUVELLES

Possible rénoviction: elle doit laisser son logement à une mère qui n'emménagera jamais

PHOTO: GUILLAUME CYR

GUILLAUME CYR | 24 HEURES

Vendredi, 2 juillet 2021 08:00

Vendredi, 2 juillet 2021 08:00

les affaires

L'(in)accès à la justice récompense les abus dans la copropriété

GABRIEL MARCU | PUBLIÉ LE 04 MARS 2026

PARTAGER

Dans une société québécoise qui se veut rassembleuse, inclusive, multiculturelle et solidaire, la justice de demain se joue concrètement dans nos immeubles, là où la vie collective se construit et où elle se fracture. (Photo 123RF)

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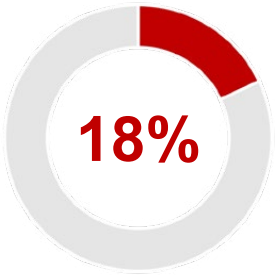
1. Foundations of the Crisis



About one in five people reported experiencing a serious legal problem

over a three-year period

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Legal Problems Survey (2021)

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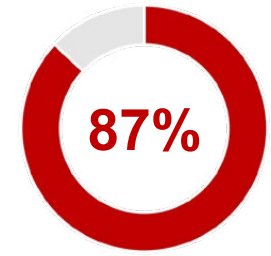
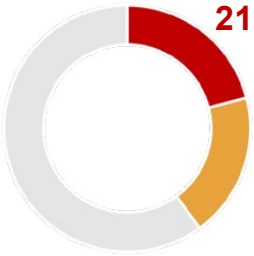
1. Foundations of the Crisis



took steps to resolve their problem



21% resolved

19% in the process of being resolved

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Legal Problems Survey (2021)

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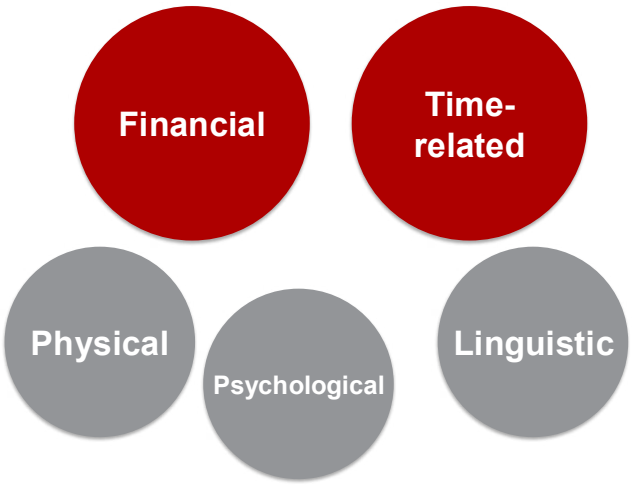
1. Foundations of the Crisis

- A series of obstacles…



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1. Foundations of the Crisis

- Obstacles arise at multiple stages

Source: Margaret Hagan, Open Law Lab

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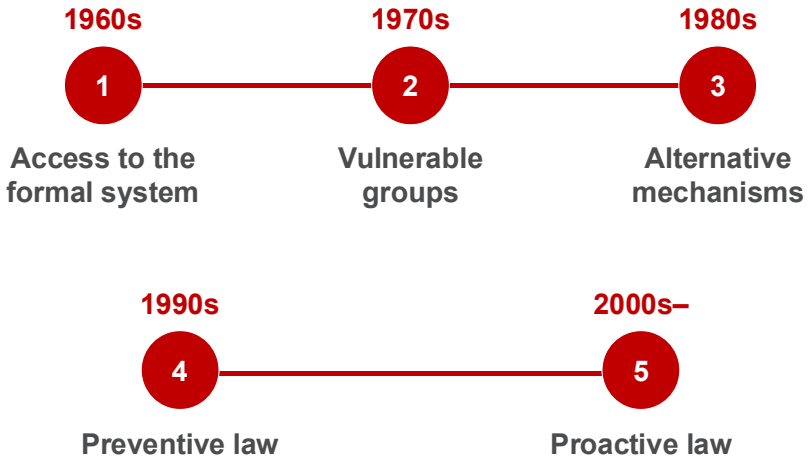
2. Historical Perspectives on A2J



Source: Roderick A Macdonald (2010)

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3. People-Centred Justice

- A concept characterized by six dimensions:

1 Empirical
Data on individuals' legal needs

2 Accessible
Services easy to reach for everyone

3 Flexible
Holistic approach

4 Empowering
Promotes active participation of individuals

5 Local
Rooted in people's environment

6 Community-based
Driven by and for the community

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3. People-Centred Justice

- Example of an initiative: Medical-Legal **Partnerships**

Source: AMA Journal of Ethics

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Conclusion

1. The access to justice crisis persists and hits vulnerable communities the hardest
2. Reforms vary depending on the perspective one adopts
3. We must centre justice on people, not systems

McGill

AGORA OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

Access to Justice in French: Between Theory and Practice

Serge Rousselle, K.C.
Doctor of Laws, lawyer and Full Professor, Université de Moncton
Director, International Observatory on Language Rights

Thomas Collins-Valenti
Final-year law student and Research Assistant, International Observatory on Language Rights

Ibrahima Diallo
Project Officer, International Observatory on Language Rights

Winnipeg · June 2026

INTERPRETIVE APPROACH

Purposive interpretation

Interpreting in light of the purpose

> Language rights are interpreted broadly, liberally and generously, in light of the purpose of the rights at issue, taking into account their historical, philosophical and linguistic context.

Discovering why these rights exist and are protected, so as to define them and ensure their full implementation:

> *"Once the text and other indicators of purpose have been considered by the interpreter, it will be possible for the interpreter to 'ascertai[n] what interests that provision protects, and why it does so'."*
>
> *SANB (2026, at para 46)*

Big M Drug Mart (1985) · Hunter v. Southam (1984) · Beaulac (1999) · SANB (2026)

THE INTERPRETIVE LENS

A threefold purpose

Why these rights exist and what they require

> *"Language rights serve a threefold purpose: preventive, remedial and unifying."*
>
> *SANB (2026, at para 51)*

1 · Remedial purpose

2 · Cultural / preventive purpose

3 · Equality / unifying purpose

In the background *In its case law on the rights of Indigenous peoples (section 35), the Supreme Court identifies the same purposes: reparation, culture and equality.*

THE INTERPRETIVE LENS

1. The remedial purpose

- To counter the gradual erosion of official language minority communities.
- To end and redress historical inequalities and systemic gaps.

> *"[To break] with an institutional history in which French had no place in the legislature and in public institutions and could never be used in government services."*
>
> *SANB (2026, at para 96)*

Reference re Manitoba Schools (1993) · Beaulac (1999) · Arsenault-Cameron (2000) · SANB (2026)

THE INTERPRETIVE LENS

2. The cultural / preventive purpose

- To support the sustainable development of official language communities and their culture.
- Language is the "key to cultural progress" and goes well beyond its communicative function.
- Its is a fundamental element of the identity and culture of the people who speak it.

