



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Saskatchewan Branch

THE USE OF GENDER-INCLUSIVE PRONOUNS IN COURT

Several CBA branches have advocated over the past couple of years for the courts in their jurisdictions to implement policies respecting the use of gender-inclusive pronouns and forms of address in court. Given this trend across the country and CBASK's [Guiding Principle](#) of "equality, diversity, and inclusiveness", the CBASK Board is interested in **your feedback on whether this is something that you would like to see advocated for use in the Saskatchewan courts.**

The Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan has recently published a court protocol on [Identification of Pronouns and Titles by Court Participants](#) and we understand that the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan will soon publish a similar policy.

To solicit member feedback, we have set up a confidential ThoughtExchange where you can put your comments and rank the ideas and thoughts of others. We have provided some background information here that you may find of interest. Access ThoughtExchange [HERE](#)

Background Information:

In December 2020, the [Provincial Court of BC](#) and the [Supreme Court of BC](#) introduced new directions on the use of pronouns and forms of address in court proceedings. The [BC Court of Appeal](#) revised its directions for appearing in court in 2019. CBABC has made a number of [practice resources](#) available to lawyers to support the implementation of these directions.

In June 2021, the [provincial courts of Ontario](#) in collaboration with the Court Services Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General introduced a new direction to all court staff informing them of the importance of inviting court participants to share pronouns and prefixes in court proceedings. The Ontario Bar Association has collected [useful resources](#) for members of the Bar respecting this direction.

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal in the summer of 2021 released guidance on [Addressing Judges of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal](#) and the [Identification of Pronouns and Titles by Court of Appeal Participants](#). At the same time, the CBA-NS provided a [Gender Neutral Terminology Guide](#) to support the legal profession to move beyond the use of gendered language.

For a viewpoint on why such policies are important, see Samantha Peters [opinion piece](#) in the CBA National.

Please take a moment to participate in the ThoughtExchange. [CLICK HERE](#)

Check back often to see other members' comments. Alternatively, you may email the CBASK President, Reché McKeague at reche.mckeague@saskatoon.ca.

Thank you for taking an interest in the advocacy work of the CBASK Branch.