

**Practice Note**  
**Court Sittings in Kamloops, Kelowna, and Prince George**

The Court of Appeal has for some years scheduled sittings in Kamloops and Kelowna. At one time the Court heard appeals in Prince George as well. At first one week was scheduled for hearings in Kamloops and Kelowna twice a year. Then the scheduled time was reduced to one week between the two cities, twice a year. For the last three years the scheduled sittings in those cities have been cancelled because of insufficient work.

It may be that scheduling only two or three days in each city twice a year is too restrictive for counsel seeking a hearing date. Appeals filed in those two registries have been heard in Vancouver, and all of those appeals heard in the whole of last year involved only six days of sitting time.

While continuing to allocate dates on which appeals can be set for hearing in Kamloops and Kelowna is at least for the time being not practical, there may be appeals which are of interest or importance to the public that should be heard locally. The Court would like to accommodate these appeals and proposes to see whether hearing appeals on request will generate more sittings in Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George. The criteria for scheduling these hearings will be that the appeal is of local interest or importance or that there is some other good reason it should be heard locally.

Requests for hearings in one of these three locations should be made to the Chief Justice when an appeal is ready to be set down for hearing and, in any event, not later than sixty days before your proposed hearing date. All requests should contain a clear statement of the nature of the appeal and the reasons it can be said to be of interest or importance to the public in the local community, or any other good reason, to warrant it being heard there.

This procedure will remain in place until December 31, 2011. At that time, the Court will assess the success of this proposal to determine whether it warrants continuing in the future.

Any comments on the procedure should be addressed to the Registrar of the Court.

“J. L. Jordan, Registrar”  
British Columbia Court of Appeal

September 8, 2010