



FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

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FOLA'S WEEKLY UPDATE December 21, 2022

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

REMINDERS:

- ❖ **VIRTUAL TRIAL SITTINGS FOR CIVIL, NON-JURY CASES:** The SCJ Regional Senior Judges Council ("RSJ Council") is commencing an initiative to address the backlog of civil trials that developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to provide timely access to justice in civil cases, RSJ Council has resolved to schedule two, four-week long virtual trial sittings for civil, non-jury cases. Judicial resources from across the province will be pooled to provide pre-trial and trial dates.

The first sitting will target cases in Southwest Region. Cases will be selected based on age and likelihood of being scheduled for trial within a reasonable amount of time. During the second sitting, cases from all regions will be considered for inclusion based on the same criteria.

Key points:

- Two, four-week long trial sittings will be held on the following dates:
 - November 14, 2023 to December 8, 2023
 - April 1, 2024 to April 26, 2024
 - Civil, non-jury trials will be scheduled
 - Both pre-trial conferences and trials will be held virtually
 - Use of CaseLines will be mandatory
- In the coming weeks, parties will begin receiving pre-trial and trial dates. In cases selected, counsel and witnesses must make themselves available.
- ❖ **DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICER PROGRAM EMPANELMENT - DEADLINE EXTENDED:** The SCJ, in collaboration with MAG, is seeking candidates to join DRO panels in Barrie, Brampton, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Newmarket, St. Catharines, Toronto and Welland. Candidates admitted to the panel will receive compensation on a fee-for-service basis at the rate of \$250.00 per day plus HST if applicable. French-speaking or bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply to the Hamilton, London, Toronto and Welland panels. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES:

No updates this week

OCJ JUDICIAL VACANCY

Fort Francis (Deadline Jan 6th). [Learn more & apply.](#)

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO UPDATES:

No updates this week

JUSTICE CANADA

REMINDER - FAMILY LAW: The Department of Justice Canada invites all Family Lawyers to participate in the [2022 National Family Law Survey \(NFL Survey\)](#), which will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. This year, the focus is on child support. **The deadline is December 23rd.**

Background Information about the NFL Survey:

Since 1998, the Department of Justice Canada has conducted biennial surveys of lawyers' and judges' experiences in family law in Canada, collecting data geared toward family law policy development. Historically the NFL Survey was administered only to participants at the National Family Law Program Conference. Starting in 2018, however, it has been distributed to Law Societies across Canada through the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) to increase participation in the Survey. Since 2019, the NFL Survey has been distributed to family law legal advisers across the country through the FLSC and the Canadian Bar Association – Family Law Section.

The NFL Survey collects information on the characteristics of practitioners' family law cases, and their experience in family law issues. This information assists in the development of policy and programs related to family law in Canada.

If you are a family law legal advisor, please fill out the [Survey for Lawyers](#).

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

COURT FEE INCREASES: Pursuant to regulation, court fees in civil, small claims and family matters in the Superior Court of Justice and Court of Appeal automatically increase every three years by applying the Consumer Price Index, beginning January 1, 2023. To ensure continued access to justice, fee waiver eligibility thresholds are increased at the same rate. A complete list of the fee and fee waiver eligibility threshold increases can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Vaia Pappas, Director of the Operational Support Branch at (416) 326-2514 or by email at Vaia.Pappas@ontario.ca.

OTHER ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEWS

REMINDER: ONTARIO'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACT: Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) took effect on October 19, 2021. Existing non-profits have 3 years from that date to bring their governing documents into compliance with the new law. Learn more on our [ONCA Resource Page](#).

RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

Questions about Courthouse operations related to health & safety can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

FOLA

- ❖ **REMINDER - LAW LIBRARY & ZOOM QUESTION:** Has any law library purchased a soundproof booth that could be used for zoom proceedings in the library to provide privacy? One or two Law Associations are looking into this and would love to chat with those of you who have. Please email Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca if you have a soundproof booth.
- ❖ **THE WINDSOR LAW 3L RESUME BOOK FOR ARTICLING:** The Windsor Law 3L Resume Book features competitive students who are eager to secure paid articling opportunities for 2023 - 24. Employers who are interested in hiring an articling student can request our Resume Book from our Career Services Office. Simply email windsorcso@uwindsor.ca to receive your free

electronic copy today! If you prefer to post a paid articling opportunity, please email your job posting to windsorcso@uwindsor.ca.