> *[T]o preserve the living character of the minority official language and ensure that it is passed down to future generations, in order to prevent the assimilation and acculturation of the minority group."*
>
> *SANB (2026, at para 98)*

Ford (1988) · Mahe (1990) · Beaulac (1999) · SANB (2026)

THE INTERPRETIVE LENS

3. The equality / unifying purpose

- To actively foster the development of official language communities, across the country.
- To establish "the foundations of a genuine partnership between the two official languages and the communities that speak them."
- To make the two language groups true "equal partners."

> *The interpretation of language rights must reflect their dual nature — both individual and collective — and must strive for the substantive equality of the languages and the communities they represent."*
>
> *SANB (2026, at para 50, quoting Beaulac, 1999, at para 24)*

Beaulac (1999) · Arsenault-Cameron (2000) · SANB (2026)

SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY IN SERVICES

Equal access to services of equal quality

A positive obligation on the State

> *Language rights are not negative rights, or passive rights; they can only be enjoyed if the means are provided."*
>
> *Beaulac (1999, at para. 20), applied in SANB (2026)*

> *The purpose of s. 530 Cr. C. is to 'provide equal access to the courts to accused persons speaking one of the official languages of Canada in order to assist official language minorities in preserving their cultural identity'."*
>
> *Tayo (2024, at para. 36)*

STATE RESPONSIBILITY

Positive measures aimed at substantive equality

> *When applied to language rights, this conception sometimes requires different treatment and positive action to ensure that neither a language nor the community it represents is relegated to an inferior position."* *SANB (2026, at para. 50)*

> *[T]he answer [...] should ideally be guided by that which will most effectively encourage the flourishing and preservation of the French language in the province".*
>
> *Arsenault-Cameron (2000, at para. 9)*

> *Effect must be given to a "purposive interpretation by giving the provision the meaning that can best provide 'the most generous protection it can support to safeguard its interest'."* *SANB (2026, at para 46)*

CAVEATS

Three clarifications to keep in mind

Speaking the other language changes nothing

> *[T]he ability of the accused to express himself in English […] is irrelevant because the choice of language [is] to assist the accused in gaining equal access to a public service that is responsive to his linguistic and cultural identity."*
>
> *Beaulac (1999, at para 45)*

A right, not an accommodation

> *[T]he exercise of language rights must not be considered exceptional, or as something in the nature of a request for an accommodation."*
>
> *Beaulac (1999, at para 24); see also SANB (2026, at para 50)*

Urgency and delay

> *For every […] year that governments do not meet their [constitutional obligations], there is an increased likelihood of assimilation".*
>
> *Doucet-Boudreau (2003, at para 29)*

PART II

Models tested on the ground

From legal promise to administrative practice

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

When principles meet the ground

The previous part set out what the Supreme Court requires: substantive equality; the remedial, cultural/preventive and equality/unifying purposes; and the positive obligations of the State.

The open question remains: in concrete terms, how does an administration meet these obligations in the day-to-day running of its justice system?

This is where principles meet budgets, positions, court registries, IT systems… and the availability, on a Tuesday morning in a courthouse or a government service office, of someone able to serve in French.

OUR APPROACH

An analysis of the situations observed

Accounts gathered from officials across the provinces and territories.

The aim is to understand the mechanisms observed, without rating or singling out jurisdictions.

Each jurisdiction works with its own reality (demographics, geography, history, resources, etc.).

Our focus is on the mechanisms that work or that falter, seen from the inside.

AN OVERALL PICTURE

Four questions underpin this field work

1. Are language obligations structural or incidental?

2. Does the system rely on the individual request, or on an active, institutionalized offer of service?

3. Are resources embedded at the heart of the state apparatus, or relegated to its periphery?

4. Where do the real decision-making levers and capacity for action lie, and where are the main bottlenecks?

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FIRST QUESTION

Are language obligations structural or incidental?

The question is whether the obligation organizes the system or acts as an occasional corrective.

Part II · Models tested on the ground 14 / 35

FIRST QUESTION

A spectrum of models rather than a single model

Structural	Sectoral	Fragile capacity
Constitutive bilingualism is backed by well-developed administrative design. The obligation is built into the system itself. The system anticipates demand.	A strong obligation in some areas (e.g. criminal and divorce), more fragile in others. The model is hybrid or in transition.	The service is activated case by case, when a person knows they can ask and dares to. It's a matter of accommodation.

Where the obligation is structural, the system anticipates demand. Where it is incidental, it waits for it.

FIRST QUESTION · THE DECISIVE TEST

The test of integration by design

Built in from the start	Bolted on afterwards
The new systems designed and tested in both languages from the tender stage. French becomes a normal component of the system.	The case-management systems are first designed in English. French must be "attached" afterwards. This will entail costs, delays and inequalities follow.

It is the most reliable test of a genuinely structural obligation.

FIRST QUESTION · THE TOOLKIT

The building blocks of a structural model

What is found, to varying degrees, in systems where the obligation is part of the architecture:

- a clear normative foundation;
- an identifiable unit of responsibility;
- operational relays across divisions, departments and courts;
- a standardized active offer;
- recording the language choice in the file;
- ongoing, structured relationships with the minority community, connecting to its realities and needs;
- designated bilingual positions/clear language profiles, targeted recruitment, sustained retention efforts and ongoing training (language/obligations/linguistic rights);
- bilingual tools and systems by design;
- coordination with related services;
- monitoring, complaint and accountability mechanisms to verify the real quality of service.

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SECOND QUESTION

Does the system rely on the individual request, or on an active, institutionalized offer of service?

Who must take the first step, the system or the individual?

Part II · Models tested on the ground 18 / 35

SECOND QUESTION

The burden of the first step

A fully realized active offer	Individual request
The service is visible from the first contact, with no special step or insistence. Signage, forms, a "Hello/Bonjour" greeting, lapel pins, measures prescribed by regulation or by policy, etc.	The active offer exists "in principle," but remains hit-or-miss. The individual must know the right, ask for it, or be told of it by someone else.

The criminal law sphere is the most advanced almost everywhere, given the obligation it imposes.

SECOND QUESTION · THE PRINCIPLE

A right that calls for active implementation

A system that waits for the request places a burden on the individual that should rest on the State.

The hidden cost: giving up.

- Where the Francophone population is largely bilingual, individuals tend instead to "switch to English" to avoid delay or not to bother whoever.
- The active offer plays a central role as it makes the right effective rather than only theoretical.

THE MOST TELLING RESULT

The active offer actually reveals the demand

BEFORE

a handful

of cases a year

→

AFTER

several dozen

in a short time

In many places, a latent demand is waiting to be triggered.

Part II · Models tested on the ground

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SECOND QUESTION · CONTINUITY

The language choice must be identified, recorded and tracked

Identifying the language at first contact is pointless if the information does not follow the file.

The most advanced models record the language choice in their systems and carry it through to related services.

Elsewhere, systematic tracking, from the first contact through to closing the file and post-judgment communications, remains an aspiration rather than a reality.

