

## COVID-19: SUSPENSION OF REGULAR COURT OPERATIONS

### **March 26, 2020 UPDATE**

#### **Adrienne Atherton**

On March 26, 2020, the Province ordered that, for the duration of the provincial State of Emergency, every mandatory limitation period and any other mandatory time period that is established in an enactment or law of British Columbia within which a civil or family action, proceeding, claim or appeal must be commenced in the Provincial Court, Supreme Court or Court of Appeal is suspended.

In addition, a person, tribunal or other body that has a statutory power of decision may waive, suspend or extend a mandatory time period relating to the exercise of that power.

The order can be found here [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/mo/mo/2020\\_m086](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/mo/mo/2020_m086)

#### **Provincial Court of BC Suspends Operations**

The Provincial Court of BC announced on March 19, 2020 that, effective March 25, 2020, regular operations of the Provincial Court will be suspended at all locations. For the limited operations the Court will be performing, they will generally take place at a designated regional Hub Court location, rather than the local Court location (if it is different).

The Court will only hear urgent matters, such as family matters relating to parenting time and the safety and well-being of children. For small claims, urgent matters include outstanding warrants, preserving limitation periods, extending the time for filing pleadings where permitted under the rules, and renewing notices of claim. In person filings at all Court locations are suspended and no new non-urgent family or small claims filings will be accepted by the Court registries between March 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020.

Traffic, ticket or bylaw matters scheduled from March 18 to May 4, 2020 are adjourned without having to attend Court and will be rescheduled to a later date. A notice of a new Court date will be sent to the disputant by mail to the address on file with the Court. To dispute a violation ticket, the disputant has the option to download a form and mail it in to: Ticket Dispute Processing Bag 3510 Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P7.

There has been no word yet that limitation periods are suspended, and so limitation dates continue to apply.

Further information and updates can be found here:

<https://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/downloads/Practice%20Directions/NP%2019%20COVID-19%20Suspension%20of%20Regular%20Court%20Operations.pdf>

#### **March, 2020**

#### **Nicholas Krishan, articled student**

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#### **Nicholas Krishan, Articled Student**

Nicholas joined Civic Legal LLP after completing his J.D. from the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. During law school, he served as the Director of Operations for the Law Students' Legal Advice Program, where he organized with community leaders to provide legal services to low-income individuals. Nicholas also volunteered with Pro Bono Students Canada and Legal Education Outreach, and has completed the Business Law Concentration.

Prior to enrolling in law school, Nicholas worked as a Recruitment Coordinator at an international company and completed a B.Com. specialized in finance from the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia.

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