COURT OF APPEAL
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Court of Appeal

Practice Directive (Civil and Criminal)

Title: Indigenous Practices and Ceremonies

Issued: 23 September 2026

Effective: 23 September 2026

Cite as: *Indigenous Practices and Ceremonies* (Civil & Criminal Practice Directive, 23 September 2026)

This practice directive sets out the process for Indigenous participants in Court proceedings to bring requests to introduce Indigenous practices and ceremonies in the courtroom or courthouse before the commencement of the hearing.

The practice directive reflects the Court of Appeal's commitment to advancing reconciliation in all its work, including through education, relationship-building, and access to justice.[1]

An Indigenous party in a Court proceeding or their representative may make a request at least ten business days before an appeal hearing date. The request should be made by completing and filing *Form: Indigenous Practices and Ceremonies*.

The requesting party will provide a copy of the request to all other parties. Any party wishing to respond to the request should convey their views to the registry within five business days of receiving the request.

Where the request is granted, the registry will schedule the practice or ceremony to take place before the commencement of the hearing. In keeping with the Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in Courtrooms, restrictions relating to photography and video or audio recording apply.

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Chief Justice Leonard S. Marchand
Court of Appeal for British Columbia

History:

This is a new practice directive.

[1] British Columbia Court of Appeal Reconciliation Framework: A Commitment to Advancing Truth & Reconciliation.