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2013



AU SERVICE  
DES JUSTICIABLES

# COUR DU QUÉBEC



Public Report  
2013





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2013

This publication was written and produced  
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The electronic version of the report can be found  
on the Court of Québec's website ([www.tribunaux.qc.ca](http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca))

A limited number of copies of this publication  
was printed. To order this publication,  
contact the Office of the Chief Judge  
of the Court of Québec:  
Tel.: 418-649-3100  
Fax: 418-643-8432  
Email: [info@courduquebec.ca](mailto:info@courduquebec.ca)

© Court of Québec, 2014  
Legal deposit – Bibliothèque national du Québec, 2014  
National Library of Canada  
ISBN: 978-2-550-70074-6 (print)  
ISBN: 978-2-550-70075-3 (PDF)

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The Chief Judge  
surrounded by judges and  
presiding justices of the peace  
at the 2013 judges' conference.



## Message from the Chief Judge

It is my pleasure to present the *Court of Québec Public Report for 2013*<sup>1</sup>, a year rich in achievements and accomplishments!

It was a memorable year, during which 32 judges and 1 presiding justice of the peace were appointed to the Court of Québec, enriching the teams in place across the province. The selection committees, headed by the Senior Associate Chief Judge or the Associate Chief Judges, met with hundreds of top quality candidates whose applications reflect the enthusiastic support our judicial institution enjoys. The Court of Québec's appeal stems from the skill, commitment, drive, and integrity of its members, not to mention their determination to improve Court processes through more new initiatives this year in every region of Québec and every area of the Court's jurisdiction.

The Court's determination to remain focused on citizens' needs and expectations was demonstrated on numerous occasions in the activities commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation from the merger of the Court of Sessions of the Peace, the Provincial Court, and the Youth Court. I invite you to browse the commemorative brochure<sup>2</sup> published to mark the celebrations, which were an opportunity to recognize those who spearheaded this important overhaul of Québec's judicial system and to see just how far we have come since then.

If there is one constant in all the reforms the Court of Québec has undergone over the decades, it is the changes made to the Court's jurisdiction, structure, and composition as it builds on its experiences and adapts and innovates to meet new and different needs more effectively. *Society has changed—and so has the Court!*

For example, this year the Court of Québec decided to open two Twitter accounts given the number of people using this communication tool and our determination to pursue the technological shift begun a few years ago, as circumstances permit. This year's annual meeting focused on the theme "A Promising World: Using Technology for Justice" and provided food for thought about how to increase the Court's visibility and make daily tasks easier using technology.

I encourage you to visit the Court of Québec website regularly since considerable effort has been made to keep it updated with the latest news. The annual report published by the Court is another communication tool created to report on its activities.

1. The Public Report 2013 is available in both official languages in paper form, and an electronic version can be viewed on the Court's website at [www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq\\_en/c-quebec/index-cq.html](http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq_en/c-quebec/index-cq.html).

2. This brochure is available on the Court of Québec's website (French only).

The strength of the Court's commitment to openness and transparency comes from its belief that such qualities are closely connected to better access to justice, a challenge for every court and every justice system that has ever existed.

In 2013, the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, chaired by the Honourable Justice Thomas A. Cromwell of the Supreme Court of Canada, published its final report entitled *A Roadmap for Change*.<sup>3</sup> I urge all of you to read it and embrace the cultural shift proposed in order to genuinely improve access to justice.

If there is one takeaway from the report and the solutions proposed, it is that members and partners of the judicial system must pool their efforts to succeed. We must stop trying to reinvent the wheel and commit to taking concrete action. By working together, we can achieve results.

In 2014, the Court of Québec is determined to complete the initiatives outlined in its *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014* and begin looking ahead to the future. The Court will support and assist judges in the performance of their duties, promote a modern approach to case management, and be a leader in access to justice. There is much to do, but, as always, the Court will tackle these challenges head-on and seize every opportunity to overcome them.



Élizabeth Crote

Chief Judge

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3. The report is available in both official languages on the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice website at [www.cfcj-fcjc.org/collaborations#NAC](http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/collaborations#NAC).



## Message from the President of Conférence des juges du Québec

Founded in 1962, Conférence des juges du Québec included Court of Québec judges and municipal judges from Montréal, Laval, and Québec City in 2013.

The Conférence, which acts independently of the Court of Québec and municipal courts promotes excellence and mutual aid among its members and protects their interests. It also exists to safeguard the dignity, respect, authority, and autonomy of the courts and the judicial system.

Over the years, the Conférence has fought to have judicial independence recognized as one of the pillars of a free and democratic society. Its members have devoted considerable resources to defending this principle, which is founded in large measure on an independent judiciary. This independence is characterized by the irremovability, administrative independence, and financial security of judges.

The battles the Conférence has helped fight and the legal actions it has supported through to the Supreme Court of Canada have served not only its members but all the people of Québec. In this, the organization has given the courts an opportunity to help define what constitutes independent justice—that essential element of democratic society.

We must not forget that, at the end of the day, the principle of independent courts and an independent bench does not exist to benefit judges, but the public.

It is crucial because of the judges and court's role as protectors of the Constitution and the values embodied in it, including the rule of law, fundamental justice, equality, and preservation of democratic process.

Judicial independence is therefore not an end in and of itself, but rather a means of preserving our constitutional order. Because of it, public trust in our institutions and the administration of justice can remain at its highest level. And in a lawful society, this trust is imperative to the correct operation of the judicial system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claude Leblond', written in a cursive style.

**Claude Leblond**  
President of the  
Conférence des juges du Québec

# PRESENTATION OF THE COURT OF QUÉBEC

as of December 31, 2013

3 divisions:  
civil, criminal and penal, and youth

1 Chief Judge

1 Senior Associate Chief Judge

4 Associate Chief Judges

1 Associate Chief Judge  
(from the 4 mentioned above)  
responsible for municipal courts

10 coordinating regions

10 coordinating judges

11 associate coordinating judges  
in office out of a possible 12

282 judges in office out  
of a possible 290

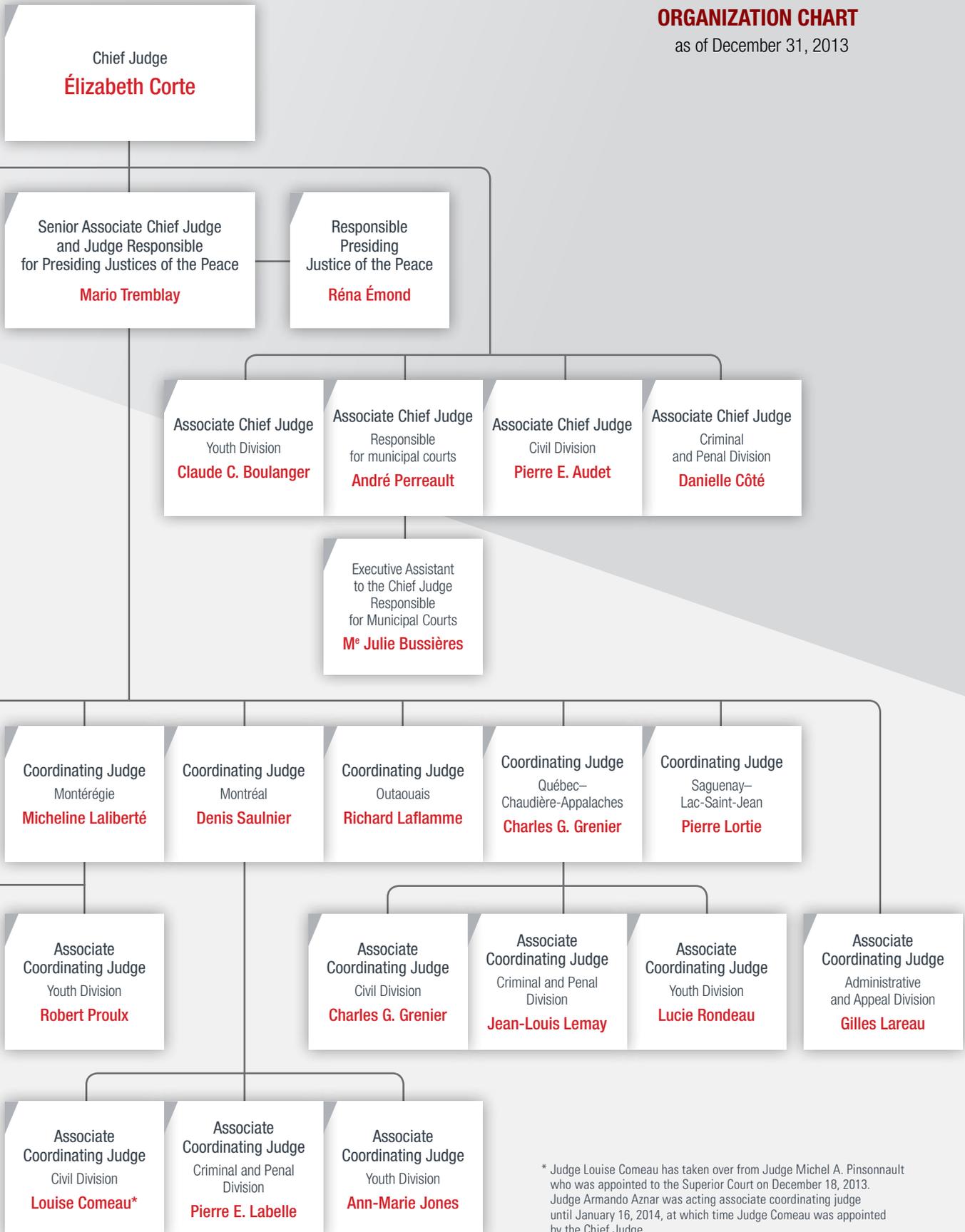
35 presiding justices  
of the peace in office out  
of a possible 36

1 justice responsible  
for presiding justices  
of the peace



## ORGANIZATION CHART

as of December 31, 2013



\* Judge Louise Comeau has taken over from Judge Michel A. Pinsonnault who was appointed to the Superior Court on December 18, 2013. Judge Armando Aznar was acting associate coordinating judge until January 16, 2014, at which time Judge Comeau was appointed by the Chief Judge.

## COMPOSITION

### Judges in Management Positions

The Court of Québec is composed of 290 judges and 36 presiding justices of the peace. As of December 31, 2013, there were 282 judges and 35 presiding justices of the peace.

The Court has a management structure that supports the judges in the performance of their duties and functions. The *Courts of Justice Act* provides for the positions of Chief Judge, Senior Associate Chief Judge, and Associate Chief Judges, whose terms last seven years and cannot be renewed. The coordinating judges and associate coordinating judges complete this structure. Their terms span a maximum of three years and can be renewed.

