



## **COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH FOR SASKATCHEWAN DIRECTIVE UPDATE**

As of December 21, 2020

The Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan is committed to taking the steps necessary to safeguard the health of everyone in our courtrooms and court facilities while ensuring access to justice, upholding the rule of law, and continuing court operations as effectively and efficiently as possible.

As such, in response to the most recent information available concerning the public health risks posed by COVID-19, the Court of Queen's Bench has issued this Directive respecting its operations. This Directive applies to all Court of Queen's Bench judicial centres throughout the province.

The Court will continue to monitor the situation related to COVID-19 and will update the Court's Directives from time to time.

### **Effective Date**

This Directive takes effect immediately.

### **Postponement of Jury Trials**

All jury trials scheduled to commence between January 1 and March 31, 2021 will be postponed. Any person who has been summoned for jury duty for a matter scheduled between January 1 and March 31, 2021 is not to attend.

Unless otherwise directed by the Justice assigned to the trial, the adjournment of the jury trials postponed as a consequence of this Directive will be spoken to in Court or by video or audio conference on the date the matter was originally set for trial.

For the criminal cases affected, arrangements may be made for a re-election to trial by judge alone. If the accused wishes to proceed on that basis, the trial may proceed during the scheduled time period (if there is no other bar to the matter so proceeding). If there is no re-election, the trial will be adjourned to a date after March 31, 2021. The Court will grant rescheduling priority to those cases that are adjourned.

**This Directive updates—but does not replace—the August 31 and November 19, 2020 Directives**

This Directive updates the August 31, 2020 Directive, as well as the November 19, 2020 Directive (which postponed jury trials scheduled between November 20 and December 31, 2020). Except for the changes outlined in this Directive, all other provisions of those Directives remain in full force and effect.

Chief Justice M. D. Popescul