



COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH FOR SASKATCHEWAN DIRECTIVE UPDATE

As of November 19, 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, Chief Justice M. D. Popescul has issued this Directive respecting Court of Queen's Bench 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 November 20, 2020 and December 31, 2020 will be postponed. Any person who has been summoned for jury duty for a matter scheduled between November 20, 2020 and December 31, 2020 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 December 31, 2020. The Court will grant rescheduling priority to those cases that are adjourned.

This Directive updates—but does not replace—the August 31, 2020 Directive

This Directive updates the Directive issued on August 31, 2020. Except for the changes outlined in this Directive, all other provisions of the August 31, 2020 Directive remain in full force and effect.

Chief Justice M. D. Popescul