The Chief Judge and Senior Associate Chief Judge are the president and vice-president, respectively, of Québec's judicial council (Conseil de la magistrature). The Associate Chief Judges are also members.<sup>4</sup>



The current Chief Judges team.

TOP ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

**André Perreault**

Associate Chief Judge responsible for municipal courts

**Claude C. Boulanger**

Associate Chief Judge for the Youth Division

**Pierre E. Audet**

Associate Chief Judge for the Civil Division

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

**Mario Tremblay**

Senior Associate Chief Judge

**Élizabeth Corte**

Chief Judge

**Danielle Côté**

Associate Chief Judge for the Criminal and Penal Division

### Chief Judge

On October 21, 2009, Élizabeth Corte was appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Québec. She ensures the general policies of the Court are followed, coordinates and apportions the judges' work, promotes their professional development, and ensures compliance with the Judicial Code of Ethics.

Under the Act, she is also tasked with assigning cases and scheduling the sittings of the Court. On a daily basis, this responsibility is delegated to the coordinating and associate coordinating judges in each region. The Chief Judge is supported in her work by the team of judges in management positions. She plans and presides over the Chief Judges' work sessions and their meetings with the coordinating and associate coordinating judges. In cooperation with all the judges, whom she consults on a regular basis, the Chief Judge defines the Court's mission, values, and objectives.<sup>5</sup>

**The Chief Judge represents the Court of Québec and acts as its spokesperson with the government and other partners of the judicial system.**

4. To learn more about Conseil de la magistrature, see the Conseil website: [www.conseildelamagistrature.qc.ca/index.php?langue=en](http://www.conseildelamagistrature.qc.ca/index.php?langue=en).

5. The *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014* is available on the Court's website.

## Senior Associate Chief Judge

Mario Tremblay has been the Court's Senior Associate Chief Judge since September 1, 2009. He assists and advises the Chief Judge in the performance of her duties and functions. He also oversees compliance with the Court's policies and manages the scheduling and management-related professional development of the coordinating and associate coordinating judges. The Senior Associate Chief Judge chairs or sits on numerous committees, including those whose objective is to support court activities in the areas of technology, safety, and ethics. He conducts a periodic assessment of regional staffing needs and assignments, oversees the application of the per diem judge program, and manages the judge mobility program.

Following an appointment in 2005, the Honourable Mario Tremblay took over the Chief Judge's coordination and work assignment duties for the presiding justices of the peace across Québec. He is assisted with these tasks by Presiding Justice of the Peace Réna Émond, who was appointed the judge responsible for presiding justices of the peace for a two-year term on October 31, 2012.

## Associate Chief Judges

The Associate Chief Judges advise the Chief Judge in matters for which they are responsible. They help the Court achieve its objectives and establish its priorities and policies by recommending ways to improve its operations. They also support and assist judges with their daily tasks. At the request of the Chief Judge, the Associate Chief Judges chair committees formed to select candidates for the position of judge.

Claude C. Boulanger has been the Associate Chief Judge for the Youth Division since September 1, 2009, Pierre E. Audet has been the Associate Chief Judge for the Civil Division since November 11, 2010, and Danielle Côté has been the Associate Chief Judge for the Criminal and Penal Division since June 16, 2011.

Associate Chief Judge André Perreault has been responsible for the municipal courts since February 17, 2010. He performs the duties and functions conferred under the *Act respecting municipal courts*. In collaboration with the municipal judges, he drafts general policies for them and monitors compliance. In addition, Associate Chief Judge Perreault ensures that judicial ethics are observed and oversees the professional development of the municipal judges. The 73 municipal judges under his jurisdiction work in 88 local and common municipal courts serving nearly 900 municipalities across Québec.

## Coordinating and Associate Coordinating Judges

With the government's approval, the Chief Judge designates a coordinating judge from among the Court's judges for each of the Court's ten coordinating regions. She can also designate a maximum of 12 associate coordinating judges. These judges represent the Court of Québec in dealings with various parties in their respective regions.

Under the Chief Judge's authority, the coordinating and associate coordinating judges are in charge of administering the Court in the judicial district under their responsibility. This includes scheduling sittings of the Court and assigning cases to judges. They help develop the Court's priorities, policies, and practices, based in part on regional judges' expertise and the specific needs of their regions.

Each associate coordinating judge usually takes responsibility for a particular Court division, under the authority of the coordinating judge. They work together to determine the needs of local judges and divide the workload across the region and with respect to the specific matters entrusted to them.

The coordinating and associate coordinating judges are also tasked with welcoming new judges. They are responsible for regional professional development programs and the judge mobility program in their respective regions.



TOP ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Coordinating and associate coordinating judges  
**Michèle Toupin, Jean-Pierre Archambault, Jean-Louis Lemay, Denis Saulnier, François Landry, Pierre E. Labelle, Ann-Marie Jones, Michel A. Pinsonnault, Ellen Paré, Daniel Bédard, Charles G. Grenier, Gilles Lareau, Dominique Slater, Alain Désy, Pierre Lortie, Micheline Laliberté, Robert Proulx, Lucie Rondeau, François Boisjoli, Richard Côté, and Richard Laflamme.**

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Chief Judges

**Claude C. Boulanger, Pierre E. Audet, Mario Tremblay, Élisabeth Corte, Danielle Côté, and André Perreault.**

---

## Judges

The Court of Québec judges hear and decide cases involving civil, administrative and appellate, criminal and penal, and youth matters. Some judges hear cases involving only one of these matters, while others – particularly in the regions – hear cases in more than one division or area. Their specialized knowledge and versatility help the Court respond to regional realities and meet all parties' needs more effectively.

As of December 31, 2013, the Court of Québec had 282 judges, of which 116 were women and 166, men.<sup>6</sup>

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## Presiding Justices of the Peace

The 36 presiding justices of the peace serve in the Criminal and Penal Division throughout the province. In these matters, they are the first judicial officials involved, issuing all types of judicial authorizations, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Presiding justices of the peace make decisions that have far-reaching implications for the fundamental rights of residents and the outcomes of potential proceedings. Furthermore, the number and complexity of the applications for authorization they receive require that they keep their specialized knowledge up-to-date.**

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6. For more statistics on the judges and presiding justices of the peace, please visit the Court of Québec website.

They also preside over appearances by telephone every weekend and on holidays that fall on a Monday or Friday. In 2013, the Court of Québec adopted operating procedures aimed at maximizing the services available between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

In addition, presiding justices of the peace sit in all courthouses and points of service to hear cases relating to Québec legislation and a variety of federal statutes. In these matters, they have the same jurisdiction as Court of Québec judges. They preside over proceedings involving matters as varied and important as occupational health and safety, environmental protection, illegal practice of a profession, and securities.

**The presiding justices of the peace help streamline penal cases and enable more trials resulting from the creation of the new tax evasion investigation units to be held.**

The *Courts of Justice Act* was amended in 2012 to create a position of justice responsible for presiding justices of the peace. On October 31, 2012, the Chief Judge appointed Presiding Justice of the Peace Réna Émond to this position.

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## Appointments

In 2013, 32 judges and 1 presiding justice of the peace were appointed to the Court of Québec,<sup>7</sup> either to replace retired colleagues or to fill one of the 20 new positions allocated to the Court in the wake of the amendments to the *Courts of Justice Act* in 2012.



The new judges and Chief Judges at the 2013 judges' conference.

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<sup>7</sup> Please visit the news release section on the Court of Québec's website (French only) to learn the names of these judges, as well as the divisions and regions to which they were appointed.

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## Retirements

At the November 2013 judges' conference, attendees paid tribute to the judges who had retired during the previous year.<sup>8</sup> Some of these experienced colleagues continue to sit as per diem judges as permitted by the *Courts of Justice Act*.



TOP ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

The Honourable **Élizabeth Corte** (Chief Judge), **Claude Provost**, **Michel DuBois**, **Jean Gravel**, **Jean Sirois**, **Gilles Cadieux**, **André Plante**, and **Georges Benoit**.

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

The Honourable **Embert Whittom**, **Jean-François Dionne**, **André Cloutier**, **Michel Durand**, **Anne Laberge**, **Paul Casgrain**, and **Jean-Pierre Gignac** (municipal judge).

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## Per Diem Judges

Since 2002, the Court has managed expenditures relating to the salaries and compensation of Court judges who act as per diem judges under an administrative agreement with Ministère de la Justice du Québec (MJQ), which is renewed each year. Under the terms of the agreement, amounts that are not paid out in compensation when judges retire or take long-term sick leave are available to compensate per diem judges.

At the request of the Chief Judge and in accordance with the Act, the government appoints per diem judges and presiding justices of the peace from among the judges who have retired and not yet reached age 75. These judges, who are paid by the day, support and assist judges in regions where there are not enough permanent judges. They also complete special projects. The assistance they provide can help the Court achieve its objectives for reducing wait times.

Finally, the Court established a committee tasked with advising the Chief Judge on matters relating to case assignment for per diem judges. It is also responsible for reviewing the Court's current policy on per diem judges.

**Between September 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013, 54 per diem judges sat for about 2,645 days, with 9% in the Civil Division and practice court, 12% hearing small claims matters, 18% in the Youth Division, and 61% in the Criminal and Penal Division.**

**In 2013, the first per diem justice of the peace for Gatineau was appointed.**

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8. For more information on the Court of Québec judges who retired in 2013, visit the Court's website.

### Civil Division

#### Regular Division

The Court's judges have jurisdiction, within the limits prescribed by law, over civil actions initiated under the *Code of Civil Procedure* or any other statute. The judges have authority to hear claims where the monetary value or interest of the matter in dispute is under \$70,000, except support payment claims, claims related to residential leases (which come under the Régie du logement's jurisdiction), and claims reserved for the Federal Court. The judges are also empowered to deal with demands for the recovery of municipal or school taxes and for the reversal or setting aside of municipal or school assessment rolls.

**The Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure (2014, chapter 1) makes provision for an increase in this monetary value to at least \$85,000 and includes a clause for the annual adjustment of the indexed limit amount.**

Judicial conciliation has been an integral part of a judge's duties since 2003. Through settlement conferences presided over by a judge, disputes submitted to the Court can be resolved other than through a trial, saving both the parties and the judicial system time and money.<sup>10</sup>

Thanks to the cooperation of MJQ and the Québec Bar, the civil rolls have been available for consultation online since December 2011, for both the practice court and cases on the merits. These cases can be viewed on the Court of Québec website ([www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq\\_en/index.html](http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq_en/index.html)).

