NP#2013-05 September 18, 2013



## COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

## NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

## CCTV PROCEEDINGS FROM EDMONTON REMAND CENTRE

Effective October 15, 2013, the Court shall (subject to the Court ordering otherwise in individual cases) require the use of CCTV video link for the following appearances in the Edmonton Judicial District, by persons in-custody in the Edmonton Remand Centre (ERC):

- a) Bail Review Applications,
- b) Detention Review Applications,
- c) Bail Forfeitures, and
- d) Queen's Bench Appearance Court (QBAC) arraignments, first appearances, summary disposition/guilty pleas and TST (to speak to).

At the effective date, the default will be that accused persons in custody will be required to appear in person only where:

- a) the evidence of a witness will be taken at the hearing, or
- b) the Court is unable to conclude that the accused understands the proceedings and can make voluntary decisions during the proceedings, or
- c) the accused has not filed a Designation of Counsel with the Court (subject to other Court direction), or
- d) an interview with a physician is required for a forensic assessment, or
- e) a Court Order has been granted requiring/allowing an accused to appear in person.

Those accused who will be appearing by video-link will be identified within the remand system as "QB CCTV", and transported to the video centre at the Remand Centre at approximately: 8:15 am on the morning of their appearance, with the exception of bail forfeitures; and 1:00 pm for bail forfeitures.

When each remanded accused is to appear, an announcement will be made in Court that the accused is appearing by way of CCTV. The matter can be dealt with either by duty counsel or defence counsel present in the courtroom.

Counsel can interview their client via the video booth on the  $2^{nd}$  floor of the Edmonton Law Courts.

Reviews of this program will be undertaken from time to time, to consider adjustments necessary to ensure the system provides for the needs of the users of the system.

Neil C. Wittmann, Chief Justice

n D. Rooke, Associate Chief Justice