



COVID-19: UPCOMING APPEALS ADJOURNED; COURT OF APPEAL FILING DEADLINES SUSPENDED

Friday, March 27, 2020 (Halifax, NS) – To further reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal is adjourning all hearings that were scheduled for the upcoming May/June term and suspending all filing deadlines related to those matters.

The exception will be cases determined to be urgent or essential by the Court. Counsel or self-represented individuals who wish to argue that their matter should proceed on an urgent or essential basis should make their submissions in writing to the [Registrar](#) no later than April 10, 2020. These requests will be considered by a panel of three judges to determine if any meet the urgent or essential threshold.

Earlier this month, the Court of Appeal adjourned all but two of the hearings scheduled for the rest of the March/April term. Those two matters were deemed to be urgent and proceeded by telephone.

All the adjourned hearings will be rescheduled this fall, with new filing deadlines to be set for those that were previously scheduled in May and June.

The time periods for commencing civil appeals under Rules 90.13(3) and 90.14, and criminal appeals under Rules 91.09(1) and 91.10 of the Civil Procedure Rules will be suspended for the period from March 26 to June 26, 2020. This does not apply to appeal periods set out in other legislation. This should mean fewer new appeals will be started during this time. The deadlines for making the motion for date and directions in Rule 90.25(2) and 91.12(2) will also be suspended for this period.

As well, until further notice, Court of Appeal Tele-Chambers and Chambers will be limited to urgent or essential matters, as determined by the Chambers judge. Any matters currently on the Chambers docket will be reviewed by the current Chambers judge and adjourned if they do not meet the urgent or essential threshold. Any matters that do proceed will be done by telephone.

For new Chambers motions, counsel and self-represented litigants must make a request in writing to the [Registrar](#) outlining the circumstances of why the matter should be scheduled. The Chambers judge will review those requests to determine what new matters will be put on the Chambers docket.

All these measures will help to further reduce the number of people who need to visit the courthouses in person and help protect the health and well-being of the employees and judges still working at the courthouses.

For more information on the preventative measures introduced in other levels of Court, go to https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm.

-30-

Media Contact:

Jennifer Stairs
Communications Director
Nova Scotia Judiciary
902-221-5257
stairsjl@courts.ns.ca

Court Contact:

Caroline McInnes
Registrar, Court of Appeal
902-424-8962
Caroline.McInnes@courts.ns.ca