



UPCOMING JURY TRIALS IN NOVA SCOTIA SUSPENDED

Friday, March 13, 2020 (Halifax, NS) – To help prevent against the spread of COV-19, the novel coronavirus, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court is suspending all upcoming jury trials in the province for a 60-day period.

The directive, issued this morning by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is effective immediately and applies to all jury trials that have not yet commenced in court. The Court will reevaluate the situation at the end of the 60 days.

“Earlier today, the province’s chief medical officer of health encouraged all individuals, employers and community organizations to limit gatherings to no more than 150 people to limit the spread of the coronavirus in Nova Scotia,” said Chief Justice Deborah K. Smith. “The Supreme Court is following suit and out of an abundance of caution, is suspending jury trials, as the selection process often requires hundreds of potential jurors to attend court at the same time.”

Members of the public who have received a jury summons requiring them to come to court for jury duty within the next 60 days, and who are not presently sitting on a case, are officially released from that summons.

Jurors presently participating in a jury trial, are required to report to court as usual. Anyone exhibiting signs of fever, cough or flu-like symptoms should contact the Court immediately to seek further instructions from the judge presiding over their case.

Additional information regarding jury selection is available by calling the Juror Information Line at 902-424-6400. Follow the directions on the voicemail for the appropriate information for your jury panel.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia. However, the Courts are putting plans in place to prepare for the likelihood that we’ll see confirmed cases in this province in the future.

In the meantime, anyone attending court or visiting a courthouse in the province is encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and follow the tips available at www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus/ to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

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