#### Small Claims Division

In the Small Claims Division, judges decide cases involving claims of \$7,000 or less payable by an individual or legal entity, company, or association with five or fewer employees during the twelve-month period preceding the claim. Legal representation is not permitted, except when special permission is granted in cases where the dispute raises complex questions of law. The written procedure is simplified. The judges explain the rules of evidence and procedure to the parties. They direct the proceedings, question witnesses, hear the parties, and decide the issues in dispute. They provide each party with fair and impartial assistance, so as to render effective the substantive law and ensure that it is carried out. When circumstances allow, the judges endeavour to bring the parties to an agreement. The judgment rendered is a reasoned decision and cannot be appealed. Judges in this division also decide tax-related summary appeals.

**The Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure (2014, chapter 1) makes provision for an increase in this monetary value to \$15,000.**

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9. Detailed statistics for all divisions of the Court of Québec and the coordinating regions are available on the Court's website.

10. To learn more about settlement conference for civil matters and to view statistics on the topic, see the Court of Québec website.

## Administrative and Appeal Division

In 2007, the Court of Québec created the Administrative and Appeal Division (AAD) within the Civil Division for the sake of uniformity, consistency, and efficiency. The judges of this division have exclusive authority to hear appeals from decisions rendered by a number of tribunals and administrative agencies, including Commission d'accès à l'information, Régie du logement, the Administrative Tribunal of Québec, the Police Ethics Committee, and ethics committees governing professionals in matters of financial products and services distribution and real estate brokerage. AAD judges are also called to rule on highly complex Agence du revenu du Québec decisions on taxation and tax recovery.<sup>11</sup>

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## Criminal and Penal Division

In Québec, the vast majority of criminal and penal cases is heard by Court of Québec judges since the only jurisdiction they do not exercise concerns certain offences restricted to the Superior Court (for example, murder trials).

The *Courts of Justice Act* states that the Court's judges have jurisdiction, within the limits prescribed by law, over proceedings under the *Criminal Code*, the *Code of Penal Procedure*, and any other criminal or penal legislation.

The judges from the Criminal and Penal Division may also handle certain applications for judicial authorization for which they have either exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court or presiding justices of the peace.

They preside over release hearings, preliminary inquiries, proceedings that fall within the jurisdiction of a provincial court judge and a judge without a jury, as defined by the *Criminal Code*, as well as proceedings related to offences punishable on summary conviction.

In penal matters, they hear proceedings initiated under the *Code of Penal Procedure* or any other provincial or federal penal legislation concerning public welfare. Take for example Autorité des marchés financiers or even Agence du revenu cases, which are increasing in number at a significant rate and require more and more time to hear.

Furthermore, giving the growing complexity of the trials resulting from the police operations mentioned previously, Parliament amended the *Criminal Code* to grant judges additional powers in relation to case management. The Court asked that such management powers also be granted to judges for penal proceedings governed by the *Code of Penal Procedure*.

**The increase in the number of major police operations requires judges in the Criminal and Penal Division to be extensively available outside of the time they spend hearing cases and writing judgments.**

**Criminal and Penal Division judges are playing a more active role in case progress to ensure the optimal use of resources.**

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<sup>11</sup> The vast majority of appeals of decisions on taxation and tax recovery remain the exclusive right of judges presiding over civil matters in Québec.

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## Youth Division

The *Courts of Justice Act* and the *Code of Civil Procedure* establish the jurisdiction of Court of Québec judges in youth matters, which involves enforcing the *Youth Protection Act*. They hear cases concerning minors whose security or development is or may be declared to be in danger. Once the danger has been established to the judge's satisfaction, the judge orders one or more protective measures listed in the *Youth Protection Act* be carried out in order to stop the situation. The Act also contains rules for applications for tutorship, which are brought before the judges.

Under Québec's *Code of Civil Procedure*, judges have exclusive jurisdiction over adoption applications, including those involving international adoption.

The judges are also competent to exercise the functions of the youth justice court, in accordance with the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. In this regard, the judges preside over the trials of youth who were between the ages of 12 and 18 at the time an offence was committed under the *Criminal Code* or under federal or provincial statutes of a criminal or penal nature. They also preside, in certain circumstances, over preliminary inquiries.

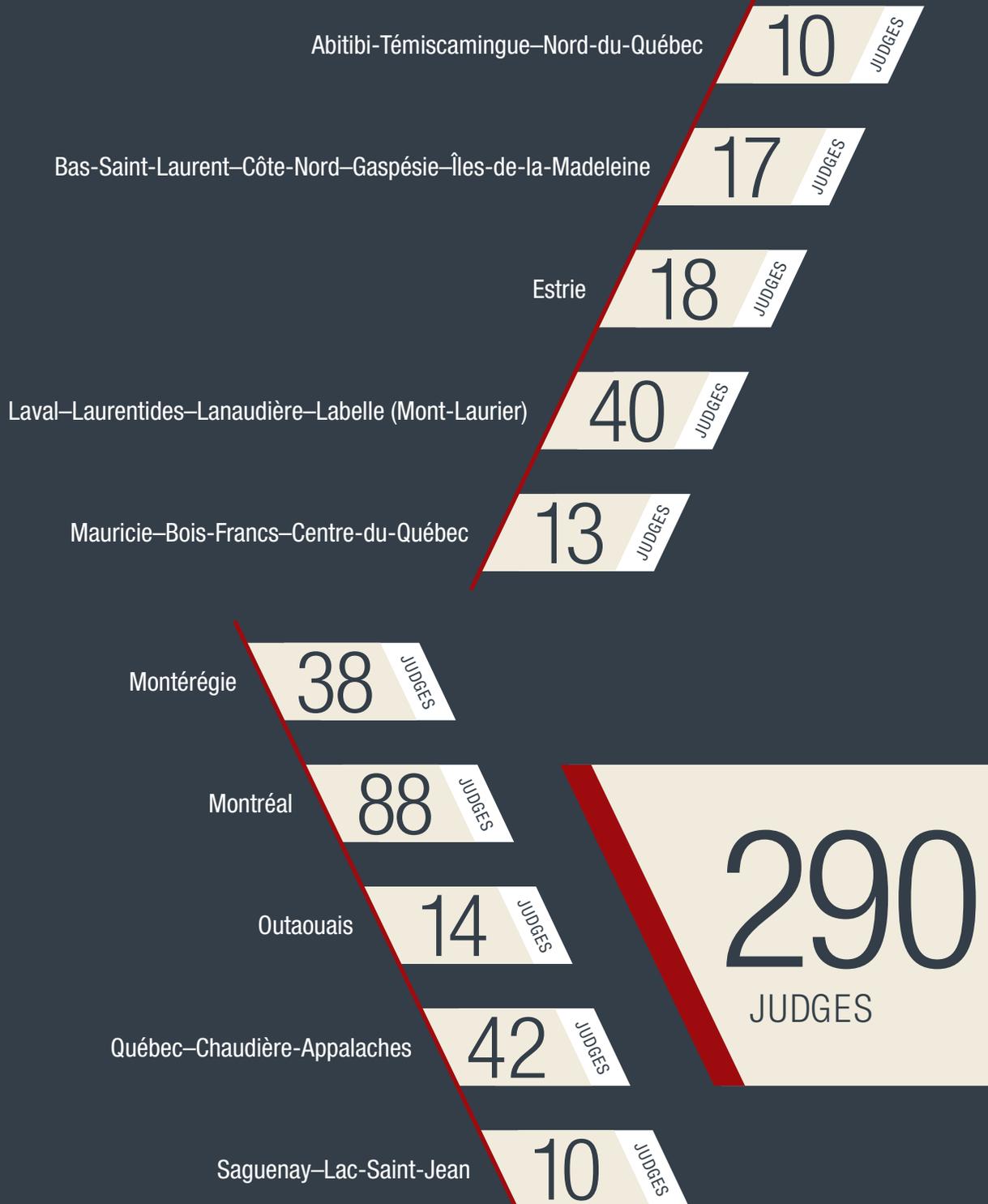
The judges also have jurisdiction in proceedings initiated under the *Code of Penal Procedure* for public welfare offences committed by defendants who were under 18 years of age at the time of the offence.

Court judges have exclusive jurisdiction when the accused youth cannot be released or has been placed in the Director of Youth Protection's custody, if the youth so requests or it is in his or her interest.

**The Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure (2014, chapter 1) contains provisions for the jurisdiction of the Court in youth matters. It grants the Court new jurisdiction over child custody, tutorship, and the exercise of parental authority when a protection or adoption matter is already before the Court.**

# COURT OF QUÉBEC JUDGES BY REGION

as of December 31, 2013



## AREA COVERED



Including vacant positions. The regional distribution is equal to the number of positions allotted in a region, but does not necessarily equal the number of judges in place because some of them were appointed to management positions (e.g., Associate Chief Judge) and are counted in the region where they were made judges.

- 1 Abitibi-Témiscamingue-Nord-du-Québec
- 2 Bas-Saint-Laurent-Côte-Nord-Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- 3 Estrie
- 4 Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière-Labelle (Mont-Laurier)
- 5 Mauricie-Bois-Francs-Centre-du-Québec
- 6 Montérégie
- 7 Montréal
- 8 Outaouais
- 9 Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches
- 10 Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean

## COORDINATING REGIONS

### Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec

Daniel Bédard, Coordinating Judge

Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec is the largest of the ten regions served by the Court of Québec. The region's 10 judges and 2 presiding justices of the peace travel between 6 courthouses and 20 points of service.

After a series of meetings with actors in the judicial system, including the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Bar and directors of youth protection, a project was launched on January 14, 2013, to centralize urgent applications related to civil, criminal, and youth matters. It was at this point that the systematic use of videoconferencing was implemented. For example, the prosecutor for a release hearing and the person in custody could be at the Amos courthouse, the defence attorney at the Montréal courthouse, and the judge at the Val-d'Or courthouse. The defence counsel for the person in custody may not need to leave his or her office if it has audiovisual equipment compatible with that of MJQ.

**Procedures are constantly being reviewed to determine how the ultimate objective of serving the public can be achieved. It is with this in mind that case processing times and the human and physical resources affected by them are examined. Certain constraints remain unavoidable, in which case alternative solutions must be sought to see whether service can be improved in the short and long-term.**

To date, more than 1,000 hearings with more than 800 videoconferences have taken place. The October 2013 review meeting confirmed the continued satisfaction and ongoing support for centralization on the part of members of the judicial system. This initiative has also made it possible to resume proceedings and preliminary inquiries in the north, where it had become difficult to proceed due to the number of release hearings given priority at the beginning of sessions (terms). In the Abitibi-Témiscamingue area, it is no longer necessary to interrupt or postpone inquiries and hearings because of recesses caused by urgent applications.

In addition, the significant increase in volume of Youth Division cases in the north required hearings during sessions normally reserved for the Criminal Division. This situation caused considerable difficulty because a number of criminal cases were not able to proceed to trial. A number of youth cases ready to be heard on their merits also had to be postponed due to lack of time. These problems have now been resolved; since September 2013, exclusive Youth Division sessions have been incorporated in the judicial calendar for the north.

