

FOR RELEASE
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New legislation proposes boosting number of Yukon Supreme Court Justices

The Government of Yukon has introduced legislation to allow for an increase in the number of Supreme Court Justices in Yukon from two to three.

The Government of Yukon proposes an amendment to the *Yukon Supreme Court Act*, enabling a federal appointment.

A growing population, high rates of civil and family law cases and a rise in self-represented litigants have placed pressures on the existing judicial complement, while a new framework for trial lengths in criminal matters in superior courts has also contributed to the need for increased judicial capacity.

The proposed *Yukon Supreme Court Act* amendment will give the court more capacity to act upon emergency applications and for judicial judgement writing.

Quotes

"As Minister of Justice, I must ensure that Yukoners have access to our courts when they need them. An additional judge will increase the court's capacity, shorten trial timelines for often complex matters and support better access to justice for Yukoners."

—Minister of Justice Tracy-Anne McPhee

Quick facts

- The Government of Canada's March 2017 budget set aside funds for the appointment of a third judge to the Supreme Court of Yukon bench.
- The federal Minister of Justice has also announced appointments for a seven-member Judicial Advisory Committee for Yukon that will be responsible for assessing applicants to the federally-appointed judiciary.

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