The language choice should follow through to:

- court registry;
- legal aid;
- victim services;
- probation and corrections;
- family mediation;
- post-judgment communications;
- etc.

Part II · Models tested on the ground

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SECOND QUESTION · THE TOOLKIT

What keeps the active offer alive

Beyond "Hello / Bonjour", it must be visible, repeated, documented and tracked throughout the process:

- bilingual reception in person, by phone and online;
- offer made at the first meeting or appearance;
- automated phone option to choose the language at the start of the call;
- public voicemail greetings recorded in both languages;
- signage at entrances and counters indicating that services are available in French, on an equal footing;
- French version provided at the same time and through the same channel as English;
- toolbox for all employees;
- a note, in the English version, that the document also exists in French;
- websites, pages and social media available in both languages;
- an offer notice with a box to check identifying the language at the starting point of the file;
- standardized language notices in registry forms, letters, disclosures, summonses and emails;
- the role of the Crown, defence, duty and legal-aid counsel in informing the client.

THIRD QUESTION

Are resources embedded at the heart of the state apparatus, or relegated to its periphery?

At the heart of the system, or in a few isolated and vulnerable positions?

THIRD QUESTION · THE SHARED FINDING

Continuity requires a coordinated bilingual team around the file

Continuity depends on the coordinated availability of the whole team around the file:

Clerk	**Lawyer**	**Interpreter/translator**
Sheriff	**Judge**	**IT support**
Crown counsel	**Reception staff**	**Related services**

It takes only one weak link for continuity to break.

THIRD QUESTION

Different ways to organize resources

Integrated

A central office supported by a relay in each division.

Embedded in planning, recruitment, training and accountability.

Anchor point

A single window that brings scarce resources together.

Bilingual court, circuit court, service centres.

Most useful where the population is concentrated.

Mobile and coordinated

A mobile model goes beyond a single bilingual court.

A core team that can be deployed as needed.

Suited to a dispersed population.

Concentrate or spread out, a choice that depends on geography and demographics.

THIRD QUESTION · THE COMMON THREAD

It all comes down to human capacity

> *The right may be fully recognized, but it still hangs on the presence of one person, in the right place, at the right time.*

Everywhere, from the most integrated system to the most fragile, the same bottleneck appears, from recruiting, retaining, and training bilingual staff to ensuring they are available day to day.

A recent measure can be a real improvement yet remain fragile if it rests on uncertain bilingual capacity (e.g. a single bilingual employee out of ten).

FOURTH QUESTION

Where do the real decision-making levers and capacity for action lie, and where are the main bottlenecks?

Who can move things forward, and where does the journey get stuck?

FOURTH QUESTION

Shared levers, bottlenecks around the court

The levers are shared

Department of Justice, court administration, the judiciary (independent), HR, Francophone secretariats, legal aid, and the Francophone community itself.

The secretariats coordinate and influence. That said, the operational power that sets up positions, budgets, registries and systems lies elsewhere.

The bottlenecks are around the court

Once the file is under way in French before the court, the system generally works well.

The breaks are upstream and downstream, more precisely, at first contact, at the counter, at the registry, with forms, with legal aid, at victim services, in probation, and after judgment.

FOURTH QUESTION · THE RISK

The spectre of two-tier justice

Two-tier justice develops mainly out of the costs, steps and delays surrounding the choice of French. For instance, having to insist, arranging interpretation, moving resources, making up for unavailable related services.

The critical point comes when English seems simpler than exercising the right to French.

It can also arise from subtle friction (such as a service that is hard to see, slower translation, costly interpretation outside protected areas, and so on).

The risk is highest where the Francophone population is the most bilingual, in deeply minority settings.

WHAT TRANSFERS

Proven, transferable measures

Active offer

Make the service visible at first contact. The least costly and most structural measure.

Language tracking

Record the choice and carry it through the file. Design bilingual systems from the tender stage.

Anchor window

Bring bilingual resources together in one identifiable entry point.

Central coordination

An office or network of relays that ensures the system's coherence. Regular, ongoing relationships with the community.

Language profiles, recruitment, retention and training

Bilingualism must always be recognized as an operational skill.

Supporting technology

Make greater use of videoconferencing and remote interpretation, and create bilingual e-filing for forms without replacing human capacity.

WHAT TRANSFERS

Light levers and the strength of the network

Light, reproducible mechanisms

In-house counsel, a senior bilingual clerk, a central email address for French-language filing.

Systematic assignment of files to bilingual judges.

A standing French-language justice committee bringing together the institutions along the path and the community, to spot institutional breaks and possible improvements.

Regular meetings with the bilingual bar, as well as the community and its associations.

Collaboration and funding

Sharing interpreters, terminology tools, registry protocols and training.

A judge from one province sitting in another, supporting a neighbouring jurisdiction.

Mobilizing all or part of an out-of-province team, as needed.

Intergovernmental funding agreements.

BY WAY OF CONCLUSION

Four lessons

1 Succes depends first on integration

Successful models build the obligation into the architecture; it's an administrative choice that can be reproduced, whatever the demographics.

2 The bottleneck around the court

The journey and bilingual human capacity are usually the real bottleneck. To ignore first contact, related services and retention is to miss the real problem.

3 The active offer frees the demand

It makes visible a demand that is already there. This is what the Supreme Court expects: to offer from the outset, without waiting for the individual to insist.

4 The importance of human bilingual resources in every sector

Designated bilingual positions/clear language profiles, targeted recruitment, long-term retention and ongoing training.

Part II · Models tested on the ground 33 / 35

WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

Substantive equality is a capacity that is built up quietly, from the best practices.

Position by position, form by form, system by system.

From one end of the country to the other, substantive equality is within reach when it becomes a structural choice rather than a convenient accommodation.

Part II · Models tested on the ground 34 / 35

Thank you for your listening!

Access to justice in French · MCCF Agora · Winnipeg

Groupe de travail n°2 sur la justice et la technologie
Working Group No. 2 on Justice and Technology

Catalyseur | Facilitator

Me Valentin Callipel

Laboratoire de CYBERJUSTICE Laboratory

CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN DROIT PUBLIC

Conseil des ministres sur la francophonie canadienne (CMFC) 2026 - Me Valentin Callipel, Chargé de mission

Qu'est-ce que l'IA ?
What is artificial intelligence?

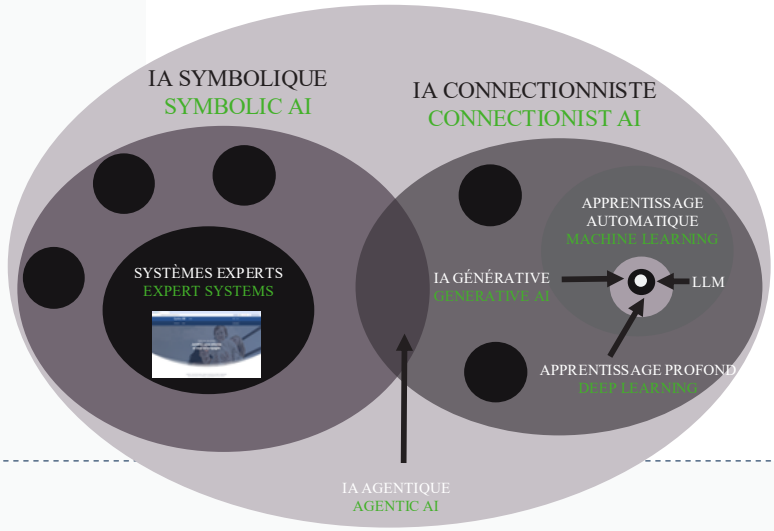
« [traduction] L'objectif ultime est de créer des programmes informatiques capables de résoudre des problèmes et d'atteindre des objectifs dans le monde réel aussi bien que les êtres humains.

