



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #34

November 18, 2020

Summary

Invited participants: Sector calls

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA

Superior Court of Justices in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice

MAG - Political, Department staff, and the Recovery Secretariat

Issues discussed:

1. COURTS

- ❖ Until further notice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario will no longer be conducting in-person appeals and all appeals will be conducted remotely during this time. See [Notice](#).
- ❖ The SCJ issued two Notices last week regarding Jury Trials. One on November 13th respecting [Hamilton and Newmarket](#) and the other on November 10th regarding [Brampton, Milton, Orangeville and Toronto](#). Both are hyperlinked.
- ❖ The SCJ hosted two CaseLines webinars over the past couple of weeks and are planning additional webinars. Today's Webinar was recorded and should appear on the SCJ COVID-19 website (replacing the earlier one that is currently available) [here](#) and/or on their CaseLines FAQ page [here](#). Bookmark and visit both sites often for Notices of future live webinars.
- ❖ The OCJ issued two Notice Updates this week (both on November 16th). The first Notice Update deals with in-person hearings at the following locations: Alexandria, Bradford, Elliot Lake, Kirkland Lake, Picton, Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout and can be found [here](#) and the other deals with Criminal Virtual Case Management Courts in Alexandria, Attiwapiskat, Chapleau, Fort Albany, Gogama, Kashechewn, Midland, Moosonee, Morrisburg, Peawanuck, Picton, Sundridge, and Wikwemikong. That Notice Update is [here](#).

2. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ In the case of a full lockdown due to increased COVID-19 caseloads, the three Chief Justices will decide on a course of action.
- ❖ At present, the goal is still to have every Base Courthouse ready for in-person operations by the end of the calendar year.
- ❖ There are two Satellite Courthouses up and running and seven more are in the works. There are 53 Satellite Courthouses in total with most on Reserves. It is not likely that Satellite locations on Reserves in fly-in locations will re-open as local communities fear that this will heighten the risk of coronavirus spread.
- ❖ Off-site locations are still being explored.
- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat is assisting efforts related to the resumption of services at Ontario Provincial Offences Courts (POAs).
- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat is working on the release of Version 5 of their Guidebook. The most current version can always be found [here](#).

- ❖ Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data continues to be circulated to FOLA but in an effort reduce the volume of emails sent by FOLA, they are no longer being sent to librarians. If you would like to receive the most up to date HVAC Courthouse data, please email Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca with HVAC in the subject line and indicate which Association you are emailing about.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

3. LSO

- ❖ The next Convocation will be held on November 27th and Budget issues will be discussed.
- ❖ The LSO is hosting a virtual Welcome to the Professions Celebration on December 10 at 5:30 p.m. You can register [here](#).
- ❖ Reminder that the Law Society also has a [FAQ page on CaseLines](#) on their website.

4. FOLA

❖ **SUBMISSIONS:**

FAMILY LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER (FLSP) LICENSING MODEL CALL FOR COMMENT: The Law Society's Access to Justice Committee is inviting lawyers to provide comments on a FLSP Licensing model. Submissions are due November 30th. Please visit [here](#) for more details. FOLA has held extensive meetings with members and received many comments. Our Submission is currently being drafted and, once submitted, will be shared with Law Association members.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA at katie.robinette@fola.ca and we will continue to address them in as timely a manner as possible. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case and the Courts will NOT provide clarification on any Notice to the Profession. If your concerns are related to issues surrounding health and safety measures as the Courts expand in person operations, please indicate the name of the Courthouse and the steps you have already taken to address your concerns to MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.