



We continue to learn more about the risks of COVID-19 and its impact on Prince Edward Island and throughout Canada. The Prince Edward Island courts are monitoring and following the directives and recommendations of the Public Health Office and operating with enhanced vigilance.

The Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, and the Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island are still open and matters before the court are still proceeding. However, the courts have taken a number of steps to ensure risks relating to COVID-19 are reduced, including:

- Enhancing and increasing the cleaning standards in court facilities to ensure judges and court staff, counsel, parties, witnesses, justice system participants, and members of the public are protected, including increasing the frequency of sanitation of high touch surfaces in our facilities including door handles, public counters, etc.;
- Individuals seeking to attend at court facilities should engage in ongoing monitoring of public health directives and recommendations by visiting <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/alert/advisory-coronavirus-infection>;
- Individuals with matters scheduled before the court who are experiencing health issues should contact counsel or, if they do not have counsel, contact court staff to seek direction **prior to attending court facilities**;
- Individuals with matters scheduled before the court who are subject to a public health self-isolation directive must contact counsel or, if they do not have counsel, contact the court **PRIOR** to their scheduled court appearance, and should not attend court facilities;
- Members of the public who are subject to public health directives and recommendations for self-isolation should avoid attending court.

Fortunately, there are no jury trials scheduled over the coming weeks. The Prince Edward Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island are exploring options for remote appearances and filing of documents.

While we wish to maintain the principle of open courts, given the current public health risks, persons who do not have matters before the court but wish to attend as a member of the public should ensure they put public safety first by following public health directives and recommendations and minimize their attendance at court.

Individuals who wish to contact the court about appearances impacted by public health directives and recommendations **who do not have Counsel**, should contact the following:

Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal: 902-368-6024

Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island: 902-368-6023

Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island: 902-368-6693

The courts are assessing the situation in Prince Edward Island on a day-to-day basis and will further update as necessary to maintain both confidence in public health and safety and in court operations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kerrilee MacConnell".

Kerrilee MacConnell
Court Services Manager