



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### SECTOR CHECK IN LOG #68

August 25, 2021

#### 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

- ❖ On August 20, 2021, the OCJ issued the following Update: Enhanced Designation Pilot Expanding to London on August 23, 2021. You can read that [here](#).
- ❖ **OPENING OF THE COURTS:** The Opening of the Courts is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. More information (including how to watch) can be viewed [here](#).

#### 2. MAG

- ❖ **CASE MANAGEMENT MASTER OPENING:** MAG has an opening for a Case Management Master. Case Management Masters perform judicial duties in civil actions in the Superior Court of Justice, exercising the jurisdiction assigned to Case Management Masters by the Rules of Civil Procedure. Deadline for applications is September 9<sup>th</sup>. You can see the posting [here](#).
- ❖ **JUDICIAL VACANCIES:** The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (JAAC) is welcoming applications for an OCJ judicial position (Criminal) in Windsor. The deadline to apply is September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the JAAC is welcoming applications for an OCJ position in St. Catherines. The deadline to apply is September 20<sup>th</sup>. You can learn more about both postings [here](#).

#### 3. MAG RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **HVAC REPORTING:** There is a new way to track Courthouse HVAC reporting. To learn more, visit [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).

#### 4. LSO

- ❖ **REMINDER - LAW SOCIETY'S MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY:** The Law Society has extended the deadline for their "first-of-its-kind" National Study on the Well-being of legal professionals to August 30<sup>th</sup>! If you haven't already done so, please complete that now! [Here's the link](#).
- ❖ The LSO is currently seeking applications from qualified lawyers and paralegals for the [Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee](#) for the following regions:
  - Central West region: Application deadline September 15
  - East region: Application deadline September 15
  - Northwest region: Application deadline October 1
  - West region: Application deadline October 1The link to the application can be found [here](#).

## 5. LAO

- ❖ **NATIONAL DUTY COUNSEL DAY:** The Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada are hosting live and virtual events and lighting up landmarks across the country on October 27<sup>th</sup> to celebrate National Duty Counsel Day. There are many ways to celebrate -including: Attending as a guest; Speaking at the virtual event; Record a video greeting; etc. Learn more and RSVP [here](#).

## 6. FOLA

### ❖ SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS:

1. **LSO COMPETENCE TASK FORCE:** FOLA will be preparing a Submission in response to the LSO's Call for Comment on the [Competence Task Force's Report: Renewing the Law Society's Continuing Competence Framework](#). If you would like to provide FOLA with comments for consideration for inclusion in our Submission, please do so **prior to October 20<sup>th</sup>** by emailing Katie at [katie.robinette@fol.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fol.ca). If you would like to respond directly to the LSO, you may respond to some or all of the questions through their [Call for Comment](#) portal until Nov. 30, 2021.
  2. **FOLA SUBMISSION - PLANNING ACT:** On August 23, 2021, FOLA submitted comments regarding proposed amendments to regulations to the Planning Act. You can read our Submission [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** September 30<sup>th</sup> was announced as a new federal holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day. As such **banks will be closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>**.
  - ❖ **MENTAL HEALTH SPEAKER:** You may remember that Beth Beattie (who spoke at FOLA's May 2021 Plenary and who the LSO featured during their Mental Health for Legal Professionals Summit) has emailed FOLA to offer her services to any of our Law Associations who might like her to speak to your members. She noted that 68% of all attendees from the LSO's Mental Health Summit were from outside the GTA and many were sole practitioners or came from small firms - meaning that your members are likely interested in learning more. If you would like to invite Beth to speak to your organization, please email Katie ([katie.robinette@fol.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fol.ca)) with proposed times/dates and indicate the name of your Law Association and she will pass that information on to Beth.
  - ❖ **VOLUNTEER POSTING:** FOLA has an opening for a non-paid intern to serve as our Social Media Manager. Learn more [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@fol.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fol.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.