

## TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF FPT MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUSTICE

April 30, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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## **MINISTERIAL TELECONFERENCE AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (Ottawa time)**

- 1) Welcome**
  - 2) Limitation Periods and Statutory Time Periods (COVID-19)**
  - 3) Justice System in the COVID-19 Context**
  - 4) Roundtable**
  - 5) Closing**
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## **ORDRE DU JOUR DE LA TÉLÉCONFÉRENCE DES MINISTRES**

**Le jeudi 30 avril de 11 h à 13 h (heure d'Ottawa)**

- 1) Bienvenue**
- 2) Délais de prescription et délais légaux (COVID-19)**
- 3) Le système de justice dans le contexte de la COVID-19**
- 4) Tour de table**
- 5) Clôture**

## MINISTERIAL TELECONFERENCE SCENARIO

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 11 am – 1 pm (Ottawa time)

Time	Agenda Item	Tab
11:00 am – 11:15 am	<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p><b>a. Logistics and Roll Call</b> (CICS / DM Drouin)</p> <p>Deputy Minister Drouin will test the lines and explain the teleconference procedure.</p> <p>She will then do a roll call of participants on the line.</p> <p><b>b. Welcome from Minister Lametti</b></p> <p><u>You</u> will act as chair for the meeting.</p> <p><u>You</u> will open the meeting by greeting your colleagues and thanking them for joining the call.</p> <p><u>You</u> will first offer your condolences to the friends and families of those who died in the mass shooting that took place in Nova Scotia on April 18-19. <u>You</u> will suggest a moment of silence honouring the memory of the 22 people who died.</p> <p><u>You</u> will then provide brief opening remarks that set the stage for a discussion of the agenda items. Talking points can be found at <b><u>TAB-3.</u></b></p>	<p>Tab 2</p> <p>Tab 3</p>
11:15 am – 11:35 am	<p><b>2. Limitation Periods and Statutory Time Periods (COVID-19)</b> (Minister Lametti)</p> <p><u>You</u> will provide your colleagues with an explanation of the general approach that a legislative solution to address statutory deadlines could take. Talking points can be found at <b><u>TAB-4.</u></b></p> <p>Following brief remarks, <u>you</u> will open the floor to discussion, and seek feedback from your PT colleagues.</p> <p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with Ministers the challenge of time limits set out in Canadian federal law that private parties, courts, tribunals and the government are facing.</li> <li>• The three categories of problematic deadlines that require immediate attention at the federal level are: 1)</li> </ul>	Tab 4

	<p>litigation deadlines in the civil context; 2) deadlines in relation to proceedings in respect of offences under federal Acts, including the <i>Criminal Code</i>; and 3) regulatory deadlines under federal Acts and regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the measures PT Ministers have taken to date to extend statutory and regulatory deadlines, and discuss where further action may need to be taken.</li> </ul>	
11:35 am – 12:15 pm	<p><b>3. Justice System in the COVID-19 Context</b> (Minister Lametti)</p> <p><u>You</u> will focus the discussion on the immediate needs to protect public health while resuming justice operations.</p> <p><u>You</u> will open the discussion on medium and long-term needs for courts and justice-related programming.</p> <p>Talking points can be found at <b><u>TAB-5.</u></b></p> <p>Following brief remarks, <u>you</u> will open the floor to discussion.</p> <p><b><u>Strategic Objectives:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start the process of assessing the impact on the justice system, what the system needs and what the objectives are for a gradual return to operations.</li> <li>• Agree on the need for common data sets to be able to assess the success of measures taken in the justice system.</li> <li>• Outline processes being led by Chief Justice Wagner and by the CBA.</li> </ul>	Tab 5
12:15 pm – 12:55 pm	<p><b>4. Roundtable</b> (Minister Lametti)</p> <p><u>You</u> will confirm the date that you are seeking for new <i>Divorce Act</i> amendments' coming into force. Talking points can be found at <b><u>TAB-6a.</u></b></p> <p><u>You</u> will then open the floor to any issues the PTs would like to raise, either to discuss briefly on the spot or for follow up.</p>	Tab 6

