

Notice to the profession from the Law Society of BC

COVID-19 update: May 8, 2020

BC's Restart Plan released by province

Premier John Horgan and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry have unveiled the province's COVID-19 recovery plan that takes a phased approach for a gradual and safe re-opening of businesses, services and office workplaces. The plan includes continuation of physical distancing, hand-washing and other public health measures, as well as the introduction of new measures such as physical barriers and personal protective equipment in workplaces. For more information about the next phases, including links to public health and safety and WorkSafeBC guidelines, read the full [BC Restart Plan](#).

Reminder: virtual town hall on Tuesday, May 12 – 12:30 to 1:30 pm

As part of our effort to provide you with timely information, the Law Society is holding a virtual town hall with President Craig Ferris, QC, who will provide an update on the Law Society's pandemic response and recovery plans and take questions along with Don Avison, QC, Executive Director and CEO. You can take part in the town hall by [livestream](#) or dial-in details provided when you [register here](#).

Free, online trust accounting courses

In order to assist you with fulfilling CPD requirements during this challenging time, the Law Society is offering three webinars for lawyers and law firm staff members to educate and refresh participants on the Law Society's trust accounting requirements. The courses will be provided over three consecutive Wednesdays, with the first one offered on May 13, 2020. For course details and to register for a course, visit [Basics of Trust Accounting](#), [Basics of Anti-Money Laundering](#) and [Regulatory Requirements](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Trust Assurance department at trustaccounting@lsbc.org.

Extension of deadline for second instalment of indemnity fees

To assist lawyers during this difficult time, the deadline for the second instalment of indemnity fees has been extended to August 31. Invoices will begin to be sent out around mid to late July.

Reminder to beat the rush: file Notices of Civil Claim using Court Services Online

While statutory limitations for commencing civil or family actions are still suspended, you are encouraged to file Notices of Civil Claim using [Court Services Online](#). With the province taking steps toward a gradual re-opening of businesses and services, eventually the suspension will be lifted. Avoid the risk of missing a limitation date or the long line-ups at court registries that may occur once the suspension is lifted.

Provincial Court guidelines for audio and videoconference proceedings

The Provincial Court has issued a [notice](#) with guidelines and a step-by-step guide on appearing in hearings or case conferences conducted by audioconference or videoconference.