



Barreau
de l'Ontario

COVID-19 Update

March 24, 2020

The following statement is sent jointly from Malcolm M. Mercer, Treasurer, and Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer, of the Law Society of Ontario:

Law offices and paralegal offices encouraged to continue operations using remote business models

The Law Society of Ontario, which successfully implemented a work at home plan for its own employees effective March 16, encourages all law offices and paralegal offices to do the same by operating remotely and virtually wherever feasible.

Since the onset of this unprecedented event, we have seen the legal community respond as leaders in innovative and creative ways by adapting their practices to ensure continued access to justice for clients. These important measures contribute to our collective efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The Government of Ontario has deemed law offices and paralegal offices as essential workplaces. As such, law offices and paralegal offices are permitted to remain open, to address instances when remote business practices are not feasible. Further information and a full list of businesses that are permitted to stay open can be found on the [Government of Ontario website](#).

This information follows Orders issued by the Government of Ontario which require the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces effective as of Tuesday, March 24 at 11:59 p.m.

We extend our gratitude to the public we serve and our licensees as we adapt, respond and support each other to ensure the administration of justice continues, and that the legal community supports broader efforts to facilitate social distancing and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Please visit the [Law Society website](#) and click on the "Corporate Statement, Updates and FAQs" banner for the most current information. We will continue to update this page as new information arises and decisions are made.



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