



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #28

September 30, 2020

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

- ❖ The SCJ posted two new Regional Notices this week: [Central West](#) and [Toronto](#), and posted a new [Commercial List and Estates List Filing Direction](#). All three Notices are hyperlinked.
- ❖ The SCJ is also in the midst of updating their Notices in an effort to make them easier to navigate.
- ❖ The SCJ noted that there have been a couple of COVID-19 cases inside Courts/off-site Courts. One caused a matter to be adjourned until October and the other, following consultations with Public Health, did not affect the hearing.
- ❖ The SCJ noted that the Civil Rules Committee is currently working on updates to processes around virtual hearings.
- ❖ The SCJ and MAG are working on a process to allow for probate e-filing.

2. MAG

Representatives from MAG were unable to attend the meeting.

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ The Recovery Secretariat joins every other call and was not present this week.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse re-openings can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. LAWPRO

- ❖ LawPRO's 2021 Insurance Program was approved at Convocation and, as such, they are now working to ensure their new policies are in place for January 1st.
- ❖ LawPRO noted that they have seen 25 COVID-19 related claims to date.

5. FOLA

❖ SUBMISSIONS:

1. **FAMILY LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER (FLSP) LICENSING MODEL CALL FOR COMMENT:** The Law Society's Access to Justice Committee is inviting lawyers to provide comments on a FLSP Licensing model. The proposed scope of permissible activities, required competencies, and outline of the training

program are detailed in the Access to Justice Committee's FLSLP License Consultation Paper. To ensure we hear from Law Association members in advance of drafting our Submission, FOLA scheduled three Zoom meetings and have reached out to Presidents to delegate one or two members practicing in Family Law to attend. While those meetings have passed, we still welcome input through the month of October. Please email any thoughts/comments to FOLA's Family Law Chair, Sam Misheal at sam@familyseparation.ca.

❖ **EVENTS:**

SPECIAL FOR LAW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS! Clio's Cloud Conference (Oct 13-16 - 11am-4pm EST each day) brings together the best and brightest from the legal, business, and technology worlds for the industry's top conference. All sessions are recorded and available on demand. Clio is offering all Law Association members conference passes for only \$99 (a \$200 discount). You can learn more and register [here](#).

EVENT RECORDING - REAL ESTATE MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF TITLES: On September 24th, FOLA's Real Estate Committee Co-Chairs and FOLA real estate practitioner members from across the Province met with the Director of Titles. If you missed the meeting or want to listen again, you're in luck! You can watch the recording [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.