



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I become a Justice of the Peace?

To become a Justice of the Peace, you must apply through the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. Applications from qualified individuals are being accepted until October 30, 2026.

The Committee reviews applications and recommends the candidates it considers best qualified for appointment. The Commissioner in Executive Council makes the final appointments.

2. Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be between 19 and 75 years old
- Have lived in the Northwest Territories for at least six months
- Be available to work part-time when needed, including on-call shifts
- Be willing to travel to other NWT communities
- Provide a Criminal Record Check

Please note that after appointment, Justices of the Peace cannot hold other positions that could create a conflict of interest, including being a GNWT employee, a peace officer, or practicing law in the NWT.

3. What are the Qualifications to be recommended for appointment?

Strong candidates will have:

- A good reputation in their community
- At least 10 years of work and/or volunteer experience
- A commitment to public service
- An understanding of social issues affecting people who come before the courts
- A record of fairness, integrity, and professionalism

A law degree is considered an asset, but it is **not required**.

Criteria used as a guideline for considering Justice of the Peace appointments can be found through the “Criteria for Evaluating Candidates” document.

4. Where do I get training to become a Justice of the Peace?

Training for Justices of the Peace is provided after appointment. New Justices of the Peace receive training and support from Territorial Court judges and experienced Justices of the Peace through workshops, mentoring, and ongoing learning opportunities. Training sessions are offered each year in person or by videoconference.

5. What does a Justice of the Peace do?

Depending on their training and assigned responsibilities, Justices of the Peace may:

1. Receive and swear informations related to charges brought by police or members of the public.
2. Review and confirm, change, or cancel release documents issued by police after an arrest.
3. Review and sign court documents, including summonses and arrest warrants.
4. Review and issue subpoenas requiring witnesses to attend court.
5. Witness and administer oaths, affirmations, affidavits, and statutory declarations.
6. Consider applications for search warrants and production orders.
7. Conduct bail hearings to decide whether a person who has been arrested should remain in custody or be released.
8. Grant adjournments, which postpone a court matter to a later date.
9. Hear applications for Emergency Protection Orders and Peace Bonds.
10. Conduct trials for certain territorial offences, including traffic, liquor, and wildlife offences.
11. Conduct trials for offences under municipal bylaws, such as parking, noise, and animal control violations.
12. Perform civil marriage ceremonies.

6. What are the duties and responsibilities of a Justice of the Peace?

Justices of the Peace perform a variety of judicial and quasi-judicial duties, such as conducting hearings, issuing certain court orders, and carrying out other responsibilities assigned under territorial legislation. The specific duties of each Justice of the Peace depend on their level of appointment, as determined by the Chief Judge.

There are generally four levels of appointment:

Administrative JP (A2); Presiding Level 1 (P1); Presiding Level 2 (P2) and Presiding Level 3 (P3). Brief descriptions of each level can be found on the “Categories Training Plan” document.

7. Do I need a law degree to become a Justice of the Peace?

No. A law degree is not required to become a Justice of the Peace. While a law degree or other post-secondary education may be considered an asset, people from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds can serve in this role. Justices of the Peace live in the communities they serve and perform a variety of judicial and quasi-judicial duties on a part-time basis.

8. How do I apply?

Please submit the following documents to JAAC.Applications@ntcourts.ca by **October 30, 2026**.

1. Completed and signed Justice of the Peace Candidate Information Form (2026)
2. Criminal Record Check, or proof that you have applied for one
3. Résumé (maximum 3 pages)
4. One letter of support from a community member describing your community involvement and suitability for the role (maximum 1 page)

Please ensure you provide a valid email address, as all application updates and communications will be sent by email.

Applications received after October 30, 2026 may not be considered.

9. How do I learn more about the role?

A strong understanding of the Justice of the Peace role is an important part of the selection process. If you're considering applying, we encourage you to learn more about the position before submitting your application.

There are several ways to build your understanding of the role:

- Attend an information session
- Observe court proceedings presided over by a Justice of the Peace

A. Information Session

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend an information session to learn more about the work of Justices of the Peace in the Northwest Territories and the appointment process.

Date: October 7, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Courtroom 101, Yellowknife Courthouse

Individuals who live outside Yellowknife can attend virtually. To request information about joining by video, please contact the Court Registry at territorialcourt@gov.nt.ca. Attending the information session is a great opportunity to ask questions, learn about the responsibilities of the role, and determine whether becoming a Justice of the Peace is right for you.

B. Observe Court Proceedings

One of the best ways to learn about the role of a Justice of the Peace is to see it in action. Prospective applicants are encouraged to observe court proceedings before applying.

Many court sittings presided over by Justices of the Peace are open to the public and can be attended in person. If you are unable to attend in person, you may be able to observe by telephone or video. To request virtual access, please contact the Court Registry at territorialcourt@gov.nt.ca.

The following are some specific opportunities to observe Justices of the Peace presiding in court:

Bail court

Justices of the Peace regularly preside over bail court in Courtroom 102 at the Yellowknife Courthouse:

- Monday to Friday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Saturdays and statutory holidays at 1:30 p.m.

Municipal and Territorial offences court

Justices of the Peace also preside over municipal and territorial offences court during select sittings. Current court schedules are available on the Courts of the Northwest Territories website: [Docket PDFs :: Courts of the Northwest Territories](#).

Upcoming sittings of municipal and territorial offences court include:

- September 29 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm.102 - 7:00pm
- October 1 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm. 102 – 7:00pm
- October 13 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm. 102 – 7:00 pm
- October 14 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm.102 – 7:00 pm
- October 15 – Hay River Courthouse – 7:00 pm
- October 20 – Hay River Courthouse – 7:00 pm
- October 27 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm.102 – 7:00pm
- October 28 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm. 102 – 7:00 pm
- October 29 – Yellowknife Courthouse Ct. Rm. 102 – 7:00 pm
- November 5 – Behchoko Sportsplex, 2nd floor – 1:30 pm

Observing court can help you better understand the responsibilities of a Justice of the Peace, the types of matters they hear, and the important role they play in serving communities across the Northwest Territories.

10. What if I have more questions?

If you have questions about the role or about the application process, please contact:

Justice of the Peace Program
Courts of the Northwest Territories
Phone: 867-920-6439
Email: jp_program@nwtcourts.ca