



THE NUNAVUT COURT OF JUSTICE

PRACTICE DIRECTIVE #25

DRESS CODE FOR MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND ARTICLED STUDENTS

Explanatory Note:

Formality in the courtroom engenders public respect for legal process and the Court that enforces this process. Excessive informality in dress and behaviour can have the opposite result. The latitude extended by the Court to counsel on circuit, a reflection of dirty and difficult working conditions, has unfortunately resulted in a general decline of dress standards in court. This practice directive seeks to reverse this process.

Effectively February 1st 2010, Counsel shall be expected to observe the following dress code when appearing in Court:

1. For all non-jury matters including trials, preliminary inquiries, docket appearances, and all criminal and civil chambers applications before the Nunavut Court of Justice in Iqaluit:

Male counsel shall appear in a conservative business suit or sports jacket/ pants combination with a tie and dress shoes. Formal sealskin vests and or kamiks may be worn in place of a suit jacket and dress shoes.

Female counsel shall appear in a conservative business suit or skirt/dress or pants and jacket combination with dress shoes. An amauti and kamiks may be worn in place of a suit jacket and dress shoes.

The court reserves the right to refuse to hear counsel who are dressed inappropriately. It is open to the presiding judge to grant a dispensation for non-compliant counsel to appear in exigent circumstances.

2. On circuit, the presiding judge may in his or her discretion grant exemptions to this dress code where circumstances warrant a lowered standard of dress.
3. For all jury matters (criminal or civil) where evidence is called, counsel appearing before the Court will be gowned. There will be no exceptions.

Issued on this 21st day of December 2009 at the direction of the Judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Mr. Justice R. Kilpatrick

Mr. Justice E. Johnson

Mr. Justice N. Sharkey