



## **DIRECTIONS FOR RE-SCHEDULING 2020 CIVIL TRIALS**

This notice is directed to parties with civil trials scheduled to proceed in Ottawa in 2020.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Superior Court in Ottawa will resume hearing civil trials using remote technology. Virtual trials will allow a great number of cases to proceed, and we are hopeful that this will allow for the resolution of most matters set for trial in 2020 within the next six to twelve months.

For the time being, in-person hearings in civil matters will be exceptional. As a result of the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis and the small number of courtrooms that will be available during the phased re-opening of courthouses, civil jury trials will not proceed in Ottawa until January 2021 at the earliest.

***If you had a civil trial set between March and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 that has already been adjourned, or if you have a civil trial scheduled for hearing between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 18, 2020, please read these directions carefully so that you can either obtain a new trial date for a virtual hearing or other court services that may assist you in resolving the case.***

Parties to any trial set to commence in Ottawa in 2020 are being contacted by the case management office so that a case management conference can be convened. A case conference will be obligatory unless the parties indicate that the matter has been settled.

At the case conference, the parties will be asked to provide a brief overview of the case and its status and to advise:

- If a jury notice was served, whether the parties agree that the trial could proceed with a judge alone;
- Whether a pre-trial conference or motion could lead to the complete or partial resolution of the case;
- If there is any practical impediment to a virtual trial; and

- The availability of the parties, counsel and witnesses for a hearing as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

If the judge at the case conference determines that the case may proceed to a virtual trial, the parties will be given a new trial date. They may in the alternative may be directed to a pre-trial conference or further case management.

***Parties do not need to arrange for a case conference prior to be contacted by the case management office. They must however confer with each other, as soon as possible, with respect to the issues that will be addressed at the conference.***

Justice Sally Gomery  
Local Administrative Judge, Civil, Ottawa