

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA (PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE CENTRE)

RE: VIDEO CONFERENCING CONNECTION - Portage la Prairie Provincial Court and Headingley Correctional Centre

A new video conferencing connection between Portage la Prairie Provincial Court and Headingley Correctional Centre (HCC) became available on June 12, 2017.

The link will be expanded to include all correctional centres, except the Manitoba Youth Centre and Dauphin Correctional Centre at a later date.

New state of the art video conferencing equipment has been installed in Portage la Prairie's Provincial Courtroom. The equipment provides video and audio quality that is acceptable for Court purposes and runs on an Internet Protocol (IP) connection.

To maximize the use of video conferencing technology and court time, matters will alternate in-custody and out of custody, personal and video appearances, throughout the day.

Also changed is how an accused appears in court. An accused will not be transported for court unless ordered by a Judge, or unless required in-person in accordance with the Court's policy.

New transport guidelines include that accused will not be transported to Portage la Prairie for in-person appearances except:

- to enter a guilty plea, the sentence for which is likely more than two years in addition to the time the accused has already been in custody;
- for a preliminary inquiry on the charges faced by the accused;
- for a trial on the charges faced by the accused.

While the link is restricted to HCC at this time, transport guidelines will be applicable to accused housed in all correctional centres when video links are established.

As part of the video conferencing equipment, a new privacy phone has been installed in the courtroom. The privacy phone is available if defence counsel needs to speak to his/her client appearing by video during the proceedings and provides for a private conversation.

As a result of a reduction in the transport of accused, an audio/video link for Lawyer Client Video (LVI) interviews is available. LVI provides accessibility for lawyers to speak to their clients in all correctional centres, except Dauphin.

LVI provides a means of secure communication between counsel and client that does not require the client to be transported from, or for counsel to attend to, a correctional centre. It provides the opportunity for meaningful, confidential and secure conversations to take place prior to an appearance. Any lawyer with internet access can set up a meeting with his or her client by contacting the correctional centre. The benefits are that the client will be escorted to the LVI room at an appointed time, and the lawyer can conduct that interview from any location that is convenient – office, home, court house.

LVI overview for counsel:

Availability: LVI laptops are installed in all Adult and Youth Correctional Centres, except Dauphin. Headingley has two laptops. Some centres provide same day bookings/sessions.

Convenience: The interview can occur from an electronic device at an internet equipped location of your choosing.

Confidentiality: LVI is not on the government's managed environment and the laptops are not monitored in the correctional centres.

Functionality: The program that we use to run LVI is GoToMeeting and it allows you to share documents, photos, and audio/video evidence.

Free Training: All you need to do is contact Daniel Rempel at LVI@gov.mb.ca or 204-391-7430 for a free tutorial on the LVI system.

ISSUED BY:



**Acting Chief Judge Shauna Hewitt-Michta
(Manitoba)**

DATE: June 19, 2017