



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### COVID-19 - WEEKLY CHECK IN LOG #62

June 16, 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

- ❖ **SCJ Civil: Toronto Region virtual civil trial scheduling court:** On Tuesday, June 21, 2021 at 9:30am, the Toronto Region will hold a virtual civil trial scheduling court. More information can be found in the notice on the Court's website [here](#).
- ❖ **SMALL CLAIMS LIVE WEBINAR:** The Small Claims Court Working Group will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 from 9:00-10:00am (EST) to provide an update on the recent changes in the Court. A copy of the webinar agenda is attached for your information. Members of the Working Group will discuss recent changes to court procedures and hearing processes including rule amendments and the use of the new Small Claims Court Submissions Online Portal. You will have an opportunity to submit questions in advance. If you have any questions that you wish to hear discussed at the webinar, please submit them to [SmCC.Webinar@Ontario.ca](mailto:SmCC.Webinar@Ontario.ca) by June 18th. FOLA will share login information as soon as that becomes available. It has not yet been decided if this will be recorded.
- ❖ The Court of Appeal has revamped their website! You can have a look [here](#).
- ❖ The Opening of the Courts is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon. It will be a virtual event and you can watch [here](#).

#### 2. MAG

- ❖ **PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS (Reminder):** On June 1<sup>st</sup>, MAG announced improvements to pre-authorized payment for Justice Services Online (JSO) that will make payment processing more convenient for filers and (ideally) provide a better online experience. You can read that announcement [here](#).
- ❖ **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN COURTS (Reminder):** On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Court Services Division issued a Notice to the Legal Profession & Public re: Inclusive Language and Procedures in Courts. You can read that [here](#).
- ❖ **SATELLITE COURTS/FLY INS:** MAG is finalizing details on the re-opening of Satellite/Fly-in locations (Hearst and Kapuskasing). Target re-opening date is on course for June 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### 3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).

#### 4. FOLA

- ❖ **SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS:**

**EXPERT EVIDENCE - CIVIL RULES:** The Chair of the Expert Evidence Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee emailed FOLA requesting comment on expert reports in civil matters. Following consultation with Law Association members, FOLA presented the Chair with our Submission on June 14<sup>th</sup>, which you can access [here](#).

**REBBA PHASE 2 REGULATIONS:** The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services has launched the second phase of regulation development (Phase 2). During this phase, the ministry is developing regulatory proposals to: a) Update the Code of Ethics regulation (the Code) under REBBA; b) Transfer procedural and technical requirements from the Code to other regulations; c) Enhance disclosure requirements and other registrant obligations to better protect consumers of real estate services and increase consumer choice; and d) Update RECO's regulatory powers and tools, including revising the procedures of RECO's discipline committee. Comments are due by July 2, 2021. More information can be found in our June 4<sup>th</sup> Real Estate Update [here](#).

- ❖ **CASELINES TRAINING:** CaseLines has announced a series of new dates for CaseLines training. You can view the dates/times and links [here](#). Expect more dates to be announced shortly.

## 5. LAWPRO

**FREE CPD:** On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, LAWPRO will host "[Working Together, Remotely - Managing and Leading Through COVID-19 and Beyond](#)", a FREE CPD event which will focus on a host of practice management issues lawyers and firms need to address given the current environment. It has been accredited for both professionalism content by the LSO and LAWPRO's Risk Management Credit.

## 6. LAO

- ❖ Legal Aid Ontario received 100 written submissions re: Draft Rules and are planning on posting a summary of submissions to their [Draft Rules/LASA website](#) once available.
- ❖ FOLA's Submission on the Draft Rules can be found [here](#). Also on that page are other Association Submissions, including the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid's Submission - on which FOLA collaborated.

## 7. LSO

- ❖ **MENTAL HEALTH STUDY (Reminder):** The Law Society of Ontario, in partnership with Canadian law societies, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the Canadian Bar Association, and the Université de Sherbrooke, has launched a first-of-its-kind National Study on the Well-being of legal professionals. FOLA is strongly requesting that all Law Association members complete this ASAP. Deadline is June 25<sup>th</sup>. You can find more information [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](mailto: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](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).