

Agenda

Bencher Meeting

Date:	Friday, October 24, 2025
Time:	9:00 am – Call to Order
Location:	The Bencher Meeting is taking place as a virtual meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting as a virtual attendee, please email BencherRelations@lsbc.org
Recording:	<i>The public portion of the meeting will be recorded.</i>

CONSENT AGENDA

Any Bencher may request that a consent agenda item be moved to the regular agenda by notifying the President or the Manager, Governance & Board Relations prior to the meeting.

1	Minutes of September 19, 2025 meeting (regular session)
2	Minutes of September 19, 2025 meeting (<i>in camera</i> session)
3	2026 Fee Schedules
4	Reappointment of Tribunal Chair

REPORTS

5	President's Report	15 min	Brook Greenberg, KC
6	CEO's Report	15 min	Gigi Chen-Kuo
7	Briefing by the Law Society's Member of the Federation Council (<i>verbal only</i>)	15 min	Brook Greenberg, KC
8	Bar Admission Training Program	45 min	Gigi Chen-Kuo Lesley Small

DISCUSSION & DECISION

9	Proposed Amendment to Rule 2-110 (Trust Administration Fee)	15 min	Brook Greenberg, KC Michael Lucas, KC
10	Strategic Plan 2026-2028	30 min	Gigi Chen-Kuo

IN CAMERA

OTHER BUSINESS

Law Society of British Columbia

Bencher Meeting: Minutes (Draft)

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

Date: Friday, September 19, 2025

Present:

Brook Greenberg, KC, President	James A.S. Legh
Thomas L. Spraggs, KC 1st Vice-President	Benjamin D. Levine
Michael Welsh, KC, 2nd Vice-President	Dr. Jan Lindsay
Simran Bains	Jaspreet Singh Malik
Paul Barnett	Marcia McNeil
Aleem Bharmal, KC	Jay Michi
Tanya Chamberlain	Georges Rivard, KC
Nikki Charlton, KC	Michèle Ross
Jennifer Chow, KC	Nicole E. Smith
Christina J. Cook, KC	Barbara Stanley, KC
Tim Delaney	James Struthers
Cheryl S. D'Sa, KC	Natasha Tony
Katrina Harry, KC	Kevin B. Westell
Ravi R. Hira, KC	Gaynor C. Yeung, KC
Sasha Hobbs	Jonathan Yuen

Absent: Gurminder Sandhu, KC

Staff present:	Avalon Bourne	Jeanette McPhee
	Kim de Bruijn	Doug Munro
	Alexander Burton	Sara Pavan
	Gigi Chen-Kuo	Michelle Robertson
	Jackie Drozdowski	Carrie Robinson
	Su Forbes, KC	Sarah Sharp
	Kerryn Holt	Lesley Small
	Jeffrey Hoskins, KC	Sherry Small
	Joyce Johner	Arrie Sturdivant
	Alison Kirby	Christine Tam
	Nicolette Lang-Andersen	Maddie Taylor
	Michael Lucas, KC	Adam Whitcombe, KC
	Alison Luke	Teo Wong
	Claire Marchant	Charlene Yan
	Tara McPhail	Vinnie Yuen
Guests:	Christa Akey	Representative, Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
	Dom Bautista	Executive Director, Courts Center & Executive Director, Amici Curiae Friendship Society
	Clare Benton	2025 Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies Recipient
	Jess Furney	Manager, Policy & Advocacy, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
	Freya Kodar	Dean of Law, University of Victoria
	Desmond MacMillan	Assistant Dean of Law, Thompson Rivers University
	Caroline Nevin	Chief Executive Officer, Courthouse Libraries BC
	Clarissa Peter	2025 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship Recipient
	Greg Phillips	President, Trial Lawyers Association of BC
	Laura Selby	Director of Publications, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC
	Cely-Rae Street	2025 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship Recipient
	Vanessa Udy	2025 Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies Recipient

Recognition

1. Presentation of the 2025 Law Society Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies

President Brook Greenberg, KC introduced the recipients of the 2025 Law Society Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies, Clare C. Benton and Vanessa Udy.

2. Presentation of the 2025 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship

Mr. Greenberg introduced the recipients of the 2025 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship, Clarissa Peter and Cely-Rae Street.