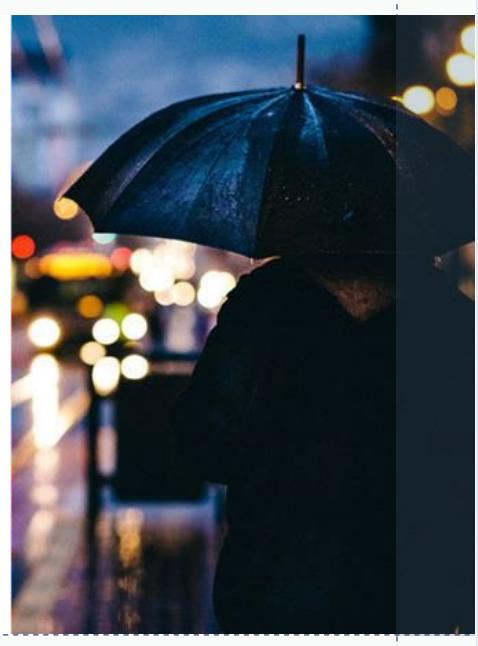
[The ultimate effort is to make computer programs that can solve problems and achieve goals in the world as well as humans.]

J. McCARTHY *et al.*, « A Proposal for the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence », 31 août (August 31), 1955

Qu'est-ce que l'IA ?

What is artificial intelligence?





3

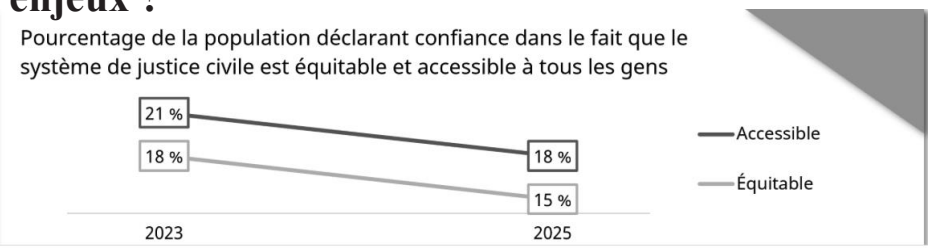
Problématique

Comment (et surtout pourquoi) utiliser l'intelligence artificielle au service de l'accès au droit et à la justice en français au Canada ?

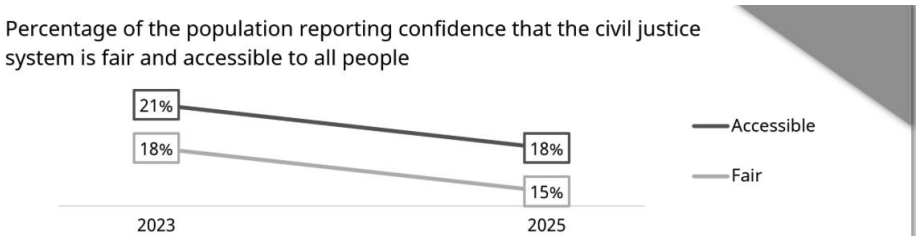
Problem Statement

How (and above all why) should artificial intelligence be used to improve access to law and justice in French in Canada?

Quels enjeux ?



What Challenges?



Source: Le Sondage national sur la justice.
Source: The National Justice Survey.

5

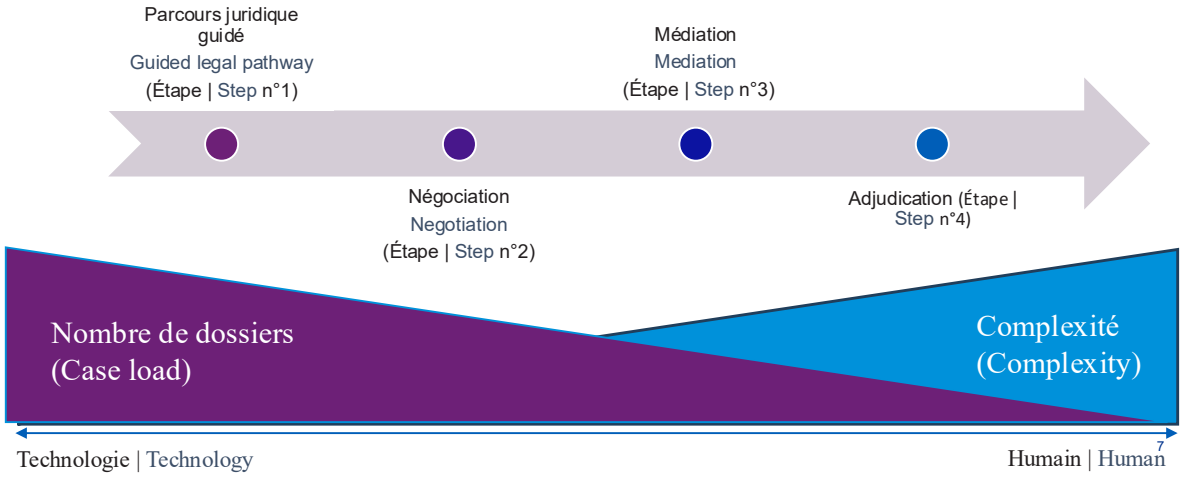
La technologie (à condition d'en maîtriser les différentes incidences) constitue une occasion de revoir et d'améliorer les façons de faire

Laboratoire de CYBERJUSTICE Laboratory

Technology (provided that the various impacts are mastered) is an opportunity to rethink and improve the way things are done

Nouvel arc canadien de résolution judiciaire, augmenté par l'amiable, le numérique et centré sur l'usager

A new Canadian framework for dispute resolution, enhanced by alternative resolution, digital technologies, and user-centred design



Document Classification: Confidential

Règlement judiciaire en ligne des litiges | Court Online Dispute Resolution

L'ODR judiciaire gagne en popularité à travers l'Amérique du Nord. Bien que l'ODR ne soit pas adapté à tous les types de litiges, il a fait ses preuves pour les affaires à fort volume impliquant des litiges transactionnels, les petites créances, les affaires familiales peu conflictuelles, mais aussi les infractions au Code de la route.

Judicial ODR is becoming increasingly popular across North America. Although it is not suitable for all types of disputes, it has proven effective for high-volume cases involving transactional disputes, small claims, low-conflict family matters, and even traffic violations.

