



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #55

April 28, 2021

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

- ❖ On April 27th, the SCJ - Toronto Region amended its Notice to the Profession today with respect to summary conviction appeals and extraordinary remedies (Part A.4(viii)(a)). The updated notice is available [here](#).
- ❖ If Counsel want to assist Self Reps with CaseLines filing, they can refer them to the following contacts: 1-800-980-4962 or info.caselines@ontario.ca. If you experience technical issues with CaseLines, your contact information is: 1-800-290-9378 (just select either "CaseLines" or "Evidence Sharing" when you reach the directory) or email westlaw.softwaresupport@tr.com. Support is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

2. MAG

- ❖ MAG has an opening for a Case Management Master at their University Ave. location. See details [here](#).
- ❖ MAG is working with local municipalities to help them transition from phones to Zoom for all POA matters.

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER: VACCINE INFORMATION:** The Recovery Secretariat issued a Notice titled "[March Vaccination Sector Information - courts and justice system workers \(including probation and parole\)](#)" to provide information to support an understanding of occupations that may be considered essential within the "courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole)" category. You are encouraged to continue to monitor the [Getting a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario webpage](#) and to connect with your local public health unit for details about when and how you, or your staff, could get a vaccine and review the Ministry of Health's document called [COVID-19: Guidance for Prioritization of Phase 2 Populations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) which provides additional clarity.
- ❖ **REMINDER!** Version 6 of the Recovery Secretariat's Guidebook, "COVID-19: Recommended Precautionary Measures for Resuming Court Operations" is now available on [Ontario.ca](#), in both [English](#) and [French](#). *As a reminder, the Guidebook is a living document and may continue to be updated over time, in response to feedback and/or evolving provincial guidance regarding COVID-19.*
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. FOLA

- ❖ **LIBRARY ACTION CENTRE:** FOLA has created a [Law Library Action Centre](#) -complete with curated social media posts and some images for you to share. Please take a moment to visit and send a tweet or two. Tag FOLA (@Ont_Law_Assoc) and we will share all your Law Library advocacy posts! [Here's the link!](#)
- ❖ **SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP - COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS WELCOME:** Jane Robertson is FOLA's representative on the Small Claims Court Working Group, whose mandate is to assist with formulating revisions to forms and process given the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic on the operations of the Small Claims Court. Jane is welcoming feedback and insight from the perspective of both the practicing bar and the per diem Deputy Judges who practice and preside in the Small Claims Court, Superior Court of Justice, Ontario. Feel free to contact her with suggestions and/or queries that you wish to come to the attention of the Small Claims Court Working Group. Please be advised that while she may not be able to answer your questions directly, she will bring your queries and comments to the attention of the working group. Jane can be reached by email at: jajadiver@bellnet.ca
- ❖ The CCLA sent out their latest newsletter! You can find that [here](#).

5. LAWPRO

- ❖ As a result of Bill 245, changes will be made to the process for virtual signing. LawPRO will be issuing a notice in the coming days with details and instructions.

6. LAO

- ❖ **CONSULTATIONS:** Legal Aid Ontario will begin seeking input on possible new rules to govern legal aid in Ontario. On April 20th, FOLA participated in a technical briefing hosted by LAO and attended by all members from the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA) and we will be meeting again with LAO on April 29th to discuss initial concerns/questions/comments. We appreciate the timeline is short, but if you have any initial thoughts/questions you would like us to raise, kindly send them to me at katie.robinette@fola.ca ASAP. More information about the consultations, including links to the draft rules, can be found [here](#).

7. LSO

- ❖ During April's Convocation, the Lawyer's conduct rules were amended to clarify those entities that qualify as 'finance companies'. The rules were also amended to increase the amount of consideration from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for a mortgage or loan under which a lawyer may act for both borrower and lender. For more information see [full report](#).
- ❖ The LSO's Tribunal Committee is proposing amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure. The proposed amendments build on the learnings of the last year and prepare the Tribunal for continuing operations post-pandemic. The committee is accepting comments on the proposed amendments until May 30, 2021. For more information see [full report](#).
- ❖ The LSO's AGM is on May 12th. More information can be found [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.