The parties, including directors of youth protection in the Inuit community and the prosecution, will now benefit from exclusive sittings so that they can handle their cases in a timely manner and plan better.

Similar measures are planned for the Cree communities, where the number of youth cases is increasing. Each Cree community now has a justice center equipped with a courtroom housing state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment and enough space for all itinerant court participants.

In civil matters, the number of “floating days” for hearing cases on the general roll has been increased, even though there is still room for improvement. Attorneys need only to familiarize themselves with the very simple procedure that allows them to choose one or more days based on their schedule in place of the days predetermined by the Court. The public benefits the most since cases may be heard within weeks of being entered on the general roll.

Over the last weeks of 2013, computerization of the trial and preliminary inquiry scheduling process at the Val-d’Or courthouse was completed. Prosecution and defence attorneys can now set hearing dates in advance for confirmation at roll call. Computerization results in considerable time savings since lawyers’ and witnesses’ availability is checked by both sides prior to roll call. As a result, all the cases on the roll can be heard.

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## **Bas-Saint-Laurent–Côte-Nord–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine**

**Richard Côté**, Coordinating Judge

**François Boisjoli**, Associate Coordinating Judge

Delivering justice in this region is a challenge due to the huge area to cover, from La Pocatière to Îles-de-la-Madeleine on the south shore and from Tadoussac to Blanc-Sablon on the north shore, including the northern communities of Schefferville and Kawawachikamach. The region encompasses 18 regional county municipalities (RCMs), 7 areas outside RCMs, and 238 municipalities spread over 3 administrative regions. The Court of Québec operates 25 points of service located throughout the area.

To ensure this vast area is served, the Court relies on a team of 17 judges and 4 presiding justices of the peace working in seven courthouses.

To meet the population’s needs, the judges must be versatile, meaning they preside over a variety of matters. They are also required to travel regularly in the region, including as part of the itinerant court in order to reach remote communities.

Over the last few years, judges in the region have worked with the Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine Bar and MJQ to set up an on-call videoconference service to ensure a judge is always available to hear urgent applications.

Hearing wait times nonetheless remain a constant concern, and measures are being put in place to tackle the issue. For example, judges are spending more and more time on case management. Some of them have been specially trained to preside over settlement or facilitation conferences, and the number of settlement conferences in the Civil Division is on the rise. In total, nine settlement conferences were held in 2012–2013, saving 12 scheduled hearing days.<sup>12</sup> The conferences all had excellent outcomes.

Unfortunately, facilitation conferences are still too rarely used in the Criminal and Penal and Youth divisions.

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12. Detailed information on settlement conferences for civil matters is available on the Court’s website. The data collection period for settlement conferences is September 1, 2012, to August 31, 2013.

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## Estrie

**Alain Désy**, Coordinating Judge

The Estrie region comprises the judicial districts of Saint-François, Bedford, Drummond, and Mégantic. The population of more than 415,000 people relies on four courthouses in Sherbrooke, Granby, Cowansville, and Drummondville, and two points of service in Lac-Mégantic and Magog.

The area is served by 18 judges and 2 presiding justices of the peace. In all, 11 resident judges work in the Sherbrooke courthouse, while 4 judges are based at the Granby courthouse and 2 at the Drummondville courthouse. Several of these judges are highly versatile and preside over a variety of matters.

The presiding justices of the peace are based at the Sherbrooke and Granby courthouses but serve throughout the region. With their colleagues from other regions, they make up the provincial team of presiding justices of the peace, who exercise their jurisdiction throughout the province 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Settlement and facilitation conferences and case management are widely used in the region. In total, 26 settlement conferences were held in 2012–2013 for civil matters, saving 48.5 scheduled hearing days. It should also be noted that all four districts in the region require pre-hearing or management conferences to be held before lengthy cases can go to trial. More broadly, each judge's diligent management of ongoing cases helps to accelerate hearing schedules and reduces wait times.

**Modern approaches to administering justice are welcomed in Estrie. The judges' ongoing involvement is a perfect match for the high level of cooperation received from attorneys practising in the region.**

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## Laval–Laurentides–Lanaudière–Labelle (Mont-Laurier)

**Michèle Toupin**, Coordinating Judge

**Jean-Pierre Archambault**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Civil Division

**François Landry**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Criminal and Penal Division

The Laval–Laurentides–Lanaudière–Labelle region (LLLL) comprises four judicial districts: Laval, Terrebonne, Joliette, and Labelle (Mont-Laurier). It continues to be the fastest-growing region in Québec, with a population that will soon reach 1,500,000.

The LLLL region has four courthouses and three points of service and draws on a team of 40 judges and 4 presiding justices of the peace. Many of them are versatile and sit in more than one division, which allows them to meet the needs of the Youth Division, among others. In total, 21 judges have offices at the courthouse in Saint-Jérôme, 10 in Joliette, 11 in Laval, and 1 in Mont-Laurier.

Even though the region was understaffed in 2013 because of retirements, hearing wait times, especially in the Civil Division, were markedly reduced thanks to the arrival of new judges and the involvement of per diem judges. Courtroom availability continues to be a major issue for all divisions, but for criminal cases in particular. This situation affects hearing wait times.

For civil matters, the early case management protocols signed with the Laval and Laurentides–Lanaudière bars and implemented in spring 2012 for cases involving latent defects, defective workmanship, and construction defects have been a great success. These protocols are intended to reduce wait times between the opening of files and their hearing, as well as the costs incurred by the parties involved.

A number of cases were heard by a judge through early case management conference calls. They were subsequently referred to a settlement conference, held within two to three months, before being settled out of court. Such settlements sometimes occurred in cases where the attorneys had anticipated hearings lasting several days.

In 2012–2013, 126 settlement conferences were held for civil matters, saving 269 scheduled hearing days. Almost all Civil Division judges are now trained to preside over settlement conferences.

Wait times for small claims disputes remain long, although the Court is constantly striving to reduce them. Members of the bar offer information sessions for parties in Laval, Saint-Jérôme, and Joliette. The associate coordinating judge and a representative of the registry are also present. The associate coordinating judge also participates in the work of the small claims issue table (*infra*).

In the Youth Division, concerted efforts by the judges made it possible to meet the mandatory time frames in the *Youth Protection Act*. However, the availability of attorneys specializing in youth matters remains an important problem. Each district now has judges who are specially trained to preside over settlement conferences.

**Holding settlement conferences in youth matters and facilitation conferences in criminal matters saved numerous hearing days that could be allocated to other cases.**

In the Criminal Division, 2013 was a busy year in terms of case volume and complex, lengthy cases. Special squads were active in the LLLL region on a number of occasions, which resulted in judges being assigned cases that sometimes lasted several weeks.

The introduction of a reminder system that systematically invites attorneys involved in lengthy criminal and penal matters to consider facilitation conferences has also played a large part in facilitating settlements.

A number of judges in the region will also conduct training activities for the Laval and Laurentides–Lanaudière bars to promote amicable methods of conflict resolution. They also stress the importance of having parties meet and discuss matters with a view to reducing the length of hearings.

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## Mauricie–Bois-Francs–Centre-du-Québec

**Dominique Slater**, Coordinating Judge

The Mauricie–Bois-Francs–Centre-du-Québec region comprises the three judicial districts of Trois-Rivières, Arthabaska, and Saint-Maurice and is home to nearly 400,000 people. The region has four courthouses: Trois-Rivières, Victoriaville, Shawinigan, and La Tuque. The La Tuque courthouse provides services to the aboriginal communities of Wemotaci and Obedjiwan (in youth matters).

As of December 31, 2013, there were 13 judges and 2 presiding justices of the peace who travel to courthouses throughout the region. Cases in all matters are heard within a reasonable time frame.

In 2012–2013, the number of settlement conferences held by Civil Division judges continued to increase. A total of 16 settlement conferences were held, saving 26 scheduled hearing days. This method of dispute resolution, which reduces hearing wait times and trial costs, has become a genuine part of the region’s “judicial culture.”

In criminal matters, management of lengthy cases remains a challenge; pre-hearing, facilitation, and case management conferences are part of the solution. These tools help clarify issues in dispute and shorten hearing times while promoting conciliation between parties.

The region also has a committee made up of judges and other stakeholders (members of the bar, the director of criminal and penal prosecutions, representatives of MJQ’s Direction générale des services de justice et des registres and Ministère de la Sécurité publique). The committee promotes dialogue and helps establish consensus on operating procedures and other issues in order to ensure more efficient use of the Court’s time.

In youth matters, the judges play an active role in case management in order to provide this at-risk clientele with quality services within the time frames required by law.

The provision of justice in the aboriginal communities of Wemotaci and Obedjiwan (in youth matters) is another key concern. Discussions are ongoing between the members of a consultative committee, which includes a judge from the region, and the leaders of the Attikamekw nation to find solutions and improve the services provided to these communities.

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## Montréal

**Micheline Laliberté**, Coordinating Judge

**Robert Proulx**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Youth Division

**Ellen Paré**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Criminal and Penal Division

The Montréal region covers the area comprising the judicial districts of Longueuil, Beauharnois, Richelieu, Saint-Hyacinthe, and Iberville. The population of more than 1,470,000 people relies on five courthouses and two points of service. The courthouses are located in Longueuil, Saint-Hyacinthe, Sorel-Tracy, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, and Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. The two points of service operate on an itinerant basis in Châteauguay and Vaudreuil-Dorion under the authority of the Salaberry-de-Valleyfield courthouse. Small claims cases are heard there.

In Montréal, 11 judges sit in the Youth Division, 7 in the Civil Division, and 13 in the Criminal and Penal Division, while 5 others divide their time between the three divisions. The team is rounded out by 5 presiding justices of the peace.

In the Civil Division, early case management in Longueuil has been highly successful and has helped reduce wait times appreciably in addition to promoting the active participation of all parties in resolving their disputes.

In civil matters, a judge from the region presides full-time over conciliation and management conferences as part of the special case management program that has been in place since 2009. In total, the judge presided over 110 cases and 248 management conference calls in 2012–2013.

Through the participation of the regional coordinating judge, the Court of Québec continues to support the efforts of Association du Jeune Barreau de Longueuil, which set up a legal information service on small claims in 2012. Volunteer lawyers hold monthly information sessions at the Longueuil courthouse. The coordinating judge also participates in the work of the small claims issue table (*infra*).

In the Youth Division, the addition of a new judge has enabled the court to better meet the growing needs in Montréal, especially in the districts of Saint-Hyacinthe, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, and Beauharnois. The judges in this division have also formed an internal committee to develop common case management guidelines, which should come into force next year.

In addition, a pilot project concerning settlement conferences has begun in Saint-Hyacinthe. The goals of this exercise are to document the concrete impact of settlement conferences on the conduct of youth cases and give new impetus to this method of dispute settlement, which is slow to take hold in the region.

