



COVID-19: NEW PRACTICE DIRECTIVE FOR APPEAL HEARINGS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Monday, June 22, 2020

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal has implemented a new practice directive for appeal hearings held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During much of the pandemic, the Court of Appeal was hearing urgent and essential Chambers matters only, and mostly by telephone or video. The Court had adjourned most of its appeal hearings from the March/April term and all its hearings during the May/June term. Those matters were rescheduled for this fall and new filing deadlines were set.

On June 5, 2020, the Court of Appeal announced it was expanding the types of matters that can be heard remotely and expects to be able to offer fully remote hearings when the September/October term begins.

Accordingly, the Court has developed a practice directive outlining how hearings will be held during the pandemic, including such things as etiquette and civility in remote hearings, instructions for electronic filing of documents, and media access. The full practice directive is available online [here](#).

Subject to any order of the Court, all matters heard in the Court of Appeal on or after June 15, 2020, will be conducted pursuant to this practice directive. Details of the practice directive are subject to change as public health guidelines are updated in Nova Scotia.

For information on the various Court of Appeal directives related to COVID-19, please visit https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm.

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