

PRAIRIE REGION: COVID-19 UPDATE

Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba

The background features a dark gray field with a pattern of fine, concentric circles that create a subtle ripple effect. At the bottom, there is a bright green gradient that transitions from a lighter shade on the left to a darker shade on the right, separated from the rest of the image by a white, jagged, torn-paper-like line.

ALBERTA

PRESENT STATUS

▮ Access restricted to all courthouses

- ▮ counsel, litigants, accused, witnesses, support workers, support persons, interpreters, persons filing documents and members of the *accredited* media

▮ Court of Appeal

- ▮ All proceedings via Webex
- ▮ No public access to hearings
- ▮ Counsel , self-reps and accredited media may participate in electronic hearings
- ▮ Case materials can be sent electronically

PRESENT STATUS

▮ Court of Queen's Bench

- ▮ Emergency and urgent matters only until June 26, 2020 May be heard - non-exhaustive list set out here Appendix D to

[Master Order 3](#)

▮ Criminal

- ▮ Summary dispositions heard by Webex
- ▮ All out of custody criminal matters adjourned to June 26
- ▮ In custody matters to proceed with accused via CCTV
- ▮ Jury trials suspended to September 7
- ▮ Short criminal trials may be heard by Webex with consent of crown/defence

▮ Civil

- ▮ All matters set until June 26 are adjourned sine die
- ▮ Daily announcements with increased electronic hearing capacity
- ▮ Webex regular chambers
- ▮ Some civil applications may now proceed by way of desk application

PRESENT STATUS

▮ Provincial Court

▮ Staged Resumption of Court Operations (applicable May 25- July 3)

▮ Civil

- ▮ No in person appearances
- ▮ Pre trial conferences to proceed by telephone or videoconference only
- ▮ Trials will be case managed to determine trial readiness, suitability for trial by telephone or videoconference
- ▮ Urgent and non urgent applications to be heard by telephone

▮ Criminal

- ▮ Docket for in custody matters only- by teleconference or videoconference
- ▮ In custody matters to continue as scheduled in person
- ▮ Out of custody matters including guilty pleas to be heard in person, except trials are adjourned (urgent trials to proceed with leave)
- ▮ Any matter set for pre-trial conference or preliminary inquiry will proceed as schedule

ACCESS

- ▮ Court of Appeal
 - ▮ Hearing schedule online
 - ▮ No public access to hearings
 - ▮ Counsel , self-reps and accredited media may participate in electronic hearings
 - ▮ Case materials can be sent electronically

- ▮ Queen's Bench
 - ▮ Communications liaison can provide hearing lists
 - ▮ Circulates a weekly high profile list to members of media
 - ▮ Accredited media may attend webex proceedings
 - ▮ Some difficulty with exhibits

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SASKATCHEWAN

PRESENT STATUS

▮ Court of Appeal

- ▮ Full hearing schedule on Webex

▮ Court of Queen's Bench

- ▮ Telephone chambers in June
- ▮ Non-jury trials to proceed with leave of judge
- ▮ Pre-trial settlement conferences scheduled. Heard by phone, can request in person

▮ Provincial Court

- ▮ In-custody criminal trials, preliminary inquiries, sentencings, and bail hearings are proceeding;
- ▮ Bail/sentencing hearings for in-custody accused will proceed by telephone and/or video;
- ▮ Out of custody criminal trials can now be rescheduled;
- ▮ Counsel case management is to occur on the phone;
- ▮ Small claims trials can now be rescheduled and occur in person.

ACCESS

- ▮ Obtain docket from the registrar
- ▮ Court of Appeal
- ▮ registrar will send Webex link for hearing on request
- ▮ Media can attend Queen's Bench and Provincial Court proceedings in person or request audio recording of proceeding
 - ▮ Media must sign undertaking
- ▮ File access
 - ▮ Can request in person – view and make copies of court files and exhibits
 - ▮ Audio recordings can be sent electronically
- ▮ Applications to restrict access
 - ▮ Notice requirement remains in effect. No challenges during pandemic to date

MANITOBA

PRESENT STATUS

- ▮ Court of Appeal
- ▮ All hearings heard by videoconferencing or teleconferencing
- ▮ Court of Queen's Bench
 - ▮ Non-jury Trials resumed on May 26, jury trials suspended until June 30
 - ▮ Most non-trial judicial service held by videoconference or teleconference
 - ▮ Court is at close to 100% capacity
- ▮ Provincial Court
 - ▮ Staged reopening to begin June 1
 - ▮ Court open for all matters
 - ▮ Many matters heard in person, some by teleconference/videoconference

ACCESS

- ▮ Courthouses closed to public, only persons necessary to proceedings (including media) can attend
- ▮ Not clear if media can access video/teleconference or only attend in person even where those proceedings are by video/teleconference
- ▮ In person media file/exhibit requests