In criminal and penal matters, needs continue to grow, especially due to increasingly long and complicated proceedings and mega-trials. The judges and presiding justices of the peace continue to offer facilitation conferences.

**On June 17, 2013, the Court took part in the inauguration of the Salaberry-de-Valleyfield courthouse, which has been renovated and expanded to double its original size. It is now one of the most modern courthouses in Québec and the second largest in Montréal after the courthouse in Longueuil.**

**The Court of Québec, particularly the Montréal coordination team, actively participated in the committee tasked with studying the renovation and expansion plans for the Longueuil courthouse with a view to increasing the number of courtrooms and offices for members of the bench.**

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## Montréal

**Denis Saulnier**, Coordinating Judge

The judicial district of Montréal covers the entire island of Montréal and has a population of nearly two million people.

Montréal's 88 judges, 9 presiding justices of the peace, and 14 per diem judges handle the largest case volume in Québec.

In Montréal, the Court of Québec's judicial activities are divided between three locations. The main courthouse is located on Rue Notre-Dame Est and accommodates 32 Criminal and Penal Division judges, 30 Civil Division judges, and 9 presiding justices of the peace. The second building, located on Rue de Bellechasse Est, is unique in that its 22 judges exclusively hear youth protection, adoption, and youth criminal cases. The third, Centre de services judiciaires Gouin, is dedicated primarily to criminal mega-trials.

The Montréal courthouse is the largest in Québec, both in terms of the number of sitting judges and the number of courtrooms.

The Youth Division courthouse is the third largest, and the only one in North America to house judges and lawyers who work exclusively on youth matters.

**The Montréal region is ethnically and culturally diverse, requiring special understanding and sensitivity on the part of judges. The Montréal courthouse's interpretation services must deal with over 40 languages, which often has an impact on the complexity and length of cases.**

### Joint liaison committees

Judges from the Montréal region play an active part on numerous committees involving members of the judicial system, including liaison committees formed by the Montréal Bar where Civil Division and Youth Division judges sit as needed. In the Criminal and Penal Division, three judges contribute to the work of the justice administration committee. Also, one judge represents the Court on the liaison committee established with the Montréal police service.

The coordinating and associate coordinating judges are called on to participate in a number of judicial issue tables and committees bringing together members of the justice system, including representatives of MJQ's Direction générale des services de justice et des registres and Ministère de la Sécurité publique.

### Civil Division

**Louise Comeau**,<sup>13</sup> Associate Coordinating Judge

All Civil Division judges sit in the Regular Division and Small Claims Division, while 16 of them also sit in the Administrative and Appeal Division (AAD).

In the Civil Division, the judges receive applications for seizure before judgment, motions to quash seizure before judgment due to insufficient proof, motions for stay of execution relating to Régie du logement, certain objections raised during examinations for discovery (out of court), and many other incidental motions.

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13. Judge Louise Comeau has taken over from Judge Michel A. Pinsonnault who was appointed to the Superior Court on December 18, 2013. Judge Armando Aznar was acting associate coordinating judge until January 16, 2014, at which time Judge Comeau was appointed by the Chief Judge.

The judges preside over numerous settlement conferences. In 2012–2013, they held 59 such conferences, saving 89 scheduled hearing days.

The judges also heard 4,462 applications regarding mental health matters, (e.g. motions to obtain a psychiatric evaluation or for confinement), which is a 30% increase over the previous year. The Court must pay special attention to this increase in order to continue providing quality services to this vulnerable clientele.

An increase has also been noticed in road safety matters. In 2012–2013, judges heard 1,702 applications for restricted licences and 729 applications for the release of seized vehicles under the *Highway Safety Code*.

Special attention must be paid to inscription and hearing wait times in the Small Claims Division in order to reduce them significantly and sustainably. A committee of Civil Division judges is working to identify ways to reduce wait times. The coordinating judge also participates in the work of the small claims issue table (*infra*).

## Criminal and Penal Division

**Pierre E. Labelle**, Associate Coordinating Judge

The nature and number of cases handled by Criminal and Penal Division judges and presiding justices of the peace is such that the judicial district of Montréal is the busiest in Québec.

The challenges in the region are numerous and significant. The foremost is reducing hearing wait times. To this end, several specific measures were implemented during the year, particularly a new case management program that came into effect in January 2014.<sup>14</sup> The purpose of the program is to more accurately assess the time required to hear cases in order to prevent needless postponements.

In addition, a number of specially trained Criminal Division judges preside over facilitation conferences. This initiative, which relies on proactive judicial intervention to facilitate agreement between parties, is highly appreciated and produces convincing results.

The Court of Québec drug treatment program launched in Montréal in 2013 is also working well. It is producing positive results and creating interest in other regions.

Lastly, the domestic violence program remains in place, and has seen several measures taken to improve its operation.

**In addition to their courtroom workload, the Criminal and Penal Division judges and the presiding justices of the peace dedicate a number of hours each week to authorizing warrants, wiretap orders, and search warrants during routine and large-scale police operations. Added to the workload for presiding justices of the peace is a considerable volume of cases.**

14. The details of this initiative are presented on the Court's website.

## Youth Division

**Ann-Marie Jones**, Associate Coordinating Judge

The volume of youth protection and delinquency cases remained largely unchanged, but the increase in the number of lengthy and complex cases requires more hearing and management time.

The case management process introduced at the Youth Division in 2010 makes it easier to schedule pre-hearing and management conferences and determine parties' interest in settlement conferences for lengthy cases requiring two or more hearing days.

In addition, the number of settlement conferences for protection cases increased in the last year, probably due to their extremely high success and satisfaction rates. Settlement conferences enable parties to find more personalized solutions to their disputes, and help parents feel more actively involved in the judicial process.

The number of adoption cases has declined in recent years, but many of them have proven to be complicated and require several hearing days.

In penal justice matters involving adolescents, a facilitation conference system was set up in 2013. Its primary goal is to promote the settlement of cases earlier in the judicial process. Facilitation and pre-hearing conferences are intended to achieve better case management, prevent postponements, and encourage negotiated settlements.

New technologies, including videoconferencing, allow judges to hear witnesses who are not physically present, and also ensure that incarcerated parents, some of whom may be serving time in other provinces, can participate. Testimony by video link is very useful, especially for cases involving physical or sexual abuse.

**A settlement and facilitation conference room was opened in October 2013. Rooms are also available so parties can meet. During a settlement conference, a hearing room is reserved so the judge can confirm the agreement reached between the parties.**

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## Outaouais

**Richard Laflamme**, Coordinating Judge

The Outaouais region has a population of nearly 375,000. For several years, it has been among the fastest-growing regions in Québec. Outaouais' population is spread over a 33,000 km<sup>2</sup> area made up of three judicial districts. The Hull district, now the Gatineau district, is primarily francophone. Hearings are held at the Gatineau courthouse. The Pontiac district is mainly anglophone and its activities take place at the Campbell's Bay courthouse. The Vallée-de-la-Gatineau RCM and the two Algonquin communities are part of the Labelle district, which is served by the Maniwaki courthouse. With the exception of the two aboriginal communities, the Maniwaki courthouse serves a mainly francophone population. This large region boasts considerable cultural diversity.

The arrival of new judges has helped improve Court service availability in all areas and significantly increased the Court's ability to hear cases and handle them in a timely manner. The current team of 14 judges is completed by 2 presiding justices of the peace.

In civil matters, a full-time judge oversees the early case management program set up in 2010. The program continued through 2013, with a second judge contributing to its success. It aims to promote citizens' access to justice, reduce judicial delays and costs, and ensure that the proportionality principle is applied in civil matters. The program has been so effective that the average case management time for completed cases is now four months. The program has also significantly helped reduce hearing wait times for cases that could not be settled through case management. Fewer than 40 cases are now managed during the provisional roll call, and attorneys no longer need to travel to the Court because the trial dates can be set by other means (email, fax, or phone). The system is therefore quicker, more efficient, and less costly. It should also be mentioned that judges held 51 settlement conferences in 2012–2013, which enabled the Court to recover 154.5 scheduled hearing days.

All these measures have also helped increase the number of days available for small claims hearings, reducing wait times from 12 to 10 months.

In criminal matters, 2013 was marked by significant changes to the operating rules. A practice court was set up to assist with weekly case management, notably to free up space in high-volume rooms and more efficiently manage proceedings for lengthy cases. Since implementation, the Court has been able to schedule 26 lengthy cases totaling 84 days of hearings within less than 6 months of their certification of readiness. Citizens can obtain a preliminary inquiry or trial in less than 5 months after certification of readiness. Furthermore, the ongoing pilot project on examinations for discovery in lieu of preliminary inquiries, which began in 2012, has helped settle a number of cases, making it possible to offer trial dates in a more timely manner.

**Tighter case management in cooperation with attorneys has significantly reduced wait times for the scheduling of regular cases.**

In the Youth Division, the issue table made up of judges and youth workers is continuing its work. New operating rules were implemented in April 2013. Discussions led to changes in the Court's time management practices in order to improve efficiency, and to the establishment of a practice court for managing urgent cases. In addition, rolls were computerized with the help of MJQ. The reorganization aims to ensure that roll management takes into account room assignments (practice court and trial room), the number of cases, and the hours available by room.

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## Québec–Chaudière–Appalaches

**Charles G. Grenier**, Coordinating Judge and Associate Coordinating Judge, Civil Division  
**Jean-Louis Lemay**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Criminal and Penal Division  
**Lucie Rondeau**, Associate Coordinating Judge, Youth Division

The highlight of 2013 was the November 13 signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Court of Québec and the Québec City Bar regarding special early case management in civil matters.

This memorandum, which aims to simplify the hearing of complex cases, was the subject of numerous discussions between the Civil Division’s associate coordinating judge, the Québec Bar’s Liaison Committee, and the Québec City Courthouse clerk’s office. The “complex cases” in question mainly concern proceedings involving the warranty of quality on sold property, commonly referred to as “latent defect cases.”

The memorandum in force since January 1, 2014, will help identify, from the moment a claim is filed, cases whose nature is likely to result in procedural difficulties, significant costs for the parties, delays in compiling the record for the inquiry and hearing, and a lengthy inquiry and hearing. The agreement also aims to identify other avenues that can accelerate dispute resolution in collaboration with the parties and their attorneys, including settlement conferences and shorter wait times for conduct of hearings.

**The Québec judicial district is the first where all Civil Division judges are involved in special early management. Some hundred cases should be dealt with in this manner in 2014.**

Also in civil matters, and in close cooperation with the Québec City Bar, the associate coordinating judge continued to promote an attentive and active approach to roll management in the aim of scheduling trial dates quickly and reducing waiting times for members of the public. This proactive approach is supplemented by permanently available pre-hearing or management conferences and settlement conferences. The parties and their attorneys appreciate these alternatives and are using them more and more. We are witnessing a change of legal culture: Attorneys are increasingly recommending that their clients participate in these conferences. Accordingly, in the Civil Division, judges presided over 48 settlement conferences, leading to the recovery of 96 scheduled hearing days.

