

COVID-19 – Newsletter, April 23, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Hello to you all,

I hope that this finds you all well. I wish to start out this morning to thank all the citizens who are working on the frontlines daily to ensure our health and safety. The elderly population and their family members are also in our thoughts. We wish them courage and resilience as they face this extremely difficult and distressing situation.

Here are some developments :

1) EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION WILL BE OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE: The continuing education trainings offered via Webpro will continue to be offered free of charge until May 31, 2020. This is clearly part of our mission. To date, more than 54,000 hours of training have been viewed free of charge by more than 8,800 lawyers. I salute your willingness to continue to update your knowledge despite the present difficulties we all face. Free training is available [HERE](#).

2) ANNUAL BAR FEES : We are extending the payment date to September 1, 2020. There is nothing to be done on your part in order to take advantage of this deferral. It will be extended automatically for those who chose to pay their fees in one or two instalments or by automatic monthly payments beginning June 1, 2020. That said, the majority of members have already paid their fees in full. However, we are currently analyzing different options to help those who may have more difficulty fulfilling this obligation in the long term. Deferring the payments to September 1, 2020 will give us the time needed to better analyze the impact of the isolation measures in an effort to propose viable solutions.

3) VIRTUAL TRIALS : As expected, a number of courts of law and administrative tribunals have begun their shift toward digital functionality. This should continue. Rest assured that we will always publish information from the courts regarding developments in the way they are proceeding [HERE](#).

4) RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE COURT ACTIVITY: Several members have asked when face-to-face court activity will resume. Honestly, we do not have an answer at this point. As in all areas, plans to gradually reopen are being made. A priori, the physical return to the courts, in compliance with all necessary public health measures, should not pose an insurmountable problem. Rest assured that all implicated bodies are working very hard to come up with solutions that prioritize the health of all.

For all information regarding practice court, please follow the developments [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

Kind regards,

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