



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Date Issued: *17 July 2020*

Effective Date: *17 July 2020*

Updates 29 July 2020 (New additions in red)

NP 23

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC CIRCUIT COURT SITTINGS DURING COVID-19

Purpose

The BC Provincial Court sits in many court locations in the province. Currently, we are working with government and in some cases, local communities, to have the consultant that government has retained view the circuit courts and make recommendations about what steps need to be taken to make those courts safe and accessible to members of the public.

Once the consultant has viewed those court locations, we will work with government to implement the recommended changes so that existing matters can be heard in those locations in a timely way. In some locations this work has been completed and in-person hearings are noted below.

To reduce the number of people attending circuit court, counsel attendance at court should be limited to appearing on a matter scheduled in court where something substantive is happening. Counsel must endeavor to avoid unnecessary personal attendances of the accused or counsel at the courthouse wherever possible. Please refer to “Alternatives to in-person appearance” in [CRIM 13 Practice Direction: Initial Appearance Court During COVID-19](#) and [Notice to the Profession and Public COVID 19: Resumption of Court Operations](#).

In other locations when the circuit courts have been modified to address COVID related concerns, including ensuring that physical distancing can be maintained, they will be opened and scheduled matters will proceed. Until these circuit courts have been re-opened, matters on the circuit court list locations will be heard on the day they are scheduled by audioconference. Either the audioconference information or the contact information for the Registry to obtain call in details is listed beside each Court location.

Counsel are encouraged to use the [Consent Requisition](#) or [Consent Arraignment](#) forms to have files removed from the list prior to the scheduled court date if nothing substantive will occur on that date. We have attached a list below of the Judicial Case Managers and the circuit courts they are responsible for scheduling.

If you require legal assistance with your matter, you may contact Legal Aid at 1-866-577-2525.

Notice

1. ADJOURNED MATTERS

Matters currently scheduled in Creston, Fernie, Invermere and New Aiyansh for the dates in the table immediately below are adjourned until the “adjourned to” date without the parties having to attend Court. A party or counsel may contact the Judicial Case Manager at the applicable court location prior to the “adjourned to” date and arrange to have the Court determine, by telephone, whether the matter is urgent.

COURT LOCATION	IF YOUR MATTER WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR ...	YOUR MATTER IS ADJOURNED TO ...
Creston	July 9, 2020	August 7, 2020
Fernie	July 23, 2020	September 1, 2020
Invermere	July 7, 2020	July 27, 2020
New Aiyansh	July 6, 2020	September 14, 2020

2. MATTERS SCHEDULED

Matters currently scheduled on the dates and in the locations set out below will be heard on the day they were originally scheduled either in-person or, alternatively, by audioconference.

REGION	COURT LOCATION	DATE MATTERS SCHEDULED	JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER CONTACT	YOUR MATTER WILL BE HEARD ...	IF YOUR MATTER WILL BE HEARD BY <u>AUDIO CONFERENCE</u> PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT REGISTRY FOR DIAL IN INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED DATE (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW)
Northern	100 Mile House	August 4, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provinciacourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable

Northern	Fort St. James	July 29-31, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable
Northern	Hazelton	August 4, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable
Northern	Kitimat	August 7 and September 1-4 and 16-18, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable
Northern	Valemount	August 6, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable

Northern	Vanderhoof	August 4, 2020	PG.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca	In person	Not applicable
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If your court location (and date matter scheduled) is not listed in the table immediately above, you will be required to contact the scheduling contact noted below for your location (by email or telephone) **on the date you were originally scheduled to attend Court** in order to set your next appearance date.

AREA	COURT LOCATION	SCHEDULING CONTACT
Campbell River	Campbell River (staffed)	CampbellRiver.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca
	Gold River (circuit)	250-286-7556 (Mon and Tue) 250-334-1237 (Wed, Thu, and Fri)
Cariboo	Quesnel (staffed)	Cariboo.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca
	Williams Lake (staffed)	250-398-4377
	100 Mile House (circuit)	
	Anahim Lake (circuit)	
Courtenay	Courtenay (staffed)	Courtenay.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca
		250-286-7556 (Mon and Tue) 250-334-1237 (Wed, Thu, and Fri)
Duncan	Ganges (circuit)	Dun.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca
		250-746-1201
Kamloops	Clearwater (circuit)	Kamloops.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca
	Lillooet (circuit)	250-828-4086
	Merritt (circuit)	

East Kootenays	Cranbrook (staffed)	EKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-426-1354
	Golden (staffed)	
	Creston (circuit)	
	Fernie (circuit)	
	Invermere (circuit)	
	Sparwood (circuit)	
West Kootenays	Nelson (staffed)	WKootenays.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-354-6870
	Rossland (staffed)	
	Castlegar (circuit)	
	Grand Forks (circuit)	
	Nakusp (circuit)	
North Vancouver	Pemberton (circuit)	NVan.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 604-981-0293
OCJ	Atlin	LChung@provincialcourt.bc.ca
	Good Hope Lake	
	Lower Post	
	Bella Bella	Vanessa.Fong@gov.bc.ca 236-468-3628
	Bella Coola	
	Klemtu	DKrenz@provincialcourt.bc.ca
	Kwadacha	
	Tsay Keh Dene	
Peace District	Chetwynd (circuit)	Peace.District.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-787-3416
	Tumbler Ridge (circuit)	
Penticton	Princeton (circuit)	Penticton.Scheduling@provincialcourt.bc.ca 250-492-1298

THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND ANY UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

History of Notice to the Profession and Public

- Original Notice to the Profession and Public issued on July 17, 2020. This Notice includes information from the [Circuit Courts - Update – July 3, 2020](#).
- ☒ [Updates to locations and manner of hearing July 29, 2020.](#)

By Direction of Chief Judge Melissa Gillespie
Provincial Court of British Columbia