Consent Agenda

3. Minutes of July 4, 2025, meeting (regular session)

The minutes of the meeting held on July 4, 2025 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

4. Minutes of July 4, 2025, meeting (*in camera* session)

The minutes of the *in-camera* meeting held on July 4, 2025 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

Reports

5. President's Report

Mr. Greenberg began his report with a few staffing updates. He thanked Claire Marchant, Director of Policy and Practice for her many contributions and wished her success in her new role as Executive Director of the Lawyers Assistance Program of BC. Mr. Greenberg also welcomed Sherry Small as the Law Society's new Director of Indigenous Initiatives.

Mr. Greenberg then provided reminders regarding the Law Society's upcoming annual general meeting, which would take place on October 7, as well as the upcoming Bencher election, for which nominations are currently open and will close on October 15.

Mr. Greenberg informed Benchers that First Vice President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC and himself would be meeting with all of the committee chairs to discuss the current progress of committee priorities. He then spoke about a number of events he had recently attended and would be attending, including the New Westminster Bar Association Dinner, welcome ceremonies, and

call ceremonies. He thanked Benchers for their involvement in organizing and attending call ceremonies.

Mr. Greenberg expressed his condolences about the recent passing of Life Bencher William Sullivan, KC and spoke about his many contributions to the Law Society and to the profession.

6. CEO's Report

Gigi Chen-Kuo, CEO and Executive Director, began her report by welcoming Sherry Small, the Law Society's new Director of Indigenous Initiatives and introducing her to the Benchers. She thanked Claire Marshall for all of her assistance advising on Indigenous initiatives, and she also thanked Claire Marchant for her many contributions to the Law Society over the past several years.

Ms. Chen-Kuo then spoke about the International Day of Democracy, which took place on September 15. She indicated that the Federation of Law Societies of Canada had published a statement reaffirming the essential connection between democracy, the rule of law, and an independent legal profession and judiciary, and spoke about the importance of this message.

Ms. Chen-Kuo updated Benchers regarding the recent meeting of the transitional board and transitional Indigenous council. She indicated that an updated work plan had been approved at the meeting, as had the establishment of a hiring committee to oversee the hiring of the transitional manager. Ms. Chen-Kuo further indicated that a number of recommendations regarding rules and policies for custodianships, practice advice, unauthorized practice, investigations, and licensing and enrollment were presented for discussion, all of which will be brought back to the transitional board and transitional Indigenous council for approval.

Ms. Chen-Kuo then provided an update regarding the recent International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives (IILACE) conference, which she had attended. She spoke about a number of sessions, which had focused on the potential uses of artificial intelligence by the profession, judiciary, and legal regulators; recent challenges to the rule of law; and ways to promote wellbeing within the profession.

Ms. Chen-Kuo concluded her report by speaking about the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She indicated that the Law Society's offices would be closed on September 30 to commemorate this important day, and she encouraged Benchers and staff to take the time to reflect and learn more about the history and legacy of the residential school system.

Discussion & Decision

7. Practice Fee Rebate Program: Pilot Implementation

Mr. Greenberg introduced the item and summarized the decision made by Benchers at the April 11, 2025 Bencher meeting to approve in principle the establishment of a one-year pilot of a practice fee rebate program. He also summarized the discussions that took place at the July 4, 2025 Bencher meeting and the September 4 Executive Committee meeting regarding this matter. Mr. Greenberg then reviewed the proposed structure and approach of the pilot program, which was before the Benchers for approval.

Benchers discussed the proposed structure of the pilot program, including the maximum rebate and how it would be distributed, eligibility criteria, whether or not the pilot should focus on newly called members, and whether or not articulated students should be included in the pilot. Some Benchers expressed concerns regarding the timing of implementing the program, particularly with the proposed increase to the annual practice fee, while other Benchers were of the view that increasing the annual practice fee would be fiscally prudent, and the pilot could help support those lawyers who were encountering financial challenges.

Mr. Greenberg advised that the pilot is intended to assist those in circumstances where receiving the rebate would be the difference between staying in or leaving the profession, and that one of the aims of the pilot would be to gather more information to help design a potential permanent program.

The following resolution was passed by the majority of Benchers:

BE IT RESOLVED that Benchers approve the establishment of a one-year pilot of a practice fee rebate program as described in the report.