8

Document Classification: Confidential

Tribunal de l'autorité du secteur des condominiums de l'Ontario
Ontario Condominium Authority Tribunal

- **Statistiques | Statistics:** 2023

- Parcours juridique guidé | Guided legal pathway : 66 464 utilisations (uses)
- Requêtes soumises | Applications filed : 1 168 dossiers (cases)
- Requêtes acceptées | Applications accepted : 915 dossiers (cases)
- Négociation (confidentielle) | Negotiation (confidential) : 343 dossiers (cases)
- Médiation (confidentielle) | Mediation (confidential) : 251 dossiers (cases)
- Décision du Tribunal | Tribunal decisions : 321 dossiers (cases)

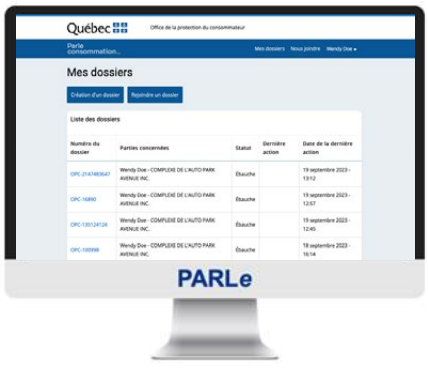
- **Taux de règlement amiable | Settlement rate** : 65 %

Étapes | Steps 1, 2, 3, 4

9

Document Classification: Confidential

PARLe Consommation – Office de la protection des consommateurs (Québec)
PARLe Consumer – Office de la protection du consommateur (Quebec)



- **Lancement | Launch :** 2016
- **Nombre de commerçants participants | Number of participating merchants** :
  - +150 couvrant 6 secteurs économiques (meubles, automobiles, habitation, rénovations, etc.)
  - +150 covering 6 economic sectors (furniture, automotive, housing, renovations, etc.)
- **Compétence | Jurisdiction :** Litiges de consommation | Consumer disputes
  - Produit ou service non livré, retardé, non conforme au contrat ou à la publicité
    Produit défectueux pendant une période raisonnable
  - Non-delivered, delayed, or contract-/advertising-non-compliant products or services
    Defective products within a reasonable period of time
- **Valeur moyenne en jeu par litige | Average value at stake per dispute :** 2 315 $
- **Processus et statistiques | Process and statistics : 2025**
  - **Filtrage** (par téléphone par un agent) | Screening (by phone by an agent) : +25 000 invitations
  - **Négociation** (confidentielle) | Negotiation (confidential) : 9 021 dossiers | cases (59 %)
  - **Médiation** (confidentielle) | Mediation (confidential) : 3 669 dossiers | cases (24 %)
- **Taux de règlement | Settlement rate** : 84 %
- **Taux de satisfaction des utilisateurs | User satisfaction rate** : 90 %
- **Délai moyen de traitement | Average processing time** : 20,4 jours (days) = 24 fois plus rapide que devant la Cour du Québec | 24 times faster than the Court of Quebec (24 mois/months)
- **Coûts | Costs** : 12 fois moins cher pour l'État qu'un traitement par la Cour du Québec | 12 times less expensive for the state than processing through the Court of Quebec

Étapes | Steps 2, 3

10

Document Classification: Confidential

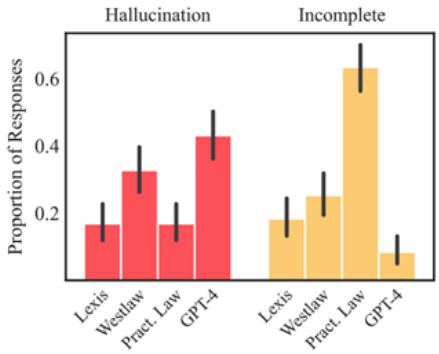
Utilisation de l'IA au service du règlement en ligne des conflits

Using AI for Online Dispute Resolution

11

Les outils d'IA juridiques ne sont pas toujours sûrs !

Legal artificial intelligence tools are not always reliable!



Source: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jels.12413

Recherche de l'Université de Stanford
Research from Stanford University

Hallucination-Free? Assessing the Reliability of Leading AI Legal Research Tools

Varun Magesh, Faiz Surani, Matthew Dahl, Mirac Suzgun, Christopher D. Manning, Daniel E. Ho
Stanford University / Yale University

Abstract

1 Introduction

12

Étape | Step 1

L'agent conversationnel de l'ARC
The CRA Conversational Agent

The CRA spent $18M on 'Charlie,' a new tax information chatbot that is wrong most of the time

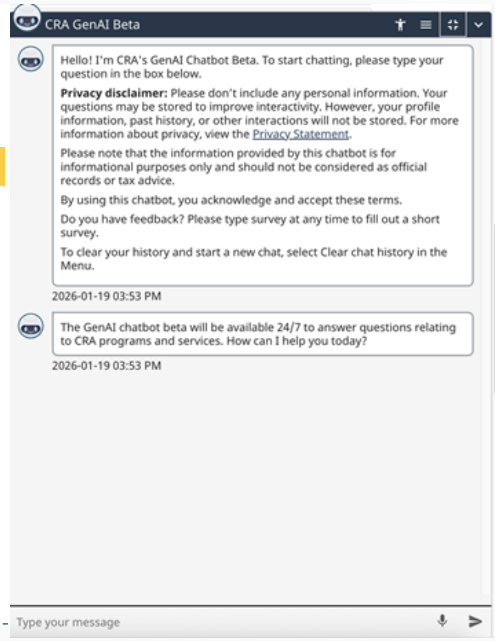
In 2024, Charlie received nearly 180,000 interactions categorized as 'chit chat'

NATIONAL POST

By Christopher Nardi
Published Dec 12, 2025 Last updated Dec 12, 2025 4 minute read 196 Comments

[Traduction] « Nous avons constaté que Charlie n'a fourni des réponses exactes qu'à 2 des 6 questions que nous lui avons posées, tandis que les autres outils publics d'intelligence artificielle conversationnelle basés sur le Web ont répondu correctement à 5 des 6 questions. »

"We found that Charlie provided accurate answers in only 2 out of the 6 questions we asked it, while the other public web-based conversational artificial intelligence tools answered 5 out of 6 questions accurately."



Étape | Step 1 Source : https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/corporate/contact-information/cra-chatbot/genai-chatbot-beta.html#h-3

Le JusticeBot, un outil d'accès au droit augmenté par l'IA conforme au cadre juridique
JusticeBot: an AI-enhanced legal information tool compliant with the legal framework

Source : https://justicebot.ca/
(Logement et Assurance)

40 100

utilisateurs depuis 2021 et 158 200 réponses fournies | users since 2021 and 158,200 answers provided

- **Deux domaines** couverts, le logement (Tribunal administratif du logement) et, depuis 2026, l'assurance et les produits financiers | Covers two areas of law: housing law (before the Administrative Housing Tribunal) and, since 2026, insurance and financial products
- **Gratuit** et accessible en tout temps, sans création de compte, sur justicebot.ca | Free and available at all times, with no account required, at justiceBot.ca
- **Architecture hybride** qui ancre chaque réponse dans la loi et la jurisprudence, au lieu de la générer librement | Built on a hybrid architecture that grounds every answer in legislation and case law, rather than generating responses freely

Chaque année, le Tribunal administratif du logement reçoit près de 50 000 demandes et 900 000 appels, avec un délai d'attente moyen de 7,8 mois. | Each year, the Administrative Housing Tribunal receives nearly 50,000 applications and 900,000 calls, with an average waiting time of 7.8 months.