	<p><u>You</u> have been provided responsive talking points on firearms, should the PTs raise any questions on this topic. They can be found at <b><u>TAB-6b.</u></b></p> <p><u>You</u> have been provided responsive talking points on <i>Criminal Code</i> amendments, should Ontario or Quebec raise their proposals. They can be found at <b><u>TAB-6c.</u></b></p> <p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers are given the opportunity to raise any issues that were not discussed on the formal agenda.</li> </ul>	
12:55 pm – 1:00 pm <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>5. Closing</b> (Minister Lametti)</p> <p>With the wind-down of additional topics, <u>you</u> will thank your colleagues for their participation and sign off.</p> <p>Closing Remarks have been provided for <u>you</u> at <b><u>TAB-7.</u></b></p>	TAB 7

<sup>1</sup> Please note, the lines and translators are available until 1:30 pm, should the conversation require more time. The Department of Justice has two note-takers supporting the meeting.

s.16(2)

## **Dial-in Information**

Toll-free dial-in number (Bilingual Line): 1 877-413-4790

Local dial-in number (Bilingual Line): 613-960-7514

Access code (Bilingual Line): [REDACTED]

Toll-free dial-in number (English Line): 1 877-413-4782

Local dial-in number (English Line): 613-960-7511

Access code (English Line) [REDACTED]

Toll-free dial-in number (French Line): 1 877-413-4791

Local dial-in number (French Line): 613-960-7515

Access code (French Line): [REDACTED]

## **Technical Issues Contact Information**

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s.19(1)

**Federal-Provincial-Territorial  
Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety**

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Updated

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Federal-Provincial-Territorial Minister's Assistants	
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28/04/2020 18:22





## Talking Points

### Opening Remarks

- **Bonjour et merci à tous et à toutes de vous êtes rendus disponibles pour que nous puissions être à nouveau réunis, ne serait-ce que par téléconférence.**
- **Je vous suis reconnaissant pour la multitude d'exemples extraordinaires de collaboration entre nos gouvernements. Comme vous le savez, il est maintenant encore plus important que nous continuons à travailler en étroite collaboration dans un effort collectif pour faire face aux conséquences de la pandémie sur notre système judiciaire.**
- **We also need to plan how we can collaborate to incrementally restart and improve the justice system in anticipation of recovery.**
- **Some areas require urgent attention due to deteriorated conditions. As unprecedented as the current situation is, there remains opportunity as we map our plans for recovery. Now could be our moment to transform aspects of the justice system with modernized processes, for example.**
- **During this emergency, we are especially sensitive to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations, including the elderly, those who have experienced domestic abuse, people with disabilities, and those who are struggling financially—growing in number due to job losses. I am also very mindful of the need to advance reconciliation and address systemic issues involving Indigenous peoples and the criminal justice system.**
- **De nombreuses mesures peuvent être élaborées parmi nous et en consultation avec les parties prenantes. Nous devrions couvrir tous les domaines clés de la justice, notamment les tribunaux, le droit criminel, la justice pour les jeunes, le droit de la famille, l'aide aux victimes, l'accès à la justice et le soutien aux peuples autochtones.**

- I'm looking forward to continuing these discussions with you today, and throughout the coming months. I hope you find them as useful as I do. I propose that we begin the discussion of our formal agenda with ...



## **Talking Points**

### **Statutory Time Limits and Recovery**

- **Comme vous le savez, la pandémie de COVID-19 a créé des défis sur de nombreux fronts, tant pour les Canadiens et les entreprises que pour les opérations des gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux.**
- **Un défi en particulier que nous suivons est les délais de prescription. Nous avons vu que dans quelques-uns de vôtres juridictions vous avez suspendu ou prolonger les délais, grâce à les pouvoirs législatives dans vôtres lois d'urgences, ou dans le code civil à Québec.**
- **As we begin to discuss how the court system is going to rebound from this crisis, I am keen to get your views on how the suspension of timelines, and their resumption, will affect court practice.**
- **I believe the provinces that have suspended timelines include Ontario, BC, Quebec, and Alberta. In addition, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador have recently given themselves new powers to take such measures, and I understand Newfoundland and Labrador has already begun to exercise them.**
- **At the same time, I note that Newfoundland and Labrador is beginning to reopen the courts.**
- **Chief Justices have also taken steps to ease the burden on litigants, which has had a demonstrable effect on the Rules of each court.**
- **It is important for governments to protect the rights of Canadians to access the courts. I think it is worthwhile for us to discuss how the steps we are taking now could support the legal system's pandemic recovery. What strategies can we employ to ensure that the courts are not bottlenecked when they come back online. What has the impact on the ground in your provinces been on this point.**