8. Trust Review Task Force Report: Recommendation 38

Mr. Greenberg introduced the item and provided some background regarding the report and recommendations made by the Trust Review Task Force. He summarized discussions that had occurred at past Bencher meetings regarding recommendation 38, which recommended a policy change, so that the Trust Administration Fee (“TAF”) would apply to all client matters with a trust transaction, without exemptions. Mr. Greenberg indicated that staff had taken Bencher feedback into consideration, and that recommendation 38 had been revised, so that the TAF would apply to each client matter undertaken by a lawyer in connection with which a lawyer receives in trust \$10,000 or more in total. He further indicated that this matter was now before the Benchers for approval.

Benchers discussed the impact of the \$10,000 and whether or not the threshold should be higher, as well as the number of TAF matters that are related to real estate transactions. Benchers also discussed the proposed 2026 budget, and whether it contemplated the proposed revision to

recommendation 38. Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Director of Trust Regulation advised that the proposed budget was developed based on the current status, as the proposed revision to recommendation 38 has not yet been approved by Benchers.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Benchers approve a policy change to the implementation of the Trust Administration Fee in order that it will apply to each client matter undertaken by the lawyer in connection with which the lawyer receives in trust \$10,000 or more in total, and that rules be prepared for approval by the Benchers to effect this change.

Some Benchers were of the view that a \$10,000 threshold was too low, and that a threshold of \$15,000 would be more appropriate.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend the previous motion to increase the TAF threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Some Benchers expressed concerns that further data was needed prior to increasing the TAF threshold.

The motion to amend the original motion failed with one abstention.

Benchers discussed the original motion and the importance of continually reviewing these matters based on available data.

The original resolution, set out below, was passed by the majority of Benchers.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Benchers approve a policy change to the implementation of the Trust Administration Fee in order that it will apply to each client matter undertaken by the lawyer in connection with which the lawyer receives in trust \$10,000 or more in total, and that rules be prepared for approval by the Benchers to effect this change.

9. Expanding the Use of Alternatives to Discipline

Mr. Greenberg introduced the item and provided some background to the proposal to expand the Alternative Discipline Process (“ADP”) to include health-related competency issues and to establish the Alternative Resolution Measures (“ARM”) framework to address non-health-related conduct issues where remediation or resolution is likely achievable.

Benchers discussed the proposals to expand the ADP and to establish the ARM framework, including the resources needed for these proposed initiatives, the types of health-related conditions that could potentially affect competency, and how to ensure that structures remained in place to address more serious matters.

The following resolutions were passed by the majority of Benchers:

BE IT RESOLVED that Benchers approve, in principle, expanding the Alternative Discipline Process to include health-related competence issues as described in this report.

BE IT RESOLVED that Benchers approve, in principle, establishing the Alternative Resolution Measures framework as described in this report.

10.2026 Initiatives, Budget & Fees

First Vice-President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC introduced the item, and provided some background regarding the stability of the annual practice fee over the past six years. He spoke about the proposed 2026 budget and the Finance and Audit Committee's recommendation to increase the annual practice fee.

Ms. Chen-Kuo spoke about the Law Society's current strategic plan and summarized the objectives and operational priorities.

Ms. McPhee presented an overview of the general fund. She reviewed the rationale for increasing the annual practice fee, noting that the fee has remained the same for the past six years, Benchers had approved a deficit budget for 2025 to draw down net asset reserves, the work undertaken by the Law Society has increased in volume and complexity, recent revenue trends indicate slowed growth of practising lawyers, and significant use of the net asset reserves is expected for the potential single legal regulator transition and other operational projects.

Ms. McPhee then reviewed the 2026 general fund revenues, which are projected to be \$38.6 million, an 8.4% increase from the 2025 budget due to the proposed annual practice fee increase. She indicated that revenue from all other sources has flattened in comparison to prior years. Ms. McPhee then reviewed the general fund operating expenses, which are expected to increase; however, the expected increase is lower than previous years, despite a marked increase in workloads. She also reviewed net assets reserves and planned use of the funds, including \$3.7 million for the single legal regulator transition, as well as external funding included in the annual practice fee.

Su Forbes, KC, Chief Operating Officer of the Lawyers Indemnity Fund ("LIF") provided an overview of LIF's proposed budget and fees. She indicated that the recommendation was to have the LIF fee remain at \$1,800 (for full-time lawyers) and \$900 (for part-time lawyers) for 2026.

