



SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Effective Date: 2023/09/01

Number: CPD - 5

Title:

Criminal Practice Direction French or Bilingual Criminal Jury Trials

Summary:

On December 1, 2000, the Associate Chief Justice issued a Notice directing that all criminal jury trials in the French language be heard in New Westminster, unless the Court ordered otherwise. With an increase in the number of French-speaking prospective jurors in the Lower Mainland, it is now possible to hold French or bilingual criminal jury trials in Vancouver as well as in New Westminster.

Direction:

1. This practice direction applies to cases where an order has been granted directing a French or bilingual trial, and the accused is to be tried by a judge and jury.
2. All French or bilingual criminal jury trials will be held in New Westminster or Vancouver, whichever is closest to the place of the indictment, unless the Court orders otherwise.
3. Applications for a French or bilingual criminal jury trial to be held other than in New Westminster or Vancouver shall be made to the Associate Chief Justice.

**Heather J. Holmes
Associate Chief Justice**