Recommanderiez-vous le JusticeBot à votre entourage ? Oui 83,3 % | Would you recommend the JusticeBot to those around you? Yes 83.3%

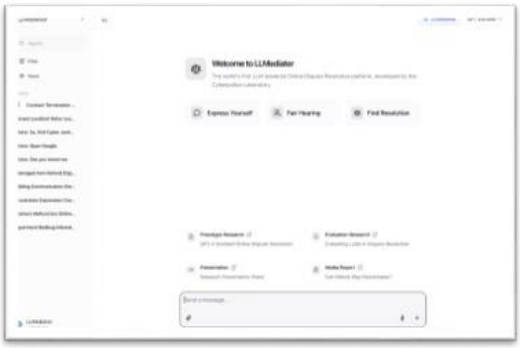
Laboratoire de CYBERJUSTICE

Tribunal administratif du logement Québec

14

Étape | Step 1

Le LLMediator, une médiation en ligne augmentée par l'IA
LLMediator: AI-enhanced online mediation



84 %

des interventions jugées de qualité comparable à celles d'un médiateur humain, en évaluation à l'aveugle
of interventions were rated as being of comparable quality to those of a human mediator in a blind evaluation.
Robots in the Middle, JURIX 2024

Étape | Step 3

Le LLMediator assiste le médiateur humain dans un échange à trois voix, deux parties et un tiers neutre, pour des litiges nombreux et de faible intensité. **La décision finale appartient toujours aux parties.**
LLMediator assists a human mediator in a three-way exchange involving two parties and a neutral third party, for high-volume, low-intensity disputes. **The final decision always remains with the parties.**

1. **Résumé des différends | Dispute summaries**
   Synthétise l'historique de l'échange pour que le médiateur saisisse vite l'objet du litige. | Summarizes the history of the exchange so that the mediator can quickly understand the nature of the dispute.
2. **Analyse des émotions | Emotion analysis**
   Repère les tensions et les changements de ton, et signale les moments propices à une intervention. | Identifies tensions and shifts in tone, and highlights moments when intervention may be most effective.
3. **Suggestions de stratégies d'intervention | Intervention strategy suggestions**
   Propose au médiateur des pistes d'intervention adaptées à l'état de la discussion. | Provides the mediator with potential intervention strategies tailored to the current state of the discussion.
4. **Aide à la rédaction de messages | Message drafting assistance**
   Reformule les messages hostiles et prépare des propositions de règlement, validées par le médiateur avant l'envoi. | Rephrases hostile messages and prepares settlement proposals, which are reviewed and approved by the mediator before being sent.

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Document Classification: Confidential

Projet pilote d'utilisation de l'IA à la Cour supérieure du Québec 2026
Pilot project on the use of AI at the Quebec Superior Court (2026)

Agent	Fonction principale
Assistant rédacteur	Aide à la rédaction, reformulation, amélioration stylistique de textes juridiques et autres documents préparatoires.
Traducteur	Traduction français-anglais et anglais-français de passages juridiques, avec attention aux équivalences terminologiques.
Code civil du Québec IA	Recherche et explication d'articles du Code civil du Québec, avec citation des dispositions pertinentes.
Code de procédure civile IA	Recherche et explication d'articles du Code de procédure civile, avec identification des règles applicables.
Code criminel IA	Recherche dans le Code criminel, identification des infractions et peines applicables.
Loi sur la faillite IA	Recherche spécialisée dans la Loi sur la faillite et l'insolvabilité.
Le citateur	Correction et restructuration des références de sources juridiques.
Technicien informatique IA	Soutien technique pour les problèmes liés à l'utilisation des outils numériques de la Cour.
Livre bleu 2.0	Reproduction verbatim des sections pertinentes de cet ouvrage de doctrine interne en droit de la famille, préparé à l'usage exclusif des juges. L'agent ne procédait à aucune synthèse ni réinterprétation du contenu.

84 %	89 %	63 %
jugent l'IA compatible avec leur fonction	souhaitent continuer à utiliser ces outils	recommandent un déploiement élargi

16

Étape | Step 4 Source : Rapport d'évaluation du projet pilote d'intelligence artificielle, Cour Supérieure du Québec 2026

RESTONS EN CONTACT

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

Laboratoire de cyberjustice

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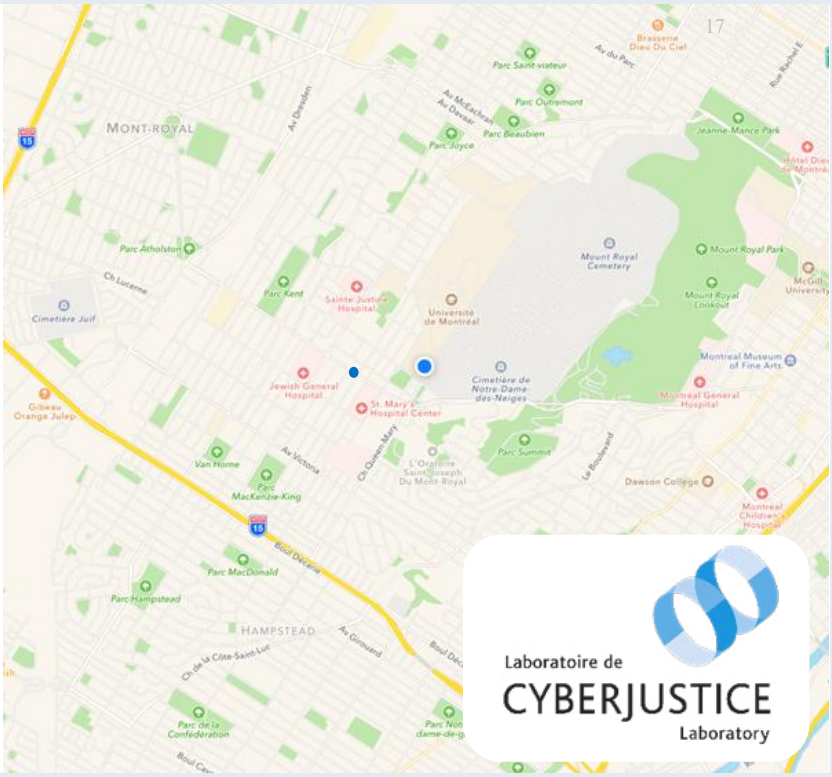

LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Two National Languages as Languages of Procedure in Finland

Markku Suksi · Åbo Akademi University

Just. Journal of Language Rights & Minorities, Vol 4(2), 2025

Constitutional Framework

5.6M

Population of Finland (2023)

4.76M Finnish speakers
286K Swedish speakers

Two Languages, Equal Status

Section 17(1)

Finnish and Swedish are the two national languages — Swedish is not treated as a minority language -> Finnish- and Swedish-speakers constitute the majority in relation to real minorities

Section 17(2)

Everyone has the right to use Finnish or Swedish before courts and authorities and to receive official documents in that language; equality between the two language groups -> Acts of Parl.