Benchers discussed the proposed 2026 budget, including whether or not the annual practice fee would remain stable for a period of time following the proposed increase in 2026. Mr. Spraggs advised that as the annual practice fee had remained static for six years, it would be challenging to have it remain stable and still keep pace with inflation. Ms. McPhee and Ms. Chen-Kuo added that there would likely need to be an increase each year to ensure a balanced budget, potentially beyond the pace of inflation, though consideration would be given to try and keep increases at a modest level, whether through cost cutting or other opportunities for efficiencies.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 1, 2026, the practice fee be set at \$2,536, pursuant to section 23(1)(a) of the *Legal Profession Act*, which is projected to result in a deficit budget of \$174,034.

Benchers discussed the proposed increase to the practice fee, including addressing the change in Law Society communications, as well as the likelihood of future increases year over year. Benchers also discussed how the proposed increase to the practice fee would actually be less than if the practice fee had been increased year over year over the past six years to keep pace with inflation.

The resolution was passed by a majority of Benchers.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 1, 2026:

- The indemnity fee pursuant to section 30(3) of the *Legal Profession Act* be set at \$1,800;
- the part-time indemnity fee pursuant to Rule 3-40(2) be set at \$900; and
- the indemnity surcharge pursuant to Rule 3-44(2) be set at \$2,000; and
- the Part C \$2 million profession-wide annual aggregate be removed; and
- the Part C deductible, if no secondary verification, be reduced from 35% to 30% of the loss.

For Information

11. Timeline for 2025 General Election

There was no discussion on this item.

12. External Appointment: Continuing Legal Education Society of BC

There was no discussion on this item.

The Benchers then commenced the *in camera* portion of the meeting.

AB
2025-09-19



2026 Fee Schedule Amendments

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

From: Staff

Date: October 24, 2025

Issue

1. Before the end of each calendar year, the Benchers must approve revisions to the fee schedules, which appear as schedules to the Law Society Rules, to reflect changes taking effect on the following January 1.

Background

2. Under section 23(1)(a) of the *Legal Profession Act* and in accordance with Rule 2-105, the Benchers have approved a practice fee of \$2,536 for 2026, which is an increase to the practice fee for 2025 (\$2,321). This requires updating line A. 1. of Schedule 1.
3. The Benchers also approved an increase in the indemnity surcharge provided for in Rule 3-44(2), from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This requires amending line A. 3 of Schedule 1.
4. As a result of the increase in the practice fee, Schedule 2 (setting out prorated fees and assessment for practising lawyers) requires amendment.

Decision

5. Redlined and clean versions of the Schedules are attached (**Appendix “A” and “B”** respectively), together with a proposed resolution (**Appendix “C”**) for the Benchers, which the Benchers are asked to approve.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 1 – ~~2025~~ 2026 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

A. Annual fee	\$
1. Practice fee (Rule 2-105 [<i>Annual practising and indemnity fee instalments</i>])	2,321.00 <u>2,536.00</u>
2. Indemnity fee base assessment (which may be increased or decreased in individual cases in accordance with Rule 3-40 (1) [<i>Annual indemnity fee</i>]):	
(a) full-time practice	1,800.00
(b) part-time practice	900.00
3. Indemnity surcharge (Rule 3-44 (2) [<i>Deductible, surcharge and reimbursement</i>])	1,000.00 <u>2,000.00</u>
4. Late payment fee for practising lawyers (Rule 2-108 (3) [<i>Late payment</i>])	150.00
5. Retired member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1) [<i>Annual non-practising and retired member fees</i>])	125.00
6. Late payment fee for retired members (Rule 2-108 (4))	nil
7. Non-practising member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1))	325.00
8. Late payment fee for non-practising members (Rule 2-108 (5))	40.00
9. Administration fee (R. 2-116 (3) [<i>Refund on exemption during practice year</i>])	70.00
B. Trust administration fee	
1. Each client matter subject to fee (Rule 2-110 (1) [<i>Trust administration fee</i>]) ..	20.00
C. Special assessments	
D. Articled student and training course fees	
1. Application fee for enrolment in admission program (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) [<i>Enrolment in the admission program</i>] and 2-62 (1) (b) [<i>Part-time articles</i>]) ..	275.00
2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) [<i>Temporary articles</i>]) ..	150.00
3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c))	50.00
4. Training course registration (Rule 2-72 (4) (a) [<i>Training course</i>])	2,600.00
5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) [<i>Review of failed standing</i>]):	
(a) for each piece of work	100.00
(b) for repeating the training course	4,000.00
E. Transfer fees	
1. Application fee for transfer from another Canadian province or territory – investigation fee (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [<i>Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction</i>])	1,150.00

