

**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: June 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Modes of hearing

The Court expects to return to in-person hearings beginning in September 2022, assuming that public health conditions continue to improve. In-person hearings will once again become the default option.

Where a requisition for hearing has already been filed: The Court will abide by the hearing mode requested. If parties previously requested a virtual hearing and now wish to appear in person, they should advise the Judicial Administrator as soon as possible.

Where a requisition has not yet been filed: Requests for fully virtual and hybrid hearings (when a party appears in person and another appears remotely) will continue to be considered by the Court on a case-by-case basis. The Court will, of course, revert back to these modes of hearing should sanitary conditions deteriorate.

Public access to hearings: The Court will take steps to re-open the public gallery but will also continue to enable the public to view hearings remotely where the technology is in place to allow for this. The public may consult the notice on [Public and media access to hearings](#) for more detail.

Lastly, an updated guide on COVID-19 safety measures has been posted on the Court's website. Limits that had been placed on courtroom capacity have been lifted as part of the easing of COVID restrictions. The ongoing evaluation of sanitary conditions may cause further revision. You are invited to consult the following updated document on the Federal Court of Appeal's website: [COVID-19: Safety Measures - Guidelines for Safe Court Facilities and Courtrooms operations during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

“Marc Noël”

Chief Justice
Federal Court of Appeal