

COVID-19 – Newsletter, March 16, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Several courts and administrative tribunals have released detailed notices on procedures to follow: The notices are [available here](#).

1) The position of the Barreau continues to remain the same since the outset of the pandemic: judicial activities must be restricted to only that which is necessary.

2) We wish to announce immediately that the delay to pay your bar fees for the next period of membership has been extended to June 1st, 2020. We are fully aware that this measure will be insufficient in the medium term - we simply wanted to make ensure at this point that nobody suffers financial duress in the short-term as a result of the payment of bar fees.

We are aware that the necessary government restrictions will have a direct impact on your practice and on your personal lives as well.

3) It comes as no surprise that we received a phenomenal response with respect to our call for volunteers to participate in our special legal clinic. I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your willingness to share your expertise with the public on a pro bono basis. You can continue to express your interest in participating by writing to us at cliniquecovid19@barreau.qc.ca. Our goal is to have the foundation laid for the service today in order to ensure that it is launched quickly.

4) We are creating a Facebook group for lawyers so that we can support one another during these times. We will not have time to manage the group – we will simply create it. We will send you the name of the group in tomorrow's notice. We have already been witness to wonderful examples of solidarity. In fact, we would be appreciative if those of you who are more familiar with Facebook could help your colleagues who are less proficient to create a profile so that they can benefit from the group as well.

For any questions please continue to write to: covid19@barreau.qc.ca to which we will devote all the time necessary. Our answers will be imperfect, but there will be answers none the less.

There is no hiding it, the coming days and weeks will not be easy for the public nor for lawyers.

But we will prevail together.

Paul-Matthieu Grondin
Bâtonnier du Québec