LAW SOCIETY RULES

2. Transfer or qualification examination (Rules 2-79 (6) and 2-90 (5) [Conditions on returning to practice])	325.00
F. Call and admission fees	
1. After enrolment in admission program (Rule 2-77 (1) (c) [First call and admission])	250.00
1.1 Without enrolment in admission program (Rule 2-77 (1) (c))	525.00
2. After transfer from another Canadian province or territory (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction])	250.00
G. Reinstatement fees	
1. Application fee following disbarment, resignation or other cessation of membership as a result of disciplinary proceedings (Rule 2-85 (1)(b) [Reinstatement of former lawyer])	700.00
2. Application fee following 3 years or more as a former member (Rule 2-85 (1) (b))	550.00
3. Application fee in all other cases (Rule 2-85 (1) (b))	450.00
H. Change of status fees	
1. Application fee to become retired member (Rule 2-4 (2) (b) [Retired members])	35.00
2. Application fee to become non-practising member (Rule 2-3 (1) (b) [Non-practising members])	70.00
3. Application fee for non-practising or retired member applying for practising certificate (Rule 2-5 (1) (b)) [Release from undertaking]	70.00
I. Inter-jurisdictional practice fees	
1. Application fee (Rule 2-19 (3) (b) [Inter-jurisdictional practice permit])	500.00
2. Renewal of permit (Rule 2-19 (3) (b))	100.00
J. Corporation and limited liability partnership fees	
1. Permit fee for law corporation (Rule 9-4 (c) [Law corporation permit])	400.00
2. New permit on change of name fee (Rule 9-6 (4) (c) [Change of corporate name])	100.00
3. LLP registration fee (Rule 9-15 (1) [Notice of application for registration])	400.00
K. Practitioners of foreign law	
1. Application fee for practitioners of foreign law (Rule 2-29 (1) (b) [Practitioners of foreign law])	700.00
2. Permit renewal fee for practitioners of foreign law (Rules 2-29 (1) (b) and 2-34 (2) (c) [Renewal of permit])	150.00

LAW SOCIETY RULES

3. Late payment fee (Rule 2-34 (6))	100.00
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LAW SOCIETY RULES

L. Late fees

1. Trust report late filing fee (Rule 3-80 (2) (b) [<i>Late filing of trust report</i>])	200.00
2. Professional development late completion fee (Rule 3-31 (1) (c) [<i>Late completion of professional development</i>])	500.00
3. Professional development late reporting fee (Rule 3-31 (3) (b))	200.00
4. Late registration delivery fee (Rule 2-12.4)	200.00
5. Late self-assessment delivery fee (Rule 2-12.4)	500.00
6. Indigenous intercultural course late completion fee (Rule 3-28.11 (1) (c) [<i>Late completion of Indigenous intercultural course</i>])	500.00
7. Indigenous intercultural course late reporting fee (Rule 3-28.11 (2) (b))	200.00

M. Multi-disciplinary practice fees

1. Application fee (Rule 2-40 (1) (b) [<i>Application to practise law in MDP</i>]).....	300.00
2. Application fee per proposed non-lawyer member of MDP (Rules 2-40 (1) (c) and 2-42 (2) [<i>Changes in MDP</i>]).....	1,125.00

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 2 – ~~2025-2026~~ PRORATED FEES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR PRACTISING LAWYERS

[Rules 2-77 (1) *[First call and admission]*, 2-79 (1) *[Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction]*, 2-85 (4) *[Reinstatement of former lawyer]*,
and 3-45 (1) and (2) *[Application for indemnity coverage]*]

