

NOTICE

PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: Transport of Prisoners for personal appearance in Court at 408 York Avenue Winnipeg

Recently there have been a number of days where so many prisoners have been brought to the Winnipeg Law Courts complex for personal appearances, that all cells and interview rooms in the lock-up have been full, and inmates have been held in the cells behind Courtroom 210.

This creates numerous problems which include accused not getting to Court in a timely fashion and lawyers not being able to get into the lock-up to see their clients. If the matter is remanded without an appearance by the accused, a significant amount of resources have been utilized without a meaningful outcome. It is the sheriffs' experience that inmates usually do not want to be transported to lock-up, and so if the trip does not result in an action that moves their case forward, the process takes a toll on them as well.

To try and alleviate the pressure on lock-up and on inmates, we are asking for your cooperation by waiving personal appearances when inmates are not going to be required in person for Court. We recognize that there are many reasons why a prisoner does not make it into court on the day of transfer (SOP the morning of trial and counsel waive their appearance in the courtroom for example) but we are still asking everyone to cooperate and to be diligent about the unnecessary movement of inmates.

If the inmate is not needed, and has been identified as a "must transport", counsel are to contact Sheriffs Services as soon as possible before the transport date by:

- email to sheriffsservice@gov.mb.ca
- Phone to the lock-up 204.945.2329 between 6:00 am and 5:30 pm
- Phone to Trish Reardon 204.945.2485 between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm

ISSUED BY:

"Original signed by:"

**Chief Judge Ken Champagne
(Manitoba)**

DATE: January 8, 2013