

UPDATE ON DESMOND FATALITY INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – The Desmond Fatality Inquiry will resume evidentiary hearings at the courthouse in Port Hawkesbury, N.S., at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 21, 2021. The proceedings are expected to continue on Tuesday and Wednesday that week, with Thursday, June 24, also set aside, if required.

The Inquiry resumed hearing evidence on Feb. 16, 2021 and sat for 22 days between then and April 22. The proceedings adjourned at that time and were delayed due to the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now that in-person proceedings have resumed in the Provincial Court, and public health restrictions limiting travel in Nova Scotia have been lifted, Judge Warren Zimmer has directed that the Inquiry proceedings can safely resume.

The Inquiry hearing room is located on the second floor of the courthouse at 15 Kennedy St. in Port Hawkesbury. Please note that due to physical distancing requirements, in-person access to the hearing room will continue to be restricted. Anyone not essential to the proceedings must get advance permission from Judge Zimmer to attend in person.

To maintain the open courts principle, members of the media will be permitted to attend the proceedings in person, if there is space available in the hearing room. Unless otherwise ordered by the judge, the proceedings will also be livestreamed on the [Inquiry website](#).

As per the [May 27 masking update](#) from the All Courts COVID-19 Recovery Committee, anyone attending the Inquiry proceedings in person will be required to wear a disposable medical mask.

For additional background on the on the Desmond Fatality Inquiry, as well as archived webcasts and transcripts of past proceedings, please visit www.desmondinquiry.ca.

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