



## **COVID-19: PROVINCIAL COURT SUSPENDS IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS ACROSS THE PROVINCE**

Monday, April 26, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – Further to the [directive](#) issued last week, the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia is suspending in-person court proceedings in all areas of the province to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The suspension is effective immediately and will remain in place until at least May 21, 2021, except for Provincial Court in Wagmatcook First Nation, where the suspension will remain in place until at least May 28, 2021. The suspension of in-person proceedings will be re-evaluated at the end of those periods.

**Please note that during the suspension, Provincial Court judges in certain locations may require in-person attendance of local counsel for contested bail hearings. Counsel involved in contested proceedings should check with the judge presiding in that jurisdiction for direction.**

All other in-person appearances in the Provincial Courts that are currently scheduled from April 26 to May 21 will be adjourned and rescheduled. Court staff will be in touch with counsel in the coming days with further information.

Adjournments for Wagmatcook will be handled by telephone through the Provincial Court in Port Hawkesbury. If any counsel want to bring forward all their Wagmatcook Provincial Court matters on a particular date, they can do so only with advance notice to Judicial Assistant Christine Taylor at [Christine.taylor@courts.ns.ca](mailto:Christine.taylor@courts.ns.ca).

This directive does not affect scheduled or new Provincial Court matters that can be done remotely by telephone, videoconferencing or a combination of the two technologies. Those matters will proceed, unless the presiding judge orders otherwise.

### **Self-Represented Individuals**

If you are not in custody and you have a criminal court appearance in the Provincial Court between April 26 and May 21, you should not come to the courthouse. The Court will adjourn your matter without you needing to be present. Court staff will be in touch with you about rescheduling. You will be required to attend court in person on the new date you are provided.

Individuals in the Halifax Regional Municipality who do not have a lawyer are encouraged to contact duty counsel at Nova Scotia Legal Aid. You can apply online using the Legal Aid [Adjournment Request](#) form or call 902-420-7800.

For more information on the COVID-19 directives issued by the Provincial Court, please visit [https://www.courts.ns.ca/News\\_of\\_Courts/COVID19\\_Preventative\\_Measures.htm](https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm).

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Jennifer Stairs  
Communications Director  
Nova Scotia Judiciary  
Cell: 902-221-5257  
Email: [stairsjl@courts.ns.ca](mailto:stairsjl@courts.ns.ca)