



SUPERIOR COURT OF QUÉBEC

Artificial intelligence governance framework

Superior Court of Québec

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1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) encompasses a broad range of technologies that can automate how computer systems perform certain tasks typically associated with human cognitive abilities, such as analyzing information, drafting texts or emails, recognizing patterns, and translation.

Within this field, generative AI stands out for its ability to produce new content, such as texts, images, sounds, and videos using large-scale training data. Language models are a specific application of generative AI that are designed to understand prompts formulated in plain language and generate coherent textual responses.

AI has undeniably become an integral part of many areas of our personal and professional lives, and the justice system is no exception. The use of AI-based tools in the court system is growing, whether by the parties themselves, their counsel, or even certain judges.

When used properly, these tools can create significant efficiencies by facilitating and optimizing the performance of many repetitive or technical tasks. However, their use also carries serious risks of errors, algorithmic biases, and hallucinations, as well as issues relating to compliance with fundamental principles.

That is why the Superior Court of Québec considers that rigorous oversight, adapted to the judicial context, is essential to ensure that the acquisition, deployment, configuration, and use of AI are carried out safely and in accordance with the values of our institution.

2. Vision

In accordance with the priorities defined in its 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, the Superior Court of Québec has taken concrete action to foster reasoned use of new technologies, including AI.

The Superior Court is thus the first court in the province to officially launch a pilot project using AI to support and facilitate certain administrative, linguistic, and documentary tasks for its judges.

This document establishes guidelines that oversee this approach in order to ensure a responsible, transparent, and prudent deployment, in compliance with the judicial system's fundamental principles of impartiality, judicial independence, and integrity. The Superior Court favours a phased approach in a "sandbox" environment, allowing for an initial limited rollout and, depending on the results, a potential expansion.

3. Guidelines

3.1 Transparency and public confidence

The publication of a governance framework demonstrates that AI is being used responsibly and rigorously managed in order to maintain and preserve public trust in the Court and its judges.

3.2 Judicial independence

The use of AI must not in any way compromise the constitutional and fundamental principle of judicial independence, on either individual and institutional levels. In particular, judicial independence guarantees the freedom and responsibility of all judges to decide cases in accordance with their conscience, without improper external intervention.¹

3.3 Support for the exercise of judicial functions

The pilot project is intended exclusively to support judges in the exercise of their judicial and administrative functions by facilitating the performance of certain

¹ [Ethical Principles for Judges](#), ss. 1.A.1 and 1.A.3.

previously identified tasks. It is in no way intended to automate legal reasoning or replace judges in their decision-making role.

3.4 Ethics and professional conduct

The establishment of the governance framework takes into account the [*Ethical Principles for Judges*](#), which apply to federally appointed judges, and the Canadian Judicial Council's technology recommendations, including the [*Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Canadian Courts*](#) and the [*Blueprint for the Security of Court Information*](#).

3.5 Caution

AI must be used with caution and discernment. Generated content must always be rigorously verified by users (judges and the lawyers supporting them) due to the risk of errors, inaccurate statements, and hallucinations.

3.6 Responsibility

AI is a support tool and must not replace professional judgment or judicial decision-making. Users must maintain critical thinking regarding the results generated and remain vigilant. In every situation, users remain responsible for the use of AI-generated content.

4. Scope of the pilot project

The pilot project implemented by the Superior Court consists in rolling out conversational agents specifically configured for the purposes of this project.

These agents draw their knowledge primarily from statutes and internal documents prepared by Superior Court judges and the Court's support staff, specially formatted to improve how they are processed by AI. Specific instructions have

been prepared to improve the reliability of the results and make agent behaviour more predictable.

Targeted tasks

Users will be able to ask conversational agents questions in plain language to:

- obtain linguistic and terminology support;
- perform translations;
- identify references in internal documentation and legislation; and
- ask technological questions.

4.1 Limitations

AI agents have been specially configured to meet high standards of security and reliability. Their ability to generate content has been deliberately limited to reduce the risks of errors, inaccurate statements, and hallucinations.

The Superior Court of Québec's pilot project does not:

- provide assistance in judges' decision-making and intellectual process;
- replace judges in decision-making;
- generate draft judgments in whole or in part;
- interpret texts;
- summarize large texts; or
- provide legal opinions.

These limitations are built into the settings of the conversational agents, which will automatically decline requests that are not within the authorized framework.

5. Risk assessment

5.1 Technological environment

AI is being used within the Superior Court of Québec in a secure framework that ensures the confidentiality of the data processed by these tools. The provider of the product used for the pilot project and the Ministère de la Justice du Québec have provided an environment with robust safeguards in this regard.

All data transmitted by the user are encrypted and hosted exclusively in Canada, in secure sandbox-type environments designed to prevent any unauthorized external access and with which users will deliberately interact. These measures are essential to ensure the confidentiality of the data that will be processed by this tool.

The use of AI tools outside the framework of the pilot project is strongly discouraged, considering that these tools do not offer the same security and confidentiality safeguards and could potentially usurp the judicial function.

Prior to the launch of this pilot project, the Superior Court obtained the opinion of its cybersecurity experts to ensure that the security safeguards provided are sufficient.

5.2 Protection of personal information

It is strictly prohibited to feed personal, confidential, or sensitive information into AI systems. All data of this nature must be anonymized in advance to ensure the protection of privacy, the confidentiality of judicial information, and compliance with ethical obligations.

6. Education and training

6.1 Prior training

All users will receive mandatory training on the tool's features, how to ask questions ("prompt") effectively, its limitations, and the risks inherent to using AI.

6.2 Ongoing support

To ensure proper use, continuous and periodic support will be provided throughout the duration of the pilot project to offer technical and functional assistance to all users.

7. Assessment and accountability

7.1 Ongoing assessment

During the pilot project, the Superior Court will continuously monitor the relevance of the results obtained and the risks that may arise from the use of AI, in particular by establishing a feedback channel allowing users to assess the usefulness and relevance of the conversational agents in accomplishing identified tasks.

This ongoing assessment is aimed specifically at assessing certain indicators, namely:

- the reliability and relevance of the answers obtained;
- the frequency of errors, inaccurate statements, and hallucinations detected;
- user satisfaction; and

- the added value of AI in the exercise of judicial functions reported by the users.

7.2 Accountability and results

Upon completion of the pilot project, the management of the Superior Court will conduct a comprehensive assessment. A report will be published in the winter of 2026 to inform the public of the results in the interest of transparency and maintaining the public's confidence.

8. Governance

The establishment of this governance framework falls under the responsibility of the Chief Justice, who has charge of the general policy of the Court in judicial matters.²

9. Conclusion

This framework seeks to strike a delicate balance between the innovation needed to ensure the effectiveness of the court system and the prudence required to maintain public trust in our institutions. It establishes the necessary guidelines required for responsible, prudent, and safe use of artificial intelligence within the Superior Court of Québec.

The purpose of implementing the pilot project is to explore the possibilities offered by AI while respecting the fundamental values of our justice system.

The content of the governance framework will evolve in order to maintain the agility required to adapt to rapid developments in AI.

² *Courts of Justice Act*, CQLR c. T-16, s. 22.