

Memorandum regarding CoViD-19

March 13, 2020

Dear members:

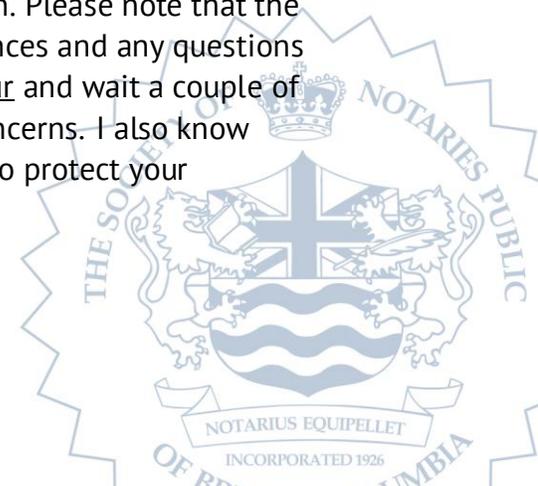
I write to you with respect to the CoViD-19 pandemic and to share information from the Society with you. Our primary concern is for your, your business', and your clients' health and safety.

We recognize that this situation is one in which only the most senior generations will have any experience. Many of you may remember SARS, that was also a Corona virus, which had a powerful impact on China and Canada. We have learned from that experience and, notwithstanding the excessive amount of news, our health care system is more prepared.

Federal and Provincial governments have taken steps that are designed to flatten the curve of infection rates. The purpose of this is so that our health system does not become overwhelmed to the extent we are witnessing in Italy. Some of those steps include:

- Requiring large gatherings (over 250 people) to be canceled or postponed;
- Recommending limits on travel outside of the country;
- Requiring self-quarantine for those who leave the country; and
- Strongly advising the use of social distancing.

Top of mind for Notaries will be the conference. The Association has just communicated that the spring conference has been postponed until the fall. The Society encouraged and supports this move by the Association. Please note that the Association is responsible for the organization of the conferences and any questions that you have should be sent to them. Please do them a favour and wait a couple of days for more information. I know you have questions and concerns. I also know that the Board and Staff of the Association are working hard to protect your interest.



The Executive Committee of the Society met earlier this week to consider pandemic planning and, in particular, a response to the cancellation or postponement of the conference. Of concern will be the need to obtain Continuing Education Credits by the end of the membership year. We appreciate that many of you have met the requirement (and we thank you for that) but there are some members who will require hours to comply with the Rules of the Society. As our primary concern is your and your clients' health, the Society is waiving the CPD requirement for the year ending June 2020.

The credits will not be added to the next year. Pending the pandemic having a negative effect much longer than anticipated, all members will have to obtain the appropriate credits for the year ending June 2021.

We have been and will continue working closely with the BCNA.

Please also be advised that while we are continuing to offer authentication services, we may have to curtail access to the office. We currently have a strict policy that anyone entering the office must wash their hands. We also have a plan that will see staff working remotely so as to protect their health and our capacity to continue to operate. PAL continues to operate at full capacity but please be patient as we are seeing increasing demand with lots of questions and concerns. If your matter is truly urgent, please put "Urgent" in the subject line.

Crooks know no boundaries and will seek to increase fraudulent behavior thinking that your guard will be down. Notwithstanding the distraction of CoViD-19, please continue to carefully monitor transactions.

Your Society is in discussion with various government agencies with respect to various requirements that expose notaries to direct contact with clients. We will continue to advocate for your health and safety and will share news as we are able. We are actively reviewing rules and policies to determine if any can be changed to assist you in staying healthy and safe in these difficult times.

Wash your hands.

John Mayr