In Québec City, in civil matters, cases in which the defence is oral are heard by a judge within three to four months after the filing of a motion to institute proceedings. Judges proceeded in this manner in 160 of these cases, a 60% increase over 2012; a total of 103 out-of-court settlements were recorded.

For mental health custody orders, measures implemented in 2012 in cooperation with hospital attorneys were maintained, including the holding of at least one round table per year, the increasingly frequent opening of a second practice court hearing room, and the use of videoconferencing for districts other than Québec. These measures are aimed at reducing wait times and humanizing the court experience for people subject to motions for the issue of custody orders.

In criminal and penal matters, judges continued the management shift initiated several years ago. Objectives pursued under the new approach include reaching target wait times, reducing trial length, and respecting time allocations. The role of managing judge in criminal matters, which had been marginal and vague for many years, received major support from the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013.

It is with this in mind that several judges will be trained to lead facilitation conferences and ensure that pre-trial conferences continue to be a prerequisite for all medium-length and long trials and inquiries.

Some 50 pre-hearing conferences were held for trials or inquiries lasting more than two days, with a view to reducing trial durations and respecting time allocations.

In addition, close cooperation with court registry workers has led to new measures and improvements that make the Criminal and Penal Division more accessible and efficient.

In the Youth Division, discussions first launched in 2012 to enhance settlement conference effectiveness have led to new practices that have helped revive this alternative mechanism for resolving youth protection disputes.

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## Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

**Pierre Lortie**, Coordinating Judge

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean is the Court of Québec’s third-largest coordinating region, with a population of over 280,000 people. From a judicial standpoint, the region covers the area between Saguenay and Chibougamau. The region comprises the districts of Alma, Chicoutimi, and Roberval. Roberval falls under the concurrent jurisdiction of the Abitibi and Saint-Maurice districts in certain areas. The courthouses are located in Alma, Chibougamau, Chicoutimi, Dolbeau-Mistassini, and Roberval.

The region is quite diverse and includes urban, agricultural, and forest zones. Three aboriginal nations are also present: the Pekuakamiulnuatsh (formerly known as the Innu and Lac-Saint-Jean Montagnais) in Mashteuiatsh near Roberval, the Attikamekw in Obedjiwan, and the Cree in the Chibougamau area.

The Court’s regional team is made up of 10 judges and 2 presiding justices of the peace. In addition, it is supported by assistant judges, also called per diem judges. Nearly all the judges serve in at least two Court divisions, with some even working in three. This flexibility allows citizens to access services quickly, reduces costs, and helps meet a wide variety of needs. Versatility is a fundamental value in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

In criminal matters, a great deal of effort has been devoted to managing drunk driving cases in the wake of the Supreme Court’s *St-Onge Lamoureux* decision of November 2, 2012. Furthermore, demand is as urgent as ever for lengthy trials, a situation that also affects presiding justices of the peace. Constitutional challenges on a variety of topics (freedom of expression in municipal matters, countering evidence for blood samples; minimum sentences; age of sexual consent; bawdy houses, etc.) have required special management due to the scope of the debate.

In youth-related matters, both in protection and delinquency, the main indicators—i.e. open cases, hearing hours, and judgments rendered—are trending up. Additional days have been planned for youth-related matters to maintain the short wait times for hearings.

**Aboriginal justice is another priority. With support from the Associate Chief Judge for the Criminal and Penal Division, coordination links have been forged with representatives of the Attikamekw nation. Special attention has been paid to obtaining reports adapted for aboriginal delinquents at the time of sentencing.**

In civil matters, the year was marked by the “on-site mediation” pilot project in the Small Claims Division. Between May and July 2013, with the cooperation of attorneys and judges, citizens convened for a hearing had the option of submitting their dispute to mediation, without compromising their right to a trial. The participation and settlement rates were positive, and feedback was largely positive.

In civil matters, for cases on the merits, the early management protocol concluded in 2011 between the judiciary and the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean Bar continues to yield positive results.

In 2012–2013, the holding of 15 settlement conferences led to the recovery of 21.5 scheduled hearing days.

The judiciary and regional bar are continuing their productive discussions on joint committees. These meetings help improve judicial efficiency and prevent future problems. Representatives from the administration participate in the committee, providing invaluable insights when questions arise.

Formal meetings are also held with other stakeholders to improve the judicial process. For example, 2 judges visited the Chicoutimi health and social services center to meet with some 15 mental health workers.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT OF QUÉBEC**

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### **Office of the Chief Judge**

The Office of the Chief Judge (hereafter the “Office”) operates under a 2002 administrative agreement between the Chief Judge and the Minister of Justice. Administrative and financial responsibilities are handled by executive director Anne Bélanger and her team, under the direction of the Chief Judge.

The Office has 35 employees in a variety of positions: principal secretary, technician, administrative analyst, information officer, court usher, legal specialist, and researcher.

Office personnel perform a wide range of duties, including managing material, financial, and budgetary resources; updating websites and the intranet; supplying management indicators; assisting with orientation activities for new judges; providing judges with legal research expertise; and contributing to the overall smooth running of activities for Chief Judges and judges in management situations.

In the area of financial and budgetary management, the Office administers the budget for Office operations, judge compensation, travel and official expenditures, judges’ furnishings, personalized stationery, and other necessary supplies.

In terms of management data, it provides the Chief Judges and coordinating judges with numerous useful management indicators to help them oversee case assignment and activity and wait time management in the judicial districts.

In the legal sphere, the Court's research department, made up of 12 legal specialists and researchers, provides case support to judges and presiding justices of the peace and assists certain working and training committees with their work. In 2013, research staff handled nearly 2,000 inquiries on civil, criminal and penal, and youth matters.

With regard to professional development, Secrétariat au perfectionnement staff working under the supervision of the judges responsible for professional development handles logistics and coordination for 25 training activities for judges and presiding justices of the peace and 8 training seminars for municipal judges.

The Secrétariat aux cours municipales provides executive and administrative support for the Associate Chief Judge responsible for municipal courts. Three employees see to tasks related to assigning cases to judges, planning training seminar content, and supporting municipal court management.

In recent years, the Court has devoted more effort to communications. In addition to its annual report, special attention has been paid to updating the websites and intranet. The Court also tweets regularly.

**To mark its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, the Court of Québec collaborated on several projects aimed at increasing awareness of its history. Professor Sylvio Normand published a work entitled *La Cour du Québec, genèse et développement*, and the Office created a brochure in its honour.**

## Expenses

The budget of the Office of the Chief Judge is a major budget item for Ministère de la Justice. Between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013, the following sums were granted:

COMPENSATION	TRAVEL EXPENSES	OFFICIAL EXPENSES
<b>Court of Québec judges</b> \$65,765,600	<b>Court of Québec judges</b> \$2,162,900	<b>Court of Québec judges</b> \$1,260,600
<b>Presiding justices of the peace</b> \$4,396,200	<b>Presiding justices of the peace</b> \$226,000	<b>Presiding justices of the peace</b> \$71,700
<b>Office staff</b> \$2,144,000	<b>Office staff</b> \$61,700	

## Operating expenses

Judicial furnishings	\$260,400
Assembly, meetings, recognition activities, and advances	\$92,100
Professional association dues	\$16,000
Training of staff and judges in management positions	\$16,900
Supplies, materials, subscriptions, maintenance, and courier service	\$49,500
Stationery and notebooks	\$47,700
Photocopiers (rental)	\$9,900
Reports and handbooks (printing)	\$11,400
Professional services (graphic designer, translator, linguist, photographer)	\$43,300
Robes and accessories for newly appointed judges	\$36,200

# 2013 Accomplishments relating to the *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014*

The Court of Québec published its *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014*<sup>15</sup> on February 10, 2012. It is the outcome of periodic reflection by the Court to stay in touch with the society it serves and ground its actions in values shared by all its members. The following pages detail concrete actions underway to implement this strategic plan.

## VISION

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

### A COURT THAT IS DEFINED BY ITS JUDGES

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

#### Selecting the Best Candidates

In last year's public report, the Court of Québec presented the main amendments to the *Regulation respecting the selection procedure of candidates for the office of judge of the Court of Québec, municipal court judge and presiding justice of the peace*.<sup>16</sup> The Court subscribes to the new thrust of the regulation and is pleased to be able to continue proposing excellent candidates to the Minister of Justice.

Once again this year, the Senior Associate Chief Judge and the Associate Chief Judges travelled all over Québec to chair selection committees. In all, 10 judge positions and 2 presiding justice of the peace positions were opened with the publication of five notices of selection in *Journal du Barreau*. The selection committees met with nearly 600 candidates. In addition, the Chief Judges trained some 60 people to perform their functions on the committees.

15. The full text of the *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014* is available on the Court's website.

16. On page 25 of the abridged version of the *2012 Public Report*.

## Mentoring

The Court of Québec has implemented a mentoring program for new judges. It is part of the orientation program and rounds out the professional development activities provided for new colleagues. The main objective of the program is to support and assist new judges by assigning each one a judge-advisor to facilitate their integration, help them develop necessary skills, and ensure they adjust to the requirements of the job. The judge-advisors' role is not to assess or supervise the work of new judges, but to provide advice and support them in the performance of their duties.

In the course of 2013, the mentorship committee held its first seminar during which 45 judges received training on how to act as judge-advisors for new colleagues. This training is crucial for smooth and consistent program delivery.

## Professional Development

### **Professional development program for judges**

Under the judicial *Code of Ethics*, judges and presiding justices of the peace must keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date. The professional development program for judges consists of mandatory training provided to each newly appointed judge. Thereafter, judges are provided with training programs in the areas of law in which they practise.

Judges may also take seminars on matters specific to each division as well as on topics like case management, settlement conferences, facilitation conferences, information technology and social realities. Judge-advisors also receive training as part of the Court of Québec's mentoring program. Regional training days are organized to take stock of legislative and case law developments in a particular field of law or to address specific topics in response to needs expressed by judges.

In 2013, every effort was made to complete a major rethinking of the training program for Court of Québec judges. Both the form and content of professional development have changed significantly in recent years. The annual calendar now includes a diverse array of seminars likely to interest judges in all divisions as well as presiding justices of the peace. New seminars have been developed to take into account changing needs and feedback from participants, and include sessions on topics such as small claims, ethics, and judge-advisor training. The format of other seminars has been overhauled (e.g. in terms of length).