Section 122(1)

Administrative divisions shall be organised so that both language groups may receive services on equal terms -> in principle self-executing when public authorities make decisions

A joint reading of §17 & §122 establishes language rights as both de jure and de facto.

Two Governing Principles of Language in Court Proceedings

Åbo Akademi University

TERRITORIAL PRINCIPLE

- Municipalities classified as unilingual (Finnish/Swedish) or bilingual
- Courts inherit linguistic designation from the municipalities and regions of their jurisdiction
- 13 unilingual Finnish + 6 bilingual first-instance courts on mainland
- Applies as fallback when individual principle is inconclusive; linguistic requirements of judges and staff

⇔

INDIVIDUAL PRINCIPLE

- Language of the party is the primary rule in bilingual jurisdictions -> a case is decided in the language it originates in
- Criminal: language of the accused determines language of trial
- Civil: court weighs the rights and interests of the parties
- Administrative: party's language is the point of departure

When parties, especially in civil cases, speak different languages and no agreement is reached, the majority language of the jurisdiction applies as the ultimate fallback.

Practical Challenges & Conclusions

Åbo Akademi University

de jure vs de facto

The system is well designed in law. In practice, cases are initiated in the wrong language — often because legal counsel is Finnish-speaking rather than matching the Swedish-speaking client's language.

Linguistic Staff Shortage

Inverted linguistic qualification posts ensure some Swedish-fluent judges and prosecutors, but support staff face lower requirements. The Council of Europe urged Finland to increase Swedish-capable court staff (2024).

Declining Swedish Proficiency

Jurisdiction consolidation has eliminated Swedish-majority courts. Uncertainty about the linguistic capability of bilingual courts leads Swedish-speakers to voluntarily use Finnish, effectively relinquishing their language rights.

Conclusion: Finland's bilingual court framework is structurally sound and de jure exemplary — but sustained institutional support for Swedish is needed to make language rights a de facto reality -> project starting in 2026: from police via prosecution to courts

Åbo Akademi
University

DROIT CRIMINEL : COMMENT FÉDÉRER LES RESSOURCES

PERSPECTIVES DU MINISTÈRE PUBLIC ET DE LA DÉFENSE

CRIMINAL LAW : HOW TO FEDERATE RESOURCES

CROWN AND DEFENCE PERSPECTIVES

MAÎTRES JEAN-BENOIT DESCHAMPS ET LAURA NAGY

LES COMMENTAIRES FAITS DURANT CETTE PRÉSENTATION SONT LES MIENS ET ILS NE REFLÈTENT PAS LA POSITION DU PROCUREUR GÉNÉRAL DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE OU DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL FÉDÉRAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL SUR L'ACCÈS À LA JUSTICE DANS LES LANGUES OFFICIELLES.

THE COMMENTS MADE DURING THIS PRESENTATION ARE MY OWN AND DO NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OR THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN BOTH LANGUAGES.

ORDRE DE LA PRÉSENTATION - *ORDER OF THE PRESENTATION*

I. Enseignements de la trilogie *BBTP* / *Teachings of the BBTB trilogy*

Beaulac (1999), Bessette (2015), Tayo Tompouba (2024)

I. Procès francophone ou bilingue: Quelle mécanique? / *French or bilingual trial: which option?*

II. Défis en pratique / *Challenges in practice*

III. Pistes de solution / *Possible solutions*

LA TRILOGIE *BBTP – THE BBTP TRILOGY BEAULAC, BESSETTE & TAYO TOMPOUBA*

- Les 3 décisions sont le socle des procès bilingues ou francophones au Canada / *3 key decisions - the cornerstone of French/bilingual trials in Canada*
- Accessibilité égale aux tribunaux judiciaires criminels / *Equal access to criminal court*
- Protection des minorités et rôle de la Cour / *Protection of minorities and the Court's role*
- Droit substantif d'avoir un procès dans la langue officielle de son choix / *Substantive right to a trial in the official language of choice*
- Impacts et autres décisions importantes / *Impact and other important decisions*
  - *DesRochers c. Canada (Industrie)*, 2009 CSC 8, [2009] 1 R.C.S. 194
  - L'affaire *Georges Forest* / *The case of Georges Forest* (1976)
  - Provinces bilingues – législations particulières / *Bilingual provinces – unique legislations*

DESROCHERS C. CANADA (INDUSTRIE), 2009 CSC 8, [2009] 1 R.C.S. 194 (para 31)

Avant d'examiner les dispositions contestées en l'espèce, il est utile de rappeler les principes qui régissent l'interprétation des dispositions sur les droits linguistiques. Les tribunaux sont tenus d'interpréter ces droits de façon libérale et téléologique. À cette fin, les dispositions pertinentes doivent être interprétées d'une façon compatible avec le maintien et l'épanouissement des collectivités de langue officielle au Canada (*R. c. Beaulac*, 1999 CanLII 684 (CSC), *[1999] 1 R.C.S. 768, par. 25*). ***D'ailleurs, la Cour a plusieurs fois réaffirmé que le concept de l'égalité en matière de droits linguistiques doit recevoir son sens véritable (voir, par exemple, Beaulac, par. 22 et 24-25; Arsenault-Cameron c. Île-du-Prince-Édouard, 2000 CSC 1, [2000] 1 R.C.S. 3, par. 31). L'égalité réelle, par opposition à l'égalité formelle, doit être la norme et l'exercice des droits linguistiques ne doit pas être considéré comme une demande d'accommodement. (…)***

Before considering the provisions at issue in the case at bar, it will be helpful to review the principles that govern the interpretation of language rights provisions. Courts are required to give language rights a liberal and purposive interpretation. This means that the relevant provisions must be construed in a manner that is consistent with the preservation and development of official language communities in Canada (*R. v. Beaulac*, 1999 CanLII 684 (SCC), [1999] 1 S.C.R. 768, at para. 25). ***Indeed, on several occasions this Court has reaffirmed that the concept of equality in language rights matters must be given true meaning (see, for example, Beaulac, at paras. 22, 24 and 25; Arsenault-Cameron v. Prince Edward Island, 2000 SCC 1, [2000] 1 S.C.R. 3, at para. 31). Substantive equality, as opposed to formal equality, is to be the norm, and the exercise of language rights is not to be considered a request for accommodation.***

PROCÈS FRANCOPHONE OU BILINGUE? / *FRENCH OR BILINGUAL TRIAL?*

Les obligations des agents de la police diffèrent en fonction des provinces et territoires / *Police obligations in respect of language rights varies from one province/territory to another:*

- Gendarmerie royale du Canada (GRC) / *Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)*
- Police municipale ou régionale / *municipal or regional police*

