



NOTICE TO THE PARTIES AND THE PROFESSION

TO: Parties and the Profession

FROM: The Honourable Marc Noël,
Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal

DATE: March 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Update on Court operations in light of COVID-19

Since issuing a Notice to Parties and to the Profession with regard to Court operations in light of COVID-19 on Friday March 13, 2020, measures seeking to contain the spread of the virus have evolved significantly.

Public health officials have now advised members of the public to restrict their movements as much as possible, including travel to and from work. Court employees, like all employees of the federal government, have been asked to telework where possible and Court managers have been asked to focus their efforts on ensuring continued critical operations.

Accordingly, the Federal Court of Appeal is adjourning all hearings scheduled to be heard between now and April 17, 2020, with the exception of urgent matters that will be heard by teleconference. The Judicial Administrator will contact counsel and parties involved in matters thus adjourned for possible new dates when circumstances permit.

In the meantime, the Court will remain available to deal with urgent matters by teleconference.

Until further notice, Registry operations will continue with significantly reduced staff, both in Ottawa and in regional offices. Staff will be available to receive court filings at any of the Court's [registry offices](#) but parties and the public should expect a significantly decreased level of service.

Exceptionally and until April 13, 2020, the Court will accept electronic filing of court documents by email at Information@fca-caf.gc.ca provided that those documents are in PDF format. Please note that the Court is unable to accept electronic documents greater than 25MB. Parties that proceed in this way will be exempted from the filing of paper copies.

All filing deadlines continue to apply. Parties will be able to request an extension of time for deadlines set out in the *Federal Courts Act* or *Federal Courts Rules* if they are unable to meet the

filing deadlines in light of current circumstances but are asked to do so once Court operations return to normal.

The situation will continue to be monitored with a view to restoring normal Court operations as circumstances allow.

The Court appreciates the patience and understanding of parties and their counsel during these challenging times.

“Marc Noël”

Chief Justice,
Federal Court of Appeal