**MEMO**

DATE: **April 14, 2022**

TO: **OCJ Judges, Justices of the Peace, Crown Attorney, Defence**

 **Bar, IPC Team, Legal Aid, and Court Staff**

FROM: **Justice Leszczynski – Local Administrative Justice**

**RE: RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON APPEARANCES IN THE INDIGENOUS PERSONS COURT**

As you know, the Chief’s Directive regarding mode of appearances did not specifically address the transition to in-person appearances for specialized courts. This will be addressed locally, and in this jurisdiction, each specialized court committee will meet to determine how best to transition back to in-person appearances. When such decisions are reached, I will send notice to all justice stakeholders.

I can advise that the **Indigenous Persons Court** will be transitioning back to in-person appearances **commencing May 5, 2022 in courtroom 302**. The Indigenous Persons Court team, including duty counsel, will also be attending this court in person. The expectation is that all matters to be scheduled with a return date of May 5, 2022 or following, will be scheduled to take place in person.

Any matters previously scheduled to take place by zoom, will continue to proceed in that manner, unless counsel wish to convert their client’s already scheduled zoom appearances to in-person and are able to communicate this to their clients in advance of May 5, 2022 or their next appearance after May 5, 2022. In such cases, we ask that counsel simply notify the trial co-ordinator of their client’s name, the next appearance date and confirm their client will be attending in person.

Thank you.

Justice Leszczynski, LAJ – Lambton County