



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #31

October 21, 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

- ❖ On Friday, the SCJ issued a [Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding In-Person Operations in Newmarket](#) and a [Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding In-Person Operations in Toronto, Brampton and Ottawa](#). Both are hyperlinked.
- ❖ Both the SCJ and the OCJ wanted to remind lawyers making any submission online to ensure that a contact email and phone number (with extension) is included with their filing.
- ❖ The OCJ has temporarily closed their Guelph Criminal Courthouse operations due to an HVAC issue. Operations have temporarily been relocated to Kitchener.
- ❖ Courts and MAG are working to locate alternate locations for the Thunder Bay Courthouse as a result of the fire. One possible location is the Provincial Offenses Act (POA) Courthouse. Reminder that Practice Notices regarding Family Law Matters in T-Bay can be found [here](#) and Criminal Law Matters in T-Bay can be found [here](#).

2. MAG

- ❖ MAG continues to explore the creation of a centralized online hub for those looking for protocols and processes when planning a visit to a specific courthouse or needing to conduct matters with a specific Courthouse.
- ❖ MAG is also still exploring ways to disseminate Dockets in a more efficient, consistent, and timely matter and are currently meeting with staff about this.

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ Site-specific Courthouse HVAC data continues to be circulated to FOLA but in an effort reduce the volume of emails sent by FOLA, they are no longer being sent to librarians. If you would like to receive the most up to date HVAC Courthouse data, please email Katie at katie.robinette@folo.ca with HVAC in the subject line.
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse re-openings can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. LSO

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Convocation will be taking place tomorrow via ZOOM. If you would like to watch, you no longer need to register in advance. Simply access the link to the webcast on the morning of October 22nd on the October 2020 Convocation page: <https://lso.ca/about-lso/convocation>.

5. FOLA

- ❖ **SUBMISSIONS:**

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 FLSP 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. More information is available on our website [here](#).

BOARD VACANCIES:

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES OF HALTON (SAVIS OF HALTON): SAVIS of Halton is currently seeking members for its Board of Directors. SAVIS of Halton is the only sexual assault center in the Halton Region and have been serving the community since 1989. They strongly encourage people who are BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ and/or those with lived experiences to apply. If interested, please visit FOLA's [Jobs Page](#) for more information.

- ❖ **EVENTS:**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE WEEK: October 26-30

There are many FREE live virtual events including a FOLA/Law Society Co-Hosted Mental Health Panel on Oct 27 from noon-1pm (EST). Register for the Mental Health Panel [here](#) and you can learn more about #A2JWeek [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@folo.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.