### *Advisory committee*

This committee advises the Chief Judge on questions related to professional development and supports the judges responsible for professional development locally and internationally. The Chief Judge appoints the members of the committee, which is made up of four Associate Chief Judges, the judge responsible for professional development, and two administrative technicians. The technicians are tasked with planning and arranging seminars and act as committee secretaries. Associate Chief Judge André Perreault chairs this committee.

### *Budget*<sup>17</sup>

The Conseil de la magistrature allocated a total of \$333,549.90 for judicial professional development activities in 2012–2013. This amount is broken down as follows:

GENERAL TRAINING	REGIONAL TRAINING	EXTERNAL CONFERENCES
\$233,000	\$52,500	\$48,049

### **Professional development program for presiding justices of the peace**

Presiding justices of the peace take part in general training activities designed for all Court of Québec judges, such as the seminars on trial conduct and judgment writing. In addition, new presiding justices of the peace appointed in 2013 benefited from an orientation and observation session as well as an initial training seminar.

Every year, presiding justices of the peace are also provided with specialized training sessions on specific topics. In 2013, all the presiding justices of the peace attended a seminar on penal law where they were able to update their knowledge of legislative changes affecting the construction industry and familiarize themselves with the JuriBistro search tool and the use of tablets in their work.

Some presiding justices of the peace attended a seminar on mentoring, while others took part in a seminar on facilitation conferences in penal matters.

#### *Advisory committee*

The committee responsible for these activities is chaired by a presiding justice of the peace. It is made up of the Senior Associate Chief Judge, the Associate Chief Judge for the Criminal and Penal Division, the judge responsible for professional development, the judge responsible for presiding justices of the peace, and two presiding justices of the peace.

#### *Budget*

The Conseil de la magistrature allocated a total of \$40,767 for professional development activities for presiding justices of the peace.

### **National and international professional development**

The Court of Québec encourages judges to attend external conferences held by organizations other than the Court. Its main partner is undoubtedly the National Judicial Institute.

The budget allocated for these conferences cannot exceed 20% of the professional development budget. For a number of years now, the annual amount allocated has been about \$50,000, which enables some 40 judges to participate in various conferences held mainly in Québec, other parts of Canada, and Europe.

<sup>17</sup> The data mentioned corresponds to the budget allocated for professional development for the period between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013.

On occasion, conferences are held in collaboration with international associations such as Journées strasbourgeoises, the International Association of Women Judges, Association Henri-Capitant, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, and Association internationale francophone des intervenants auprès des familles séparées. Topics covered at these conferences vary, and include:



## Personal Involvement of Judges

From the time they are appointed, all judges and presiding justices of the peace are encouraged to get involved in the Court. They are invited to participate in committees in order to actively contribute to the Court's vision, priorities, policies, and initiatives.

In 2013, some 15 committees advised the Chief Judge on all matters (civil, administrative, criminal, penal, aboriginal, and youth) and such varied topics as the judicial treatment of clientele with special issues, ethics and professional conduct, mentoring, per diem judges, travel and official expenses, the judicial intranet (Court of Québec component), and communications.

The judges also actively participate in planning professional development activities. Every seminar is planned and overseen by a committee whose members and chair are appointed by the Chief Judge. Each committee is under the direction of an Associate Chief Judge. In 2012–2013, some fifteen seminars were held, covering legal content and the development of skills required for the position of judge.

## Administrative Support

### Assistants Training Program Initiative

To support judges' assistants in the performance of their duties, including those associated with drafting judgments and running a judge's office, Court management designs training programs adapted to their needs. The first part of the program covers the rules and criteria for drafting judgments. The initial themes covered are judgment template use; the rules for citing case law, legislation, and doctrine; and French language usage rules. This ambitious project is made possible through the involvement of the Office of the Chief Judge and the cooperation of a number of assistants. It will continue through next year.

## A COURT THAT ADAPTS TO CITIZENS' NEEDS

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

#### Justice in Aboriginal Communities

##### **The Itinerant Court and Justice in Aboriginal Communities**

Judges serving in the itinerant court perform their duties in the aboriginal communities of northern Québec (Hudson Bay, James Bay, Ungava Bay) as well as on the North Shore. They hear cases based on a pre-set schedule and occasionally at additional sessions to meet specific needs. This procedure makes justice accessible in remote regions while adapting the justice system as much as possible to the traditional values of aboriginal communities. For the 2012-2013 legal year, 353 days were allocated for Nord-du-Québec and North Shore (itinerant court) cases.

Following the release of the Court of Québec report entitled *La justice en milieu autochtone: vers une plus grande synergie*, the government created an interdepartmental committee on aboriginal justice. It receives information from the Forum sociojudiciaire autochtone, of which the Associate Chief Judge for the Criminal and Penal Division is an active member.

The goal of the forum's work is to determine the key issues in aboriginal justice and find practical, quick, and effective solutions. Topics include air and ground travel, interpretation services, and the lack of sufficient correctional and victim services.

In 2013, Association Chief Judge Danielle Côté continued to meet with chiefs of aboriginal nations to assess their needs and examine ways in which the Court of Québec could improve its services.

##### **Project to Centralize Urgent Cases**

The Court of Québec implemented a project to centralize urgent cases in the Abitibi region to lighten the itinerant court's overbooked rolls.<sup>18</sup>

The Court of Québec now handles cases more efficiently, enabling other participants involved to better manage their human, financial, and material resources. The most important thing is to enable individuals involved in urgent cases to appear before a judge quickly without having to travel long distances.

18. The project is described in greater detail in the section on the Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec region, *supra*, page 20.

## Therapeutic Justice

### Mental Health and Homelessness

The committee on the judicial treatment of clientele with special issues is made up of Court of Québec judges. It is tasked with assessing the appropriateness and feasibility of creating initiatives in certain regions to improve the judicial treatment of particular clientele. It is also responsible for making recommendations to the Chief Judge about how the Court can provide better service directly and indirectly for people with special issues.

Three subcommittees have been created to help the members of each jurisdiction consider the issue. The civil subcommittee looks at issues in institutional confinement, and the youth and criminal subcommittees focus on initiatives to improve the treatment of people with mental health problems.

### Court of Québec Drug Treatment Program in Montréal

In November 2012, the Chief Judge announced the implementation of the Court of Québec's drug treatment program in Montréal (Programme de traitement de la toxicomanie de la Cour du Québec à Montréal, or PTTCQ).

This pilot project is run in the judicial district of Montréal as part of the provincial program adopted under the provisions of Section 720(2) of the *Criminal Code* and announced by Québec's Minister of Justice and Attorney General on November 6, 2012.

Four court judges specially trained in court-supervised drug treatment hear applications from people who wish to enter the program.

In ruling on such applications, the judges must assess the interests of justice and of any victims in accordance with the requirements of the *Criminal Code*. If necessary, they determine the conditions that offenders must meet to be accepted into therapy. For the 10-month duration of the drug treatment program, the judges closely monitor offenders' progress and have the power to take any measures necessary to achieve the goals set for program participants. One phase of the treatment is aimed at consolidating progress; offenders must give account to the Court and provide proof of their achievements. At the end of the program, the judges hand down the appropriate sentence taking into account all the circumstances.

Despite some adjustments early on during program implementation, stakeholders confirm that the program is functioning well and that the anticipated benefits are starting to be felt.

Elsewhere in Québec, Court of Québec judges are also applying therapeutic justice principles when offender rehabilitation is possible through court-supervised treatment, despite the lack of structured programs like the one in Montréal.

**The Court of Québec is convinced that the outcomes of implementing this court-supervised drug treatment program will be positive, not only for offenders who will receive structured, personalized treatment, but also for the judicial system and society in general.**

## Administrative and Appeal Division (AAD)

Associate Coordinating Judge Gilles Lareau has been responsible for the AAD since September 1, 2011. The division is made up of some 30 judges, mostly from the Civil Division. They are divided among the various coordinating regions. Parties are therefore able to obtain hearings within reasonable time frames and with judges who specialize in the areas in question.

The AAD restructuring process, begun January 1, 2013, has already reduced wait times and accelerated scheduling for parties involved in disputes. In the medium term, the goal is to reduce to one year the period between the opening of a case and the signing of the judgment in appeal.

Restructuring has achieved the primary efficiency objectives sought. Centralized management ensures a personalized approach to member judges, who are assigned cases based on their respective expertise. This, in turn, helps expedite hearings, which benefits lawyers and the parties. It should be noted that all stakeholders concerned have endorsed the Court's restructuring initiative.

Since administrative law is constantly changing and the appellate fields in which the Court of Québec practices are varied and distinct, training is crucial for ensuring case law consistency within the AAD. Consequently, training sessions are offered to members, and all the Division judges meet at an annual meeting. These initiatives further strengthen an AAD team where collegiality and collaboration go hand in hand.

## A COURT THAT INNOVATES

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

### Case Management and Appropriate Dispute Settlement Methods

#### Early Case Management in Civil Matters

The introduction of active case management by judges is a civil justice innovation introduced under amendments to the *Code of Civil Procedure* in 2002. The role of judges is no longer limited to hearing adversarial proceedings. Rather, they take an active role in ensuring cases progress smoothly through scheduling management and early case management. The ultimate goal is to administer justice in a timelier and less costly manner and to have parties play an active role in resolving disputes. The first early case management protocols with the Longueuil and Outaouais bars covered a substantial portion of the applications submitted to the registry of the Court. Since then, the Laval, Laurentides-Lanaudière, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, and Québec City bars have signed protocols covering disputes involving latent defects, defective workmanship, and construction defects.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> These protocols are available on the Court's website under "Règlement de la Cour et règles de fonctionnement" (French only).

## Recovery of Small Claims

In 1972, the Small Claims Division had jurisdiction to hear claims of \$300 and under. Since 2003, this amount has been set at \$7,000 and under. The *Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure* (2014, chapter 1) raises the amount substantially to \$15,000.

To meet the challenges created by the increase and facilitate better access to justice for small claims disputes, the Court has focused on two measures—one concerning the judges deciding these applications and one involving all justice system partners. The measures are as follows:

### *Professional Development Seminar on Small Claims*

The first professional development seminar on small claims was held on November 20 and 21, 2013. Some 20 Court judges participated. The seminar covered two main topics: communication and case management at the Small Claims Division.

### *Small Claims Recovery Issue Table*

The small claims issue table brings together representatives of a number of justice partners. It is chaired by the Associate Chief Judge for the Court of Québec's Civil Division with support from the director of the Legislation Department at the Québec Bar, who acts as the secretary. Members include Court of Québec judges; representatives of regional bars, young bars, and MJQ's justice services; the presidents of Office de la protection du consommateur and Chambre des huissiers du Québec; and representatives of Chambre des notaires, Éducaloi, Pro Bono Québec, and the community justice centers in Montréal, Québec City, and Rimouski. During the year, a representative from Commission des services juridiques du Québec joined the table.

