

Federal Court of Appeal



Cour d'appel fédérale

Federal Court



Cour fédérale

Press release

For immediate release

[ENGLISH TRANSLATION]

Procedural bijuralism

A PILOT PROJECT TO ALLOW FOR THE USE OF THE *CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE* OF QUÉBEC BEFORE THE FEDERAL COURTS

Montréal, September 5, 2019 – A brand new door opens for Quebec litigants. A pilot project implemented by the federal courts will allow for the application of the *Code of Civil Procedure* of Québec, with the necessary adaptations, in specified judicial proceedings. The pilot project will apply to actions originating in Quebec. This initiative is aimed at making the procedure before the federal courts more familiar for practitioners trained in the civil law tradition, thereby promoting access to federal judicial bodies.

«I am proud to announce that we will soon launch this pilot project whose purpose is to enable Quebec counsel to apply the *Code of Civil Procedure* in federal courts. We hope that Quebec litigants will take advantage of this project, and we encourage counsel to promote its use with their clients,» said the Honourable Marc Noël, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal. «The interest shown for the project will enable us to further our efforts to better meet the expectations of Quebec practitioners appearing before the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal.»

«The pilot project was inspired by a desire for a closer connection with Quebec jurists. It is consistent with our intention to provide improved access to justice in the general context of Canadian bijuralism, by making practice before the federal courts more familiar and accessible to Quebec counsel,» stressed the Honourable Paul Crampton, Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

The procedural bijuralism pilot project was designed to respond to a lack of familiarity with the common law-based federal courts' rules of procedure by the majority of Quebec counsel, who have more experience in dealing with judicial institutions that apply the Code of civil procedure. «The federal courts play an important role in the Canadian judicial system and should not be avoided due to unfamiliarity with the rules of procedure,» notes Chief Justice Crampton.

Through successive amendments to their rules of procedure, the federal courts have continually progressed toward a broader and enhanced degree of access to justice. This pilot project is part of the federal courts' ongoing efforts to develop closer ties with the litigants they serve.

This pilot project was made possible through the support of David Lametti, Canada's Minister of Justice, and through the collaboration of Jacques R. Fournier, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Québec, and Mr. Paul-Matthieu Grondin, Bâtonnier of the Barreau du Québec.

Details of the procedural bijuralism pilot project will be available in the next few weeks on the websites of the [Federal Court](#) and the [Federal Court of Appeal](#).

Information: Amélie Lavictoire, Executive Director and General Counsel
Federal Court of Appeal
613-995-5063 or amelie.lavictoire@cas-satj.gc.ca

Andrew Baumberg, Legal Counsel
Federal Court
613-947-3177 or andrew.baumberg@cas-satj.gc.ca