



THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LA COUR SUPRÊME DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC

First Appearance for Criminal Matters in Supreme Court

Effective June 1, 2026, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories will implement a change to how criminal matters are first dealt with in Supreme Court.

Once an accused has elected trial in Supreme Court, has been deemed to elect a trial in Supreme Court or has been committed to stand trial in Supreme Court, it is expected that their matter will be set over to a Criminal Chambers date in Supreme Court for a first appearance.

Criminal Chambers is held at 10:00 am every Monday in Courtroom 101 in Yellowknife, except for statutory holidays. It is requested that the matter be set for a Criminal Chambers date 3 – 5 weeks following the date of committal or election to allow sufficient time for the file to be transferred from Territorial Court to Supreme Court.

An accused person will be required to attend Criminal Chambers personally. Accused persons who are located outside of Yellowknife may seek leave to appear by telephone or videoconference in advance of their appearance date. A request to appear by telephone or videoconference must be made at least 3 business days in advance by contacting the Registry by e-mail at SupremeCourt@gov.nt.ca or by telephone at 1-866-822-5864.

Where an accused person is represented by counsel and a designation of counsel has been filed in Supreme Court, their counsel may appear on their behalf.

When a file is opened in Supreme Court, the Registry will continue to send letters to counsel or unrepresented accused to advise them of the need for a Pre-Trial Conference and the timelines applicable to setting a Pre-Trial Conference.

At the first appearance in Supreme Court, it is expected that accused and/or their counsel will address issues such as legal representation, scheduling of a Pre-Trial Conference and future appearance dates.

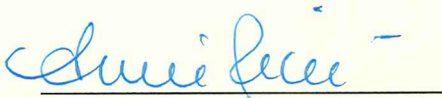
Issued this 27TH day of May 2026 by direction of the judges of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories



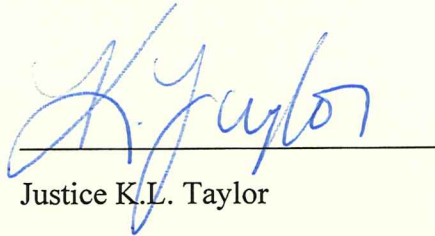
Justice S.H. Smallwood



Justice S.M. MacPherson



Justice Annie Piché



Justice K.L. Taylor