

Newsletter, December 16, 2020

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are doing well.

Following the measures announced yesterday concerning, amongst other things, the closure of certain “non-essential businesses”, we have contacted the government in order to obtain more information regarding attorneys working remotely during the period of December 17 2020 to January 10th 2021.

Since the decree regarding this information has not yet been published, it is possible that we will send you modified instructions later today or tomorrow. However, as the day progresses and tomorrow is December 17, we felt it was important to inform you of the current situation.

Here are the details:

- 1) the courts will maintain all of their activities during the period December 17, 2020 to January 10, 2021 inclusively;
- 2) Employees and lawyers will continue to have access to their offices throughout the holiday season, including from December 17, 2020 to January 10, 2021 inclusive;
- 3) It will be mandatory to work remotely from December 17, 2020 to January 10, 2021 inclusively for all individuals working in law firms;
- 4) HOWEVER, if you deem it necessary to continue your activities, from December 17, 2020 to January 10, 2021, inclusively, law firm employees and lawyers may be present at their workplace;
- 5) as it has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, we strongly recommend that you meet with your clients remotely and continue to work remotely as much as possible.

We rely on your good judgment.

We know that - despite everything! - some of you will have young children at home during this time and court hearings will continue; therefore, we will ask the court to be understanding of the present exceptional situation.

Yours truly,

Paul-Matthieu Grondin
Bâtonnier du Québec