Obligations communes - droits linguistiques d'un détenu – articles 10a) et 10b) *Charte canadienne des droits et libertés / Common obligations – language rights of the detainee – s. 10a) and 10b) rights pursuant to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

- Droit d'être informé de la raison pour la détention ou l'arrestation / *The right to be informed of the reason for detention or arrest*
- Accès aux services juridiques en français / *Access to legal services in French*

PROCÈS FRANCOPHONE OU BILINGUE? / *FRENCH OR BILINGUAL TRIAL?*

- Audience de remise en liberté ou remise en liberté par un agent de la paix / *Bail hearing or release from custody by a peace officer*
- Le choix de la langue officielle de l'accusé – article 530(1) *Code criminel du Canada* / *Language of choice of the accused – s. 530(1) Criminal Code*
  - Enregistré lors de la première comparution, et au plus tard au moment de la comparution au cours de laquelle la date du procès est fixée / *Recorded at the time of their first appearance, and at the latest at the time of a court appearance when the date of the trial is set*
  - L'accusé doit être informé de ce droit par le juge de la première comparution / *The accused must be informed of this right by the judge or justice at the time of the first appearance*
  - Dans une des deux langues ou les deux / *In one of the two official languages or both*

PROCÈS FRANCOPHONE OU BILINGUE? / *FRENCH OR BILINGUAL TRIAL?*

- Organisation du procès / *Organizing the trial*
  - L'accusé est-il détenu ou en liberté? / *Is the accused detained or in custody?*
  - Les rôles respectifs - la Cour, la Couronne, la Défense / *The respective roles of the Court, the Crown Attorney and Defence*
  - Discussions avant procès et conférences de gestion de cause / *Pre-trial discussions and case management conferences*
    - Utilisation du paragraphe 530(5) C.Cr. – les procès bilingues / *use of para 530(5) C.C.*
    - Utilisation des interprètes pour les témoins anglophones / *use of interpreters for English-speaking witnesses*
    - Documents de preuve – traduction nécessaire? / *Documents to be used in evidence – translation required?*

PROCÈS FRANCOPHONE OU BILINGUE? / *FRENCH OR BILINGUAL TRIAL?*

- Obligation de traduction des documents en vertu de l' art. 530.01(1) C.Cr. / Obligation to translate documents pursuant to s. 530.01(1)

  530.01 (1) Le poursuivant […] est tenu, à la demande de l'accusé visé par une ordonnance rendue en vertu de l'article 530, de faire traduire, dans la langue officielle de l'accusé ou dans la langue officielle qui permettra à celui-ci de témoigner le plus facilement, les passages des dénonciations et des actes d'accusation qui ont été rédigés dans l'autre langue officielle et de lui remettre une copie de la traduction dans les meilleurs délais.

  (II) En cas de divergence entre l'original d'un document et sa traduction, l'original prévaut.

  530.01 *(1) If an order is granted under section 530, a prosecutor — other than a private prosecutor — shall, on application by the accused,*
  (a) cause the portions of an information or indictment against the accused that are in an official language that is not that of the accused or that in which the accused can best give testimony to be translated into the other official language; and
  (b) provide the accused with a written copy of the translated text at the earliest possible time.

- Liste de précisions à l'art. 530.1 / *Precisions listed at s. 530.1*
- Devoir et obligation – 530.1 – Preuve et interprétation / *Responsibility and obligation s. 530.1 – Evidence and Interpretation*

DURANT LE PROCÈS… *DURING THE TRIAL…*

- Y a t-il des désaccords sur les interprétations ou le choix des mots d'un témoin? / *Are there disagreements on interpretation or the choice of words of a witness?*
  - Dialectes différents? Les « slang words » et expressions / *Different dialects, use of slangs and common expressions*
  - Circonstances personnelles de l'accusé qui mérite des considérations particulières? / *Are there particular circumstances of the accused that requires special considerations?*
  - Y a t-il des doutes au niveau de l'interprétation? / *Are there any concerns with interpretation?*
  - L'interprète a-t-il besoin d'une pause? / *Does the interpreter require a break?*

ET APRÈS LE PROCÈS? / *AND AFTER THE TRIAL?*

Les audiences de détermination de la peine nécessitent parfois la préparation de rapports spécialisés / *Sentencing hearings sometimes require the preparation of specialized reports*:

- Rapports médicaux / *medical reports*;
- Rapports présentenciels et *Gladue* / *Pre-sentence and Gladue reports*

La cause devrait-elle ou pourrait-elle être portée en appel? / *Should or could the case be appealed?*

Le respect des ordonnances de la Cour – probation, ordonnance de sursis / *Respecting court orders – probation, conditional sentence orders*

Ordonnances de prélèvements d'ADN, interdiction de conduire, possession d'armes à feu, d'enregistrement / *Orders for DNA, driving prohibitions, weapons prohibitions, registrations*

DÉFIS EN PRATIQUE / CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE

- Manque de ressources judiciaires et services juridiques (juges, procureurs, avocats de la défense, greffiers, shérifs) / *Lack of judicial resources and legal services (judges, prosecutors, defence counsel, clerks, sheriffs)*
- Autres ressources (agents de probation, agents correctionnels, travailleurs sociaux, programmes et services sociaux disponibles) / *Other resources (probation officers, corrections agents, social workers, available programs and social services)*
- Accessibilité de l'information juridique – la perspective du public / *Access to legal information – the public's perspective*
- Interprétation/Traduction – ressources limitées, compétences spéciales requises, professionnalisme/intégrité / *Interpretation/translation – limited resources, specialized skills required, high level of professionalism/integrity*
- Délais *Jordan* et inconvénients administratifs / *Jordan delays and administrative challenges*
- Témoins / *Witnesses*
- Expert francophone vs expert anglophone / *French-speaking vs. English-speaking experts*

PISTES DE SOLUTION / IDEAS FOR SOLUTIONS

- Banque nationale d'experts bilingues / francophones – *National bank of French-speaking/bilingual experts*
- Mobilité avocats / procureurs – *Defence and Crown mobility*
- Réseau national des participants francophones en justice criminelle / *National network of Francophone participants in criminal justice*
- Discussions, projets et ententes avec les services d'aide juridique des provinces – avocats de service - *Discussions, projects and agreements with Legal Aid – duty counsel services*
- Certification nationale pour les interprètes – *National certification requirement for interpreters*
- Utilisation des centres de traduction juridique pour les décisions provinciales – *Use of legal translation centres for provincial court decisions*
- Formation nationale ou régionale en droit substantif en français / *National or regional training in law in French*
- Éducation approfondie des avocats concernant leur obligation particulière envers la minorité francophone et les ressources et avocats disponibles et compétents en francais / *Improved education of lawyers and their particular obligations towards the French minority, resources available, and list of French-speaking counsel*
- Intelligence artificielle? – *Artificial intelligence?*

QUESTIONS?

MERCI DE VOTRE ÉCOUTE! *THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION*

PLACE AUX DISCUSSIONS… - *LET'S DISCUSS…*

Access to Justice in French

Agora

Conseil des ministres sur la francophonie canadienne

Ministers' Council on the Canadian Francophonie