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Nunavut Apighuiyin Maligaliungnikkun
Nunavut Court of Justice
Cour de justice du Nunavut

Notice to Litigants, Public Prosecution Service of Canada,
Legal Services Board, Correctional Institutions, Witnesses,
Jurors, Public, and the Media Regarding Criminal and Civil
Operations in the Nunavut Court of Justice

NUNAVUT COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATE

April 22, 2021

The Nunavut Court of Justice (NCJ) suspended regular operations via an Emergency Closure Order (ECO) on Thursday, April 15, 2021. The suspension resulted from the Chief Public Health Officer's advisement on April 14 that an individual in Iqaluit had tested positive for COVID-19. The ECO lapsed at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. The decision to suspend operations was made to immediately protect the health and safety of community members, court users, and staff while the Court awaited further information on the public health crisis.

The week of April 19, 2021 was scheduled in the NCJ as a non-criminal sitting week. The NCJ regularly facilitates remote appearances on the Civil, Public Guardian, and Child Welfare dockets and a determination was made to have the ECO lapse to allow the Court to proceed with these three dockets. All dockets were administered on a remote basis.

Peace bond and Municipal court appearances before Justices of the Peace, respectively scheduled for April 19 and 21, were adjourned for two weeks. Justice of the Peace Docket Court, set for April 22, proceeded remotely via teleconference. Remote bail hearings have continued, daily, uninterrupted.

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, after significant consultation with Dr. Patterson and counsel for Crown and Defence, the *R v. Hodgson* trial commenced, in-person, in Iqaluit. To adhere to public health safety measures, all public access to the proceedings is being facilitated solely through audio and visual links.

The public health situation remains dire and dynamic in Iqaluit. All Chambers' operational decisions throughout the era of COVID-19 have been made in consultation with the office of the CPHO. This practice will continue.