	Practice fee		Indemnity fee assessment	
	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31
Full-time indemnification				
January	1,160.50 1,268.00	1,160.50 1,268.00	900.00	900.00
February	967.08 1,056.67	1,160.50 1,268.00	750.00	900.00
March	773.67 845.33	1,160.50 1,268.00	600.00	900.00
April	580.25 634.00	1,160.50 1,268.00	450.00	900.00
May	386.83 422.67	1,160.50 1,268.00	300.00	900.00
June	193.42 211.33	1,160.50 1,268.00	150.00	900.00
July	1,160.50 1,268.00	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	967.08 1,056.67	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	773.67 845.33	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	580.25 634.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	386.83 422.67	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	193.42 211.33	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	1,160.50 1,268.00	1,160.50 1,268.00	450.00	450.00
February	967.08 1,056.67	1,160.50 1,268.00	375.00	450.00
March	773.67 845.33	1,160.50 1,268.00	300.00	450.00
April	580.25 634.00	1,160.50 1,268.00	225.00	450.00
May	386.83 422.67	1,160.50 1,268.00	150.00	450.00
June	193.42 211.33	1,160.50 1,268.00	100.00	450.00
July	1,160.50 1,268.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	967.08 1,056.67	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	773.67 845.33	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	580.25 634.00	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	386.83 422.67	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	193.42 211.33	0.00	100.00	0.00

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 3 – ~~2025-2026~~ PRORATED FEES FOR NON-PRACTISING AND RETIRED MEMBERS

[Rules 2-3 (1) *[Non-practising members]*, 2-4 (2) *[Retired members]*
and 2-85 (5) *[Reinstatement of former lawyer]*]

	Non-practising members fee	Retired members fee
January	325.00	125.00
February	297.92	114.58
March	270.83	104.17
April	243.75	93.75
May	216.67	83.33
June	189.58	72.92
July	162.50	62.50
August	135.42	52.08
September	108.33	41.67
October	81.25	31.25
November	54.17	20.83
December	27.08	10.42

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

A. Annual fee	\$
1. Practice fee (Rule 2-105 [<i>Annual practising and indemnity fee instalments</i>]) ..	2,536.00
2. Indemnity fee base assessment (which may be increased or decreased in individual cases in accordance with Rule 3-40 (1) [<i>Annual indemnity fee</i>]):	
(a) full-time practice	1,800.00
(b) part-time practice	900.00
3. Indemnity surcharge (Rule 3-44 (2) [<i>Deductible, surcharge and reimbursement</i>])	2,000.00
4. Late payment fee for practising lawyers (Rule 2-108 (3) [<i>Late payment</i>])	150.00
5. Retired member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1) [<i>Annual non-practising and retired member fees</i>])	125.00
6. Late payment fee for retired members (Rule 2-108 (4)).....	nil
7. Non-practising member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1))	325.00
8. Late payment fee for non-practising members (Rule 2-108 (5))	40.00
9. Administration fee (R. 2-116 (3) [<i>Refund on exemption during practice year</i>])	70.00
 B. Trust administration fee	
1. Each client matter subject to fee (Rule 2-110 (1) [<i>Trust administration fee</i>]) ..	20.00
 C. Special assessments	
 D. Articled student and training course fees	
1. Application fee for enrolment in admission program (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) [<i>Enrolment in the admission program</i>] and 2-62 (1) (b) [<i>Part-time articles</i>]) .	275.00
2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) [<i>Temporary articles</i>]) ..	150.00
3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c))	50.00
4. Training course registration (Rule 2-72 (4) (a) [<i>Training course</i>])	2,600.00
5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) [<i>Review of failed standing</i>]):	
(a) for each piece of work	100.00
(b) for repeating the training course	4,000.00
 E. Transfer fees	
1. Application fee for transfer from another Canadian province or territory – investigation fee (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [<i>Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction</i>])	1,150.00
2. Transfer or qualification examination (Rules 2-79 (6) and 2-90 (5) [<i>Conditions on returning to practice</i>])	325.00