- Je souhaite entendre vos perspectives au sujet de cette problématique importante.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges on many fronts, both for individual Canadians and businesses as well as for the operations of the federal and provincial governments. One particular challenge that private parties, courts, tribunals and the government still face are time limits set out in Canadian federal laws. There are three categories of problematic deadlines that require immediate attention at the federal level: first, litigation deadlines in the civil context; second, deadlines in relation to proceedings in respect of offences under federal Acts, including the *Criminal Code*; and finally, regulatory deadlines under federal Acts and regulations.

## **STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:**

Chief Justices and other stakeholders have called for the federal government to move urgently to suspend or extend time limits. Right now courts and tribunals are only hearing urgent matters, and Canadians are facing dire economic and social consequences because of measures to contain and mitigate COVID-19. Without extending time limits at the federal level, Canadians may begin to experience serious negative circumstances that will affect their families, their finances and their ability to exercise their rights.

A number of provinces have already recognized the need to extend statutory and regulatory deadlines and have taken measures to address them.

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec have all taken steps under their applicable emergency legislation (Quebec is not under the emergency legislation) to suspend or extend litigation time limits, and in certain instances, provide for the extension of non-litigation deadlines as well, though of course no provincial jurisdiction's measures can address time limitations set out in federal statutes.

Quebec was the first province to act, issuing an order on March 15 that provided for the suspension of limitation period and forfeiture periods in civil matters and of time limits for civil proceedings except in cases deemed urgent.

For its part, Ontario adopted an even broader approach with its emergency order made on March 20, retroactive to March 16, 2020, that suspended limitation periods established in any statute, regulation, rule, by-law or order, as well as time limits for all proceedings in courts and tribunals and those before any other decision-maker.

BC's legislature followed suit on March 26, issuing an order that suspends every mandatory limitation period and any other mandatory time period established in an enactment or law of British Columbia within which a civil or family action, proceeding, claim or appeal must be commenced. The order also stipulates that a decision-maker may waive, suspend or extend a mandatory period.

On March 26, Newfoundland and Labrador adopted the *Temporary Variation of Statutory Deadlines Act* and, with this new power, the province's Ministers have begun to vary deadlines and time periods in certain Acts and regulations where the need has been identified.

Alberta has had to issue two orders to address the extension of timelines. On March 30, it made an order that provides for the suspension of limitation periods in a list of over 100 enactments. It also provides for the suspension of any period of time within which any step must be taken in any proceeding or intended proceeding, from March 17, 2020 to June 1, 2020, subject to the discretion of the court, tribunal or other decision-maker. Alberta then issued a second order on April 9 to provide for the extension or the suspension of deadlines and periods within a number of Acts and regulations listed in that order.

Most recently, New Brunswick amended its *Emergency Measures Act* on April 17 to give its Minister of Public Safety the power to suspend the operation of the provisions of any act, regulation, rule, municipal by-law or ministerial order that establish either limitation periods for commencing any proceeding before a court, administrative tribunal or other decision-maker or that establish time periods for taking steps in such proceedings. Another amendment also gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the power to extend a deadline or time period prescribed in any act, regulation, rule or ministerial order, with certain exceptions specifically identified in the *Emergency Measures Act*.

After taking initial measures, Alberta, BC, and Ontario have all been required to make further orders to address other types of timelines not initially identified, such as reporting timelines, and to make modifications to suspensions already put in place. This highlights both the difficulty of identifying every potential deadline and timeline from the outset, and shows the need for a flexible and responsive approach to this problem as new issues are brought to the Government's attention by various stakeholders.



