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NOTICE



ᑕᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ To: Justice Stakeholders

ᑕᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ From: NCJ Chambers

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ᑕᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ Date: 1/5/2022

ᑕᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ Re: **Nunavut Court of Justice Operational Update in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak in Nunavut**

Suspension of Regular Operations

The Nunavut Court of Justice (“NCJ”) has suspended regular operations, effective immediately, due to the on-going public health crisis in Nunavut.

Cancellation of Criminal Dockets and Circuits Through to February 7, 2022

The suspension of regular operations has resulted in the immediate cancellation of all docketed criminal court sittings in Iqaluit, special criminal sittings in communities outside of Iqaluit, and circuit sittings Territory wide through to February 7, 2022.

Emergency Closure Orders are being issued for Iqaluit and communities with circuits that were scheduled to take place between the weeks of January 10 and February 7, 2022.

Adjournments – New Dates

Matters impacted by the suspension of operations between January 5 and February 7, 2022 are adjourned as follows:

- All circuit matters are adjourned to the next regularly scheduled circuit in the impacted communities.
- Out-of-custody Iqaluit criminal matters are adjourned to the next Iqaluit docket on February 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- In-custody Iqaluit matters are adjourned to February 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- Matters docketed in Justice of the Peace Court are adjourned to February 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- Trials that were set to be heard in Justice of the Peace Court are adjourned to February 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. to set a new trial date.
- All matters set to the January 31 and February 1 Kivalliq and Kitikmeot dockets are adjourned to the February 28 and March 1 dockets respectively.
- All municipal court matters are adjourned to February 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Exceptions

i. Criminal Matters

The NCJ remains open to hear, on a solely remote basis via video or audio conference, criminal matters counsel or litigants wish to bring forward to be adjudicated. Counsel may bring forward matters by filing a Form 10(b) electronically with ncj.criminal@gov.nu.ca. Counsel are asked to file Form 10(b)s at least two days before a requested hearing date. Counsel are also asked to advise the Registry at the time of the 10(b) filing of any interpretation needs.

Bail hearings for both Iqaluit and communities outside of Iqaluit will take place Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. eastern time. After hours on-call bail hearings will continue with their procedure uninterrupted. Section 525 detention reviews will proceed as docketed on February 2, 2022.

Pre-trial and case management conferences are also able to be scheduled and proceed during the suspension of regular operations. Pre-trial and case management conferences previously scheduled will proceed as scheduled.

ii. Civil Matters

All civil matters scheduled between now and February 7, 2022 in Iqaluit will proceed as docketed. All matters will be heard via video or audio conference. Please contact ncj.civil@gov.nu.ca for remote hearing connection information.

Any child welfare (CHW) matter that was docketed to a circuit appearance between January 10, 2022 and February 7, 2022 will be rescheduled to an Iqaluit hearing date on either January 20 or February 17, 2022. Any non-CHW civil matter impacted by a circuit cancellation will be adjourned to the next regularly scheduled circuit.

Pre-trial and case management conferences are also able to be scheduled and proceed during the suspension of regular operations. Pre-trial and case management conferences previously scheduled will proceed as scheduled.

Access to Court Records

Due to the current government closure and court staff working remotely, records requests will not be able to be completed within the ordinary 5 business day period. Requests will be administered as resources permit through February 7, 2022. The Court thanks requesters for their patience.

(Acting) Chief Justice S. Cooper