

April 29, 2020 – Labour Relations Board Service Update

Since March 16th, the Labour Relations Board changed its operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on employers, unions, and the workers they represent. In these unprecedented times, we remain committed to improving and innovating so that we can continue to deliver services and resolve disputes in a way that is effective, fair, and expeditious.

One element of our response is the use of virtual platforms for hearing, mediation, and informal dispute resolution services, as well as settlement conferences through the Collective Agreement Arbitration Bureau.

Today we are issuing Guidelines we have developed for virtual proceedings, a guide to using Zoom, and an Online Hearing Etiquette flyer for participants in a virtual proceeding conducted under the Code.

These documents remain a work in progress and are subject to revision. The Board may depart from these Guidelines at its discretion and they do not affect its ability to control its own processes or respond to particular requests in the course of an online proceeding. We hope you find them to be of assistance in understanding some of the unique features of a virtual proceeding.

We are extremely grateful for the high degree of cooperation, understanding, problem-solving, and flexibility parties have shown to date. We are, together, charting new territory in response to the pandemic.

We anticipate that, in the coming weeks and months, current restrictions will slowly ease. As they do, we will build on what we have learned and continue to find new ways to improve how we provide adjudication, mediation, and dispute resolution services under the Code.