**The issue table has been hard at work since August 2012 to identify and support the parties involved in small claims disputes at the division.**

Concrete measures to provide legal assistance to parties in the Small Claims Division are encouraged. They include private meetings at a courthouse or firm and legal information sessions involving members of the bar, representatives of community justice services, and Court of Québec judges. Such sessions were offered in a number of judicial districts in 2013, including Laval, Terrebonne, Joliette, Longueuil, Québec City, and Gatineau. The sessions were also an opportunity to promote mediation, a free service available to parties.

## Customized Case Management in Criminal Matters in Montréal

After consulting with various partners, the Montréal region's coordination team implemented a customized case management system<sup>20</sup> in December 2013. The goal of the new process is to more accurately estimate the time required for cases and, as a result, ensure better use of resources, which should lead to a significant reduction in hearing wait times. All cases whose length is estimated to be four or more hours must be referred to the case management room before a hearing date can be set.

A team of six judges was formed, and the program has been in operation since January 6, 2014.

<sup>20</sup> *Supra*, page 27. Details of this initiative are presented on the Court's website.

## **Case Management under the Criminal Code**

The Court of Québec is determined to maximize use of case management judges. The topic is regularly discussed at meetings of the Chief Judges and coordinating judges because *Criminal Code* case management provisions are not used enough, even though they provide all the flexibility needed to accelerate the handling of a wide variety of cases. Coordinating and associate coordinating judges have therefore been encouraged to pay special attention to cases that might benefit from such management.

The procedure is commonly used in Montréal to decide various preliminary applications prior to the hearing date. As a result, presiding judges can begin hearing witnesses immediately when hearings start and avoid the delays often caused by preliminary proceedings.

## **Communication Methods and Information Technology**

The Court of Québec has a long-standing commitment to cooperating with efforts to modernize the justice system. Begun in 1995, this work has yielded some results but has yet to result in the kind of full-scale technological change that was expected. Efforts continue presently as part of the organizational transformation program for the administration of justice (OTJ).

The Court held more meetings and spared no effort to arrive at valid uses of electronic devices in the courtroom, to the benefit of judges, parties, and their lawyers. The Court of Québec, Superior Court, and Court of Appeal worked together to develop a project on technology use in the courtroom. The Chief Judges of these three courts agreed on guidelines that respect the current legal framework and the spirit of applicable rules and procedures. The guidelines came into effect April 15, 2013, and are available on the Court's website.

Finally, the reflection on the Court's visual identity begun last year in the same spirit of modernization was completed successfully in 2013. This report is an eloquent example of the results!

## A DYNAMIC COURT

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

### Outreach

In the *Three-Year Vision 2012–2013–2014*, Court of Québec judges are encouraged to actively participate in working sessions with the Québec and regional bars, Association des avocats et avocates de province, and the Canadian Bar Association, to take part in issue tables and liaison panels, to step up collaboration with university law faculties, to keep up an ongoing dialogue with École nationale de la magistrature de France, and to maintain the Court's involvement in both national and international judges associations.

**Given the impressive list of accomplishments in this area by judges and presiding justices of the peace from all regions, we invite you to peruse the special document dedicated to this topic, which is available on the Court of Québec's website.**

### Communications

Ongoing efforts are made to keep the Court of Québec website up-to-date. It was improved this year with the addition of historical vignettes written by Jacinthe Plamondon, a doctoral student in law at Université Laval.

Since April 2013, the Court has also become active on social media by launching two Twitter accounts—@cour\_du\_quebec and @CQ\_info\_avocats—and posting regular tweets.

# Specialized Courts

## HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

### A specialized, autonomous, and independent tribunal



**Michèle Pauzé**, President

The Human Rights Tribunal<sup>21</sup>, presided over by a Court of Québec judge, was created in 1990 when major amendments to the Québec *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* came into effect. The government's objective was to ensure greater accessibility to justice and more efficient adjudication of disputes concerning fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Tribunal consists of at least seven members, namely a president and six assessors. Their five-year term of office is renewable. The government may also appoint Court of Québec judges to sit as members of the tribunal for a predetermined period or to hear and decide a particular

application. All members are selected based on their experience and expertise in, sensitivity to, and interest for matters of human rights and freedoms. The Tribunal sits in all judicial districts in Québec in divisions composed of three members: the president or one of the judges designated by the president, and two assessors who assist and advise him or her. However, the member judge presiding over the division decides the application alone.

As a specialized judicial body, the Tribunal has authority to dispose of disputes involving discrimination and harassment based on reasons prohibited by the Charter, such as race, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, religion, social condition, a handicap or the use of any means to palliate a handicap. It can also hear cases related to the exploitation of elderly and disabled persons or to affirmative action programs.

The Tribunal has full authority to grant material, moral, and punitive damages and render any necessary orders related to its jurisdiction. Other more systemic measures may be added to these individual corrective actions to put an end to any violations identified and prevent their recurrence in the future.

The Honourable Michèle Pauzé, the president of the Tribunal, continues to devote considerable effort to internal case management in order to reduce wait times and ensure greater accessibility to justice and lower costs for the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michèle Pauzé".

**Michèle Pauzé**

President of the Human Rights Tribunal

21. To learn more about the Tribunal, see its website: [www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq\\_en/TDP/index-tdp.html](http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/mjq_en/TDP/index-tdp.html)

## PROFESSIONS TRIBUNAL



**Martin Hébert**  
President



**Julie Veilleux**  
Vice President

The Professions Tribunal<sup>22</sup> was created in 1973 with the adoption of the *Professional Code*. The tribunal marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.

When it was created, the Professions Tribunal had jurisdiction over 38 professional orders. Today, that number has risen to 45 orders incorporating 53 professions.

The Tribunal sits with three judges for hearings on the merits. In other cases, it sits with one judge, appointed by the president. The Tribunal hears appeals of decisions issued by disciplinary councils and, since 1994, certain non-disciplinary decisions made by boards of directors or executive committees.

The Tribunal may confirm, alter, or quash any decision submitted to it and render the decision that it feels should have been rendered in the first place. Except on a question of jurisdiction, no extraordinary recourse provided in the *Code of Civil Procedure* can be exercised against its decisions.

The president of the Tribunal holds his or her position exclusively, while the other ten members, all Court of Québec judges, serve part time.

In 2013, the Tribunal rendered 128 judgments.

As of December 31, 2013, the Tribunal was composed of the following judges:

**Martin Hébert**  
President  
(Civil Division, Montréal)

**Julie Veilleux**  
Vice President  
(Civil Division, Montréal)

**Denis Lavergne**  
(Criminal and Penal  
Division, Montréal)

**Jacques Paquet**  
(Civil Division, Montréal)

**Robert Marchi**  
(Criminal and Penal Division,  
Montréal)

**Jean R. Beaulieu**  
(Criminal and Penal Division,  
Saint-Jérôme)

**René de la Sablonnière**  
(Criminal and Penal Division,  
Québec City)

**Renée Lemoine**  
(all three divisions, Val-d'Or)

**Jacques Tremblay**  
(Civil Division, Québec City)

**Linda Despots**  
(Criminal and Penal Division,  
Montréal)

**Louise Comeau**  
(Civil Division, Montréal)

**Martin Hébert**  
President of the Professions Tribunal

**Julie Veilleux**  
Vice president of the Professions Tribunal

22. To learn more about the Tribunal, see its website: [www.tribunaux.qc.ca/Tribunal\\_professions/index\\_professions.html](http://www.tribunaux.qc.ca/Tribunal_professions/index_professions.html)

# Conférence des juges du Québec



**Claude Leblond**  
President

The Conférence des juges du Québec was founded in 1962 and brings together the Court of Québec judges, municipal judges from Laval, Montréal, and Québec City, and some per diem judges to form an association of more than 330 members.

## Mission

The conference's mission is set out in its statutes, and in Article 2 in particular:

*"The objective of the Conférence des juges du Québec is to safeguard the dignity, respect, authority, and autonomy of the courts and the judicial system, to promote excellence and mutual aid among its members, and to defend their interests."*

## Board of Directors

The Conférence des juges du Québec acts through its board of directors, which is made up of representatives of every region in Québec, the three Court of Québec divisions, and municipal judges. The members of the board for 2012–2013 were:

## Officers

**Claude Leblond**  
President

**Christian M. Tremblay**  
Secretary

**Serge Laurin**  
Outgoing president  
Representative for  
the Gatineau region

**Doris Thibault**  
Vice President  
Representative for  
the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean  
region

**François Marchand**  
Treasurer  
Representative for  
the Estrie region

## Advisors

**Diane Quenneville**  
Representative for the Civil Division

**Gilbert Lanthier**  
Representative for the Youth Division  
and the Montérégie region

**Jean-Pierre Dumais**  
Representative for the Criminal and Penal Division

**James Rondeau**  
Representative for the Bas-Saint-Laurent–  
Côte-Nord–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region

**Jean-Pierre Gervais**  
Representative for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue–  
Nord-du-Québec region

**Jean La Rue**  
Representative for the Laval–  
Laurentides–Lanaudière–Labelle  
(Mont-Laurier) region

**Daniel Perreault**  
Representative for the Mauricie–  
Bois-Francs–Centre-du-Québec region

**Richard Chassé**  
Representative for members  
of municipal courts of Montréal,  
Laval and Québec City

**Jacques A. Nadeau**  
Representative for the Canadian  
Association of Provincial Court Judges

**Claude Leblond**  
President of the Conférence des juges du Québec

# Conférence des juges de paix magistrats du Québec



**Jean-Georges Laliberté**  
President

The 36 presiding justices of the peace have been active in the judicial system since 2004 and serve all over Québec. They are all members of the Conférence des juges de paix magistrats du Québec, an association that has represented them effectively since its founding.

The objective of the Conférence is to promote the dignity, respect, authority, and autonomy independence of the presiding justices of the peace, the courts, and the judicial system, to encourage excellence and mutual aid among its members, and to defend their interests. To this end, it is an applicant before the Court of Appeal in a case concerning member remuneration and involving the government.

Along with the Court of Québec authorities, the Conférence helps keep presiding justices of the peace up-to-date in their knowledge. In addition, certain members were designated by the Chief Judge to sit on a range of advisory committees and the governance committee on judicial ethics and conduct. Several others are involved in working groups that provide the Conférence board of directors with information on a variety of topics, including training, remuneration, and recent case law developments.

The members of the Conférence board of directors are:

**Jean-Georges Laliberté**  
President

**Johanne White**  
Vice President, Montréal

**Marie-Claude Bélanger**  
Vice President, regions

**Michel Boissonneault**  
Secretary

**Patricia Compagnone**  
Treasurer



Jean-Georges Laliberté  
President of the Conférence des juges de paix magistrats du Québec

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