## Talking Points

### The Justice System in the context of COVID-19

#### Resumption of Court Activity – immediate needs

- **Alors que nous planifions le relâchement graduel des mesures liées à la COVID-19, les tribunaux constituent un élément clé à prendre en compte. Comment se déroulera la reprise graduelle des activités dans les palais de justice? Quand devrait-elle commencer? Quelles mesures doivent être prises à cet égard?**
- **Une bonne partie des décisions en la matière devront être prises par les juges en chef et les autres juges, en consultation avec les responsables de l'administration des tribunaux. Cependant, le gouvernement et les autorités de santé publique ont décidé d'un rôle à jouer en fournissant des conseils, des renseignements et un soutien aux tribunaux.**
- **It is important to underline – for ourselves and to Canadians – that the courts have not been “closed” throughout the pandemic. The open courts principle is a fundamental Canadian value, and courts and court officials have demonstrated great creativity and innovation in finding ways to maintain operations, albeit at a much-reduced level.**
- **Most courts immediately went to dealing with urgent matters only, and to scaling back in-person interactions. Remote hearings and remote and electronic filing became the norm.**
- **Some courts have since started to expand their dockets to non-urgent matters – but still from remote platforms.**
- **As lockdown measures gradually begin to be lifted, carefully and in phases, courts are already thinking about what this means for their own operations – how, for example, to begin to resume in-person dealings on everything from registry filings to jury trials.**

- **What new protocols will be required to enable this to happen? What measures will be needed to protect court staff, litigants and the public?**
- **A key question for governments is how to support such decision-making to ensure it reflects the best public health advice, attuned to local needs and conditions.**
- **At the federal level, I have been working with Chief Justice Wagner to establish a mechanism to offer national-level guidance on resumption of in-court operations. This takes the form of a jointly led committee to provide early guidance to chief justices, chief judges and courts administration officials at all levels of court across the country.**
- **I understand British Columbia has also established two advisory groups to help their government support courts and tribunals in delivering services as effectively as possible during the pandemic and in minimizing its impact on the justice system.**
- **I am interested in hearing your ideas for what else we might do at this table, and what you are doing in your own jurisdictions, to support the courts in these immediate efforts for resuming court activities.**
- **Many jurisdictions are facing challenges with current video and audio conferencing capacity. What additional equipment do your courts need to facilitate video-conferencing and teleconferencing? Do you have enough laptops and cell phones for all court employees to stay connected and productive? Are there additional licences you need to secure? Do you have enough PPE to manage current urgent demands, and to facilitate a phased-in return to in-person hearings?**
- **Working together, my hope is that we can identify and share best practices, as well as any areas where improvements may be necessary in order to ensure our courts are ready at the earliest possible date.**



- In addition to new equipment and staff, at least one superior court Chief Justice has suggested that there will be a need for additional judges to address the backlog and surge of cases arising out of COVID.
- Ideally, in the longer term, modernization will allow our courts to be more resilient so that bringing on more judges, which is expensive for both levels of government and permanent, is not the only tool to address disruptions in workload. However, until we reach that point I expect other Chief Justices will likely seek additional judges.
- Are there other Ministers that anticipate such requests? While of course I cannot make any promises, I fully appreciate that there will be significant, although hopefully temporary, pressures on the superior courts which will have to be managed.

### Court modernization

- I am also interested in your ideas and proposal for court modernization in the medium and longer term, such as online dispute resolution, e-filing and electronic case-management systems.
- I believe there is a real opportunity for governments to respectfully and effectively collaborate with courts to ensure the effective delivery of justice to our citizens as we emerge from the current pandemic. We cannot let the “new normal” post-COVID be a return to the pre-COVID mindset and ways.
- La dernière fois que nous nous sommes parlé, nous partagions tous la même préoccupation quant au fait que la crise de la COVID-19 avait fait ressortir les limites technologiques de notre dépendance au papier dans les services de justice offerts à la population canadienne.
- Cependant, elle a aussi amené les gens à manifester leur capacité d'innovation, d'adaptation et de résilience face à l'adversité. La nécessité de répondre aux besoins urgents de la population

canadienne nous a forcé à changer nos façons de fonctionner en prenant des moyens qui étaient inimaginables avant la pandémie.

