



PROVINCIAL COURT *of* NOVA SCOTIA

Notice to the Profession and the Public

Proper Form of Address for Presiding Justices of the Peace

December 17, 2024

The proper form of address for Presiding Justices of the Peace is 'Your Worship'.

Background:

Justices of the Peace are composed of three distinct classifications:

- 1) The Administrative Justice of the Peace;
- 2) The Staff Justice of the Peace; and
- 3) The Presiding Justice of the Peace.

The scope of judicial duties for each classification is set out in the [Justice of the Peace Act](#), RSNS 1989, c 244, and the associated [Justices of the Peace Regulations](#), NS Reg. 51/2002. Neither the *Act*, nor the regulations, set out the proper form of address.

This Notice addresses expressed confusion from the public, and members of the Bar, about how to address a Presiding Justice of the Peace who presides in summary conviction court over non-criminal offences such as those under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, hears *Emergency Protection Act* applications, and reviews search warrants.

Your Worship, the standard form of address used in many provinces across the country, is an historic honorific used in commonwealth countries to address a Justice of the Peace.

At the start of summary conviction court proceedings, the clerk will introduce the Presiding Justice of the Peace as "His/Her Worship, Presiding Justice of the Peace (name)," and counsel and self-represented litigants will address them as "Your Worship".