



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #27

September 23, 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

- ❖ All three Chief Justices offered remarks at yesterday's Virtual Opening of the Courts. You can read the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice's comments [here](#); the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice's comments [here](#); and the Court of Appeal's Chief Justice of Ontario's comments [here](#).
- ❖ The SCJ will be releasing a Notice Update for the Toronto Region regarding Bankruptcy, Family, and Civil law tomorrow and we expect a Notice next week regarding the Construction Act.

2. MAG

- ❖ The Attorney General was also present for the virtual Opening of the Courts and offered a few words (and a shoutout to FOLA and our illustrious Chair, William Woodward!). You can read his accompanying Press Release [here](#).

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat informed us that they have exceeded their goals for Phase II Reopening with 330+ Courtrooms now open to the public. Looking to Phase III, they currently have about 300 remaining but due to PPE supply chain issues, they may not reach their goal for November. They are, however, working with the Judiciary to advise on priority locations.
- ❖ Jury Recovery is well under way and a staff person within the Recovery Secretariat has been hired to oversee this process. They are currently retrofitting Courtrooms to accommodate Jury Trials based on the existing hearings schedule. Worth noting is that each Jury Trial requires two Courtrooms to ensure safe distancing.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse re-openings can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. FOLA

❖ **SUBMISSIONS:**

- 1. 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. The proposed scope of permissible activities, required competencies, and outline of the training

program are detailed in the Access to Justice Committee's FLSP License Consultation Paper. To ensure we hear from Law Association members in advance of drafting our Submission, FOLA scheduled three Zoom meetings and have reached out to Presidents to delegate one or two members practicing in Family Law to attend. While those meetings have passed, we still welcome input through the month of October. Please email any thoughts/comments to FOLA's Family Law Chair, Sam Misheal at sam@familyseparation.ca.

❖ **EVENTS:**

SPECIAL FOR LAW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS! Clio's Cloud Conference (Oct 13-16 - 11am-4pm EST each day) brings together the best and brightest from the legal, business, and technology worlds for the industry's top conference. All sessions are recorded and available on demand. Clio is offering all Law Association members conference passes for only \$99 (a \$200 discount). You can learn more and register [here](#).

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.