- Consultations that my officials have undertaken suggest that the level of technological development in jurisdictions varies (capacity for remote hearings; capacity for virtual hearings; capacity for e-filing and scheduling, etc.). However, all have indicated a need for transformative technological investments to build resilience and improve efficiencies over the longer term.
- I am fully seized of needs that are more urgent but I am also committed, working together with you, to moving forward on the path to modernizing the courts as a core priority.

### **Modernisation du système de Justice**

- Je suis également déterminé à poursuivre les échanges sur la façon dont nous transformerons et moderniserons le système de justice, et sur la façon dont le gouvernement du Canada peut faciliter et, s'il y a lieu, diriger les efforts visant à améliorer la prestation des services de justice.
- We are seeing increased vulnerabilities and increased legal needs. Our combined efforts towards justice system recovery should be aimed at making an accessible, people-centred justice system.
- At the core of a stronger, modernized justice system are programs, such as legal aid, and legal education, as well as specific initiatives for newcomers, families and Indigenous communities.
- I welcome hearing about particular needs due to the pandemic in your jurisdictions and more specifically, what would be the immediate needs.
- For example, legal aid plans have expressed concerns relating to the cost of adapting to new technologies, and furthermore, to being able to manage the backlog of cases once the courts reopen fully.

- **My officials' consultations have also highlighted the urgent need for assistance just to maintain existing levels of service and ensure that Canadians' most urgent access to justice needs are met.**
- **We also need to ensure that systems are responsive to the needs of businesses and industry as they resume operations and work to strengthen the Canadian economy.**
- **The need to transform and modernize our system of justice has never been more obvious, and every actor in the system has acknowledged that we must take advantage of the current momentum to realize transformative change, and not slip back into the "old normal".**
- **Nous devons profiter de la période actuelle pour moderniser et revitaliser le système de justice, en laissant derrière nous l'inertie des dernières décennies. Avant même la reprise des activités des tribunaux, nous devons veiller à ce que les décisions à cet égard soient guidées par une vision globale de transformation du système de justice.**
- **Je ferai tout ce que je peux pour vous appuyer en ce sens, et je souhaite connaître vos points de vue en la matière.**

s.21(1)(a)

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **Restoring Court Operations**

The routine operations of all levels of Canadian courts have been dramatically curtailed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Courts have been forced to triage hearings in favour of the most urgent cases; remote hearing methods have been improvised and stretched to their maximum capacities. The challenges now facing the justice system – ranging from the safe conduct of essential proceedings to the system's ability to manage a growing backlog of cases – are the subject of media attention and public concern.

### **Technological and other challenges facing the Courts**

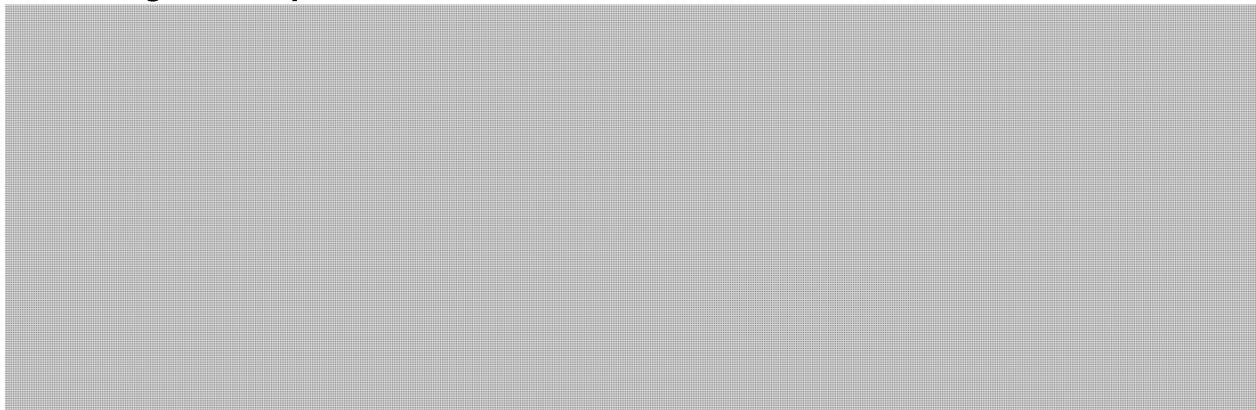
Canada's court system was generally unprepared for an event like the pandemic insofar as it is reliant on in-person interactions and paper filing for most proceedings. The pandemic has forced courts to find creative approaches to overcome the limitations imposed by the need for physical distancing on its antiquated pre-COVID operations. While many courts have some remote connectivity capacity, the shift towards an almost exclusive reliance on such technology has exposed limitations, both in terms of the availability of necessary technology and related support, and the capacity of existing technology to handle significantly larger volumes of proceedings.

