



**Provincial Court of Saskatchewan
Update for Court Users and the Public**

January 8, 2021

This update replaces our update of December 9, 2020. The suspension of most trials, preliminary inquiries, and in-person hearings is extended to February 16, 2021.

In response to the increased incidence of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan and guidance from the Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO), the Provincial Court is continuing to suspend most trials, preliminary inquiries, and in-person hearings to February 16, 2021.

The CMHO has advised against unnecessary travel outside of home communities and reduced the maximum gathering limits. It has also increased the recommendation for distancing, where physical barriers are not present in courtrooms, to three metres.

Where the Court has contact information, it will contact parties in advance of the trial date. At that time any party to a proceeding may apply to have a matter proceed and a judge will decide whether or not it will. In order for the matter to proceed the Court must be satisfied the trial can safely be held within the CMHO guidelines. Judges may conduct Trial Management Conferences to decide if a matter can safely be held. If parties are not ready, or if they fail to attend the Trial Management Conference the presiding judge may cancel the date set and schedule another time when the matter is to be dealt with.

The Court continues to encourage lawyers and accused persons to appear by phone. Arrangements can be made via the local court office.

Circuit point dockets will proceed but will be conducted by phone from the permanent court location. In most instances Court parties will not travel to the communities.

The Provincial Court is committed to maintaining access to its critical services, while ensuring the safety of all those who work in court facilities and the public who attend.

Chief Judge J.A. Plemel