

**COVID-19 – Newsletter, March 25, 2020**

Dear colleagues,

- 1) **ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES:** Many of you have requested a summary of the economic measures that relate specifically to the new reality of law firms. You will find it [here](#).

Like the vast majority of Quebecers, you are worried about your jobs and are concerned with the economic uncertainty that we are facing. A vast majority of law practices have a similar structure to small businesses. Know that you will not be overlooked. We are in constant communication with government authorities in order to determine how the proposed measures will apply to your situation.

I repeat: nothing is perfect, but we will work together and we will get through this crisis.

- 2) **ESSENTIAL SERVICES:** In response to the inundation of questions yesterday, we are aware that the term «legal services» was not initially categorized correctly in the list of essentials services. The list has since been updated and you can now find [«legal services» under Government Services and other Priority Activities](#)

We reiterate that private practices are considered «essential services». However, we strongly suggest working remotely and, insofar as possible, meeting your clients remotely. Alternatively, keep a safe distance between all parties present. Remember, your health and the health of your loved ones you is the number one priority. We cannot be clearer on this issue.

- 3) **VIRTUAL TRIALS:** The Quebec Department of Justice is making progress and we thank them for their quick response. Several solutions are being considered in order to facilitate virtual trials in the weeks to come. More details are to come but at this time the use of Microsoft Teams solutions is being strongly considered.

We are well aware that some of you are apprehensive about the use of these technological solutions and that training may therefore be required. We are working to find practical solutions with our partners.

- 4) **FAMILY MATTERS:** We took note of some of the Prime Minister's comments yesterday and are working to clarify the situation with the Department of Justice. Follow the [link COVID-19](#) on the Barreau website; we will update the information there as soon as we receive it. Once again,

judgments do apply - that said, we are in an extraordinary situation that requires the skill and good judgment of all.

- 5) ÉCOLE DU BARREAU: we are in contact with the student associations in order to answer their question and address their concerns. I understand and empathize with their preoccupations.

Please note that no newsletter will be published tomorrow. We will get back to you on Friday March 27, 2020.

For all practice court updates, please consult our continuously updated website, [HERE](#).

Do not hesitate to join our Facebook group «Avocates et avocats du Québec - Groupe d'entraide - COVID19».

For any questions email: [covid19@barreau.qc.ca](mailto:covid19@barreau.qc.ca)

Best regards,

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