



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bar Associations and Legal Organizations

FROM: Chief Justice Geoffrey B. Morawetz

DATE: December 14, 2022

RE: Virtual Trial Sitzings for Civil, Non-Jury Cases

The Superior Court of Justice Regional Senior Judges Council (“RSJ Council”) is commencing an initiative to address the backlog of civil trials that developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to provide timely access to justice in civil cases, RSJ Council has resolved to schedule two, four-week long virtual trial sittings for civil, non-jury cases. Judicial resources from across the province will be pooled to provide pre-trial and trial dates.

The first sitting will target cases in Southwest Region. Cases will be selected based on age and likelihood of being scheduled for trial within a reasonable amount of time. During the second sitting, cases from all regions will be considered for inclusion based on the same criteria.

Key points:

- Two, four-week long trial sittings will be held on the following dates:
 - November 14, 2023 to December 8, 2023
 - April 1, 2024 to April 26, 2024
- Civil, non-jury trials will be scheduled
- Both pre-trial conferences and trials will be held virtually
- Use of CaseLines will be mandatory

In the coming weeks, parties will begin receiving pre-trial and trial dates. In cases selected, counsel and witnesses must make themselves available all day, every weekday during the sitting to ensure the efficient use of the Court’s time.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the success of this important initiative.

GBM