Other challenges including ensuring that all actors in the criminal justice system, including provincial and territorial legal aid plans, are equipped to work with the technologies adopted by the courts, and are able to increase their services when the courts fully re-open and start to address backlogs.

Departmental officials have engaged with the Canadian Judicial Council, the Canadian Council of Chief Judges and provincial and territorial counterparts through various FPT fora (including Heads of Courts Administration) to understand the technological and other challenges faced by the courts. The Department has also reached out to the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada and to the Courts Administration Service for the section 101 courts, and to legal aid plans.

## **STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **Restoring Court Operation**



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est retenue en vertu de l'article**

**21(1)(a)**

**of the Access to Information Act  
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**



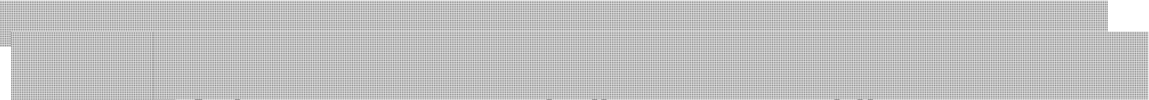
## Talking Points

### Coming-into-Force Date of *Divorce Act* Amendments

- La pandémie de COVID-19 a eu des répercussions importantes sur le système de justice familiale du Canada, y compris la date d'entrée en vigueur des modifications à la *Loi sur le divorce* prévues par l'ancien projet de loi C-78.
- Lors de notre réunion du 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2020, j'ai convenu que l'entrée en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2020 comme prévu n'est plus possible.
- Provincial and territorial courts are currently limited to hearing only urgent family law matters, and your legislatures and governments are focused on addressing pandemic-related urgencies and priorities. All of this has made it impossible to undertake the necessary steps for implementation.
- I committed to choosing a new date after my officials consulted with your officials to ensure that they would have time to undertake essential implementation efforts before the legislation comes into force.
- On April 6, 2020, my officials consulted with their provincial and territorial colleagues, most of whom indicated that early 2021 would be the most opportune time for the new provisions to come into force.
- A coming-into-force date of March 1, 2021 would allow time for necessary changes to court rules and forms, and changes parallel to the Federal Child Support Guidelines.
- It would also provide the time needed to train members of your judiciary, court staff, and legal professionals after the backlog in courts created by the pandemic is resolved.

s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(c)

- **Most importantly, a coming-into-force date of March 1, 2021 would provide the time necessary for those of you who will be introducing legislation to mirror the *Divorce Act* amendments.**
- **La nouvelle date permettra aussi que les règlements d'application de la *Loi sur le divorce* fédérale, dont la publication finale a été retardée en raison de la pandémie, entrent en vigueur en même temps que les dispositions législatives.**
- **Ce report nous permettra aussi de produire des documents essentiels de vulgarisation et d'information juridique et de formation professionnelle, et de les distribuer aux juges et à d'autres intervenants clés en droit de la famille.**
-   
**Cela nous permettrait d'annoncer publiquement cette date à la magistrature, aux praticiens du droit de la famille et aux plaideurs en droit de la famille, dont la majorité se représente elle-même.**
- **Merci pour le travail considérable que vous et vos fonctionnaires avez accompli et continuerez d'accomplir en cette période d'incertitude causée par la pandémie, pour vous assurer que cet important train de réformes du droit de la famille soit mis en œuvre dans son intégralité.**

s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(c)