❖ JOBS

1. The Public Prosecution Service of Canada is inviting applications from private-sector lawyers or law firms with experience in prosecuting or defending criminal matters, to act as Agents of the Director of Public Prosecutions. They currently have a posting for Fixed-Term Agreements (contracts) to assist the PPSC Kenora office. Learn more and apply [here](#).
2. College of Nurses of Ontario has a posting for a Manager, Hearings. Position Summary: Develops, implements and administers programs and services to support the Discipline Committee and the Fitness to Practise Committee to carry out their statutory mandates. Learn more & apply [here](#).
3. FOLA is looking for a Volunteer Social Media Manager. Learn more & apply [here](#).

LIRN

LiRN is once again extending the deadline for fund balance proposals and there will be an information session on January 11th. Associations will an invitation to that session in the new year. **New deadline for submitting you business case is Jan 25, 2023.**

Association's business cases will be presented to LiRN's Audit and Finance Committee and Board meetings, currently scheduled in February. Associations will be notified of the results of the Board meeting as soon as practicable thereafter.

As a reminder, the business cases should include:

- The initiative
- The cost of the initiative
- The amount of the excess fund balance required
- How the initiative aligns with LiRN's mandate and supports and improves the library network
- How the initiative relates to library expenses that the LiRN grant covers, including:
 - o Library staff salaries
 - o Collection expenses
 - o Expenses related to the operation of the library
 - o Some capital expenses related to the library. Examples include library furniture, bookshelves, computers, printers, and copiers. Note that some equipment such as photocopiers may be more cost effectively procured centrally and identifying the equipment need is a necessary first step.

Please note that, as previously communicated, the Q1 grants are unaffected by the fund balance recovery process. Please contact Theresa Leitch is you have any questions: TLeitch@lirn.ca

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **REMINDER - BENCHER ELECTIONS:** Nominations are now open for the 2023 Bencher Elections! You can find more information on [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#). Information as to how FOLA will be involved in these elections will be discussed at our Fall 2022 Plenary and will be posted on that page following the event. Also, over the coming weeks, FOLA will be adding resources for those considering running – so please do visit this page regularly! **Nominations are open until February 24th and voting will occur online in April 2023 with the results announced on May 1, 2023 after the tabulation of votes.**
- ❖ **REMINDER - CONSULTATION: EXPANDED REMEDIAL OUTCOMES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE (PAC):** The Professional Regulation Committee is seeking feedback on its recommendation to expand the remedial outcomes available to the Proceedings Authorization Committee (PAC) to include mandatory regulatory meetings

and continuing education or remediation programs. Visit [LSO Website](#) for more information.

Deadline is January 15, 2023.

- ❖ **AWARDS:** The Human Rights Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of human rights and/or the promotion of the rule of law provincially, nationally or internationally. The award is granted for devotion to the advancement of human rights and the rule of law over a long term or for a single outstanding act of service. The call for nominations deadline is December 31. Learn more on the [LSO website](#).
- ❖ **LAW SOCIETY EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:** As part of its mandate, the Law Society recommends and makes appointments to a variety of boards, councils and committees. The Law Society is currently seeking applications from qualified lawyers and paralegals for the following:
 - Legal Aid Ontario Board of Directors
 - Federal Judicial Advisory Committee**The application deadline is December 22, 2022.** More information is available on the [external appointments webpage](#).
- ❖ **CONVOCATION - AGM:** The Law Society's AGM will take place virtually on May 10 at 5:15pm.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

COURT WORKING GROUPS

SCJ FAMILY LAW & IN-PERSON vs. ONLINE MATTERS

If you have ongoing concerns regarding in-person vs online appearances at the SCJ, please direct your concerns to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca and she will relay them to our Family Law Working Group.

SCJ SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP: FOLA is requesting that practitioners (as well as Deputy Judges) take a moment to consider and comment on what works well and what could use improvement in our Small Claims Court so that constructive feedback can continue to flow to the Small Claims Court Working Group. Please send comments to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca.

EVERYTHING ELSE

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the above Updates to FOLA by emailing Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca. We will 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.