

FOR RELEASE  
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## **New Yukon Supreme Court justice to be added**

The number of judges in the Yukon Supreme Court is set to expand by one.

The Government of Canada, which is constitutionally responsible for Yukon Supreme Court justices and deputy justices, provided funding for the appointment in its March 22, 2017 budget.

Amendments to Yukon's *Supreme Court Act*, which are scheduled to be tabled during the spring sitting, will enable this appointment. The current territorial legislation only permits two Yukon Supreme Court judges.

Pending legislative approval, an independent Judicial Advisory Council (JAC) will assess candidates based upon established criteria. The JAC is appointed by the federal minister of Justice. The JAC will provide a list of recommended candidates to the federal minister of Justice who will appoint a third Yukon Supreme Court judge.

This appointment will increase the efficiency of the Yukon Supreme Court.

### **Quote**

"New legislation, population growth, more people representing themselves in court and an increased number of judgment settlement conferences have all increased the workload of the court. The proposed appointment of a new Supreme Court justice will give us much-needed local capacity."

*–Minister of Justice Tracy-Anne McPhee*

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