



ENGLISH TRANSLATION

May 27, 2022

Honourable David Lametti, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

**Re: Appointment of Bilingual Judges to the Court of Appeal and
the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba**

As you are aware, Chief Justice Richard Chartier and two supernumerary judges of the Manitoba Court of Appeal will be retiring this fall. Given that the Court of Appeal judges are usually selected from among the judges of the Court of Queen's Bench, it is likely that several vacancies will occur in the Court of Queen's Bench. A cascading effect can thus be anticipated that will result in new appointments not only to the Court of Appeal but also to the Court of Queen's Bench. If such is the case, there will be one of the largest turnovers in our province's judiciary in a very long time.

Our association has been advocating for many years for the appointment of a critical mass of bilingual judges to all courts in Manitoba. In our view, the current situation provides your government with a unique opportunity to make significant progress in this regard.

We therefore urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the following measures are taken by your government to promote real access to justice in French:

- the appointment of two bilingual judges to the Court of Appeal; and
- the appointment of two bilingual judges to the Court of Queen's Bench, more specifically, in order of priority, one to the Family Division and the other to the General Division.

Please find attached a submission setting out our detailed position on this matter.

In addition, please note that we will be contacting you again in the near future to address the need for legislative measures establishing a systemic framework to ensure the appointment of bilingual judges to provincial and territorial superior courts. These measures could be incorporated into the bill presently under consideration to modernize the *Official Languages Act*.

We are confident that you will fully appreciate the merit of our current request.

Sincerely,

Original French version of letter signed by Professor Mamadou Ka

Mamadou Ka
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Encl.

cc: Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs
Honourable Raymonde Gagné, Senator
Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Manitoba Minister of Justice
Honourable Rochelle Squires, Manitoba Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs
Honourable Richard Chartier, Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal
Honourable Glenn Joyal, Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench
Mr. Marc Giroux, Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs
Mr. Daniel Boucher, Executive Director of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine
Mr. Sacha Paul, President of the Law Society of Manitoba
Mr. Ian Scarth, President of the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Bar Association