## **BACKGROUND:**

The majority of the *Divorce Act* provisions in former Bill C-78 are scheduled to come into force by Order in Council on July 1, 2020. Provinces and territories began contacting federal officials in late March 2020 to advise that the coming into force date would no longer be feasible due to delays in their implementation activities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Following ministerial approval to consult with provinces and territories on a new coming-into-force date, March 1, 2021 was identified as the preferred date.

## **STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:**

The new *Divorce Act* provisions cannot come into force without provincial and territorial implementation. The new coming-into-force date would provide sufficient time to undertake both provincial/territorial and federal implementation activities.







## Talking Points

### Firearms

*Responsive: If questioned about mass shooting in Nova Scotia*

- **La fusillade survenue les 18 et 19 avril dernier en Nouvelle-Écosse a coûté la vie de 22 Canadiens, dont un agent de la GRC. Cet événement tragique ne fait que souligner la nécessité de resserrer les mesures de contrôle des armes à feu.**
- **The Government has confirmed its intention to ban specific assault-style firearms. We expect that any prohibition would be accompanied by a *Criminal Code* amnesty order to protect individuals who lawfully possess these firearms from criminal liability while they take steps to comply with the law.**
- **Canadians are understandably deeply concerned about the extreme violence in Nova Scotia, and which is now the largest mass shooting in Canadian history. Our Government will take necessary actions to keep Canadians safe.**
- **Parliament has been operating through extraordinary sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the first opportunity, however, we will bring forward further measures that will fulfill our commitment to Canadians to strengthen gun control in Canada.**
- **Je continuera de travailler étroitement avec le ministère de la Sécurité publique afin d'adresser la sécurité publique ainsi que la violence liée aux armes à feu.**



## Talking Points

### Proposals from Ontario and Quebec for Amendments to the Criminal Code

*Responsive: If Ontario and Quebec raise their requested amendments to the Criminal Code*

- I would like to thank Ontario and Québec for their respective proposals for amendments to the *Criminal Code* and related statutes in order to address the impact of this unprecedented health crisis on our criminal justice system.
- The proposals have been shared with my departmental officials and it is my understanding that they have been discussed in depth with your respective officials through the Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials – Criminal Justice.
- Nous sommes toujours soucieux d'identifier les meilleures solutions possibles pour améliorer l'efficacité de notre système de justice. D'ailleurs, l'expérience liée à l'élaboration de l'ancien projet de loi C-75 nous rappelle à quel point la collaboration fédérale, provinciale et territoriale est essentielle pour ce faire.
- En ce sens, soyez assurés que les propositions soumises, et celles à venir le cas échéant, seront considérées avec sérieux et diligence.
- As you know, Parliament has been operating through extraordinary sessions since its suspension due to the social distancing requirements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are working to address concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 on our criminal justice system. This includes exploring potential legislative solutions in the event that an opportunity to introduce pertinent legislation presents itself.

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**is withheld pursuant to section  
est retenue en vertu de l'article**

**21(1)(a)**

**of the Access to Information Act  
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**



## **Talking Points**

### **Closing Remarks**

- **In closing, I would like to thank you again for making the time for us to connect today. Your valuable contributions and efforts during this challenging time are very much appreciated.**
- **As I've mentioned, I would like to keep the lines of communication open, and perhaps convene again as our current situation continues to evolve.**
- **My officials will also continue to be in contact with officials in each of your jurisdictions, as we lay the groundwork for the resumption of in-court operations.**
- **J'attends avec grand intérêt la suite de nos discussions, et j'espère que chacun et chacune d'entre vous restera en sécurité et en bonne santé pendant cette période.**