LAW SOCIETY RULES

F. Call and admission fees	\$
1. After enrolment in admission program (Rule 2-77 (1) (c) [<i>First call and admission</i>])	250.00
1.1 Without enrolment in admission program (Rule 2-77 (1) (c))	525.00
2. After transfer from another Canadian province or territory (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) [<i>Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction</i>])	250.00
G. Reinstatement fees	
1. Application fee following disbarment, resignation or other cessation of membership as a result of disciplinary proceedings (Rule 2-85 (1)(b) [<i>Reinstatement of former lawyer</i>])	700.00
2. Application fee following 3 years or more as a former member (Rule 2-85 (1) (b))	550.00
3. Application fee in all other cases (Rule 2-85 (1) (b))	450.00
H. Change of status fees	
1. Application fee to become retired member (Rule 2-4 (2) (b) [<i>Retired members</i>])	35.00
2. Application fee to become non-practising member (Rule 2-3 (1) (b) [<i>Non-practising members</i>])	70.00
3. Application fee for non-practising or retired member applying for practising certificate (Rule 2-5 (1) (b)) [<i>Release from undertaking</i>]	70.00
I. Inter-jurisdictional practice fees	
1. Application fee (Rule 2-19 (3) (b) [<i>Inter-jurisdictional practice permit</i>])	500.00
2. Renewal of permit (Rule 2-19 (3) (b))	100.00
J. Corporation and limited liability partnership fees	
1. Permit fee for law corporation (Rule 9-4 (c) [<i>Law corporation permit</i>])	400.00
2. New permit on change of name fee (Rule 9-6 (4) (c) [<i>Change of corporate name</i>])	100.00
3. LLP registration fee (Rule 9-15 (1) [<i>Notice of application for registration</i>]	400.00
K. Practitioners of foreign law	
1. Application fee for practitioners of foreign law (Rule 2-29 (1) (b) [<i>Practitioners of foreign law</i>])	700.00
2. Permit renewal fee for practitioners of foreign law (Rules 2-29 (1) (b) and 2-34 (2) (c) [<i>Renewal of permit</i>])	150.00
3. Late payment fee (Rule 2-34 (6))	100.00

LAW SOCIETY RULES

L. Late fees	\$
1. Trust report late filing fee (Rule 3-80 (2) (b) [<i>Late filing of trust report</i>])	200.00
2. Professional development late completion fee (Rule 3-31 (1) (c) [<i>Late completion of professional development</i>])	500.00
3. Professional development late reporting fee (Rule 3-31 (3) (b))	200.00
4. Late registration delivery fee (Rule 2-12.4)	200.00
5. Late self-assessment delivery fee (Rule 2-12.4)	500.00
6. Indigenous intercultural course late completion fee (Rule 3-28.11 (1) (c) [<i>Late completion of Indigenous intercultural course</i>])	500.00
7. Indigenous intercultural course late reporting fee (Rule 3-28.11 (2) (b))	200.00
 M. Multi-disciplinary practice fees	
1. Application fee (Rule 2-40 (1) (b) [<i>Application to practise law in MDP</i>]).....	300.00
2. Application fee per proposed non-lawyer member of MDP (Rules 2-40 (1) (c) and 2-42 (2) [<i>Changes in MDP</i>]).....	1,125.00

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 PRORATED FEES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR PRACTISING LAWYERS

[Rules 2-77 (1) *[First call and admission]*, 2-79 (1) *[Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction]*, 2-85 (4) *[Reinstatement of former lawyer]*, and 3-45 (1) and (2) *[Application for indemnity coverage]*]

	Practice fee		Indemnity fee assessment	
	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31
Full-time indemnification				
January	1,268.00	1,268.00	900.00	900.00
February	1,056.67	1,268.00	750.00	900.00
March	845.33	1,268.00	600.00	900.00
April	634.00	1,268.00	450.00	900.00
May	422.67	1,268.00	300.00	900.00
June	211.33	1,268.00	150.00	900.00
July	1,268.00	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	1,056.67	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	845.33	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	634.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	422.67	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	211.33	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	1,268.00	1,268.00	450.00	450.00
February	1,056.67	1,268.00	375.00	450.00
March	845.33	1,268.00	300.00	450.00
April	634.00	1,268.00	225.00	450.00
May	422.67	1,268.00	150.00	450.00
June	211.33	1,268.00	100.00	450.00
July	1,268.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	1,056.67	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	845.33	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	634.00	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	422.67	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	211.33	0.00	100.00	0.00

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 PRORATED FEES FOR NON-PRACTISING AND RETIRED MEMBERS

[Rules 2-3 (1) *[Non-practising members]*, 2-4 (2) *[Retired members]*
and 2-85 (5) *[Reinstatement of former lawyer]*]

	Non-practising members fee	Retired members fee
January	325.00	125.00
February	297.92	114.58
March	270.83	104.17
April	243.75	93.75
May	216.67	83.33
June	189.58	72.92
July	162.50	62.50
August	135.42	52.08
September	108.33	41.67
October	81.25	31.25
November	54.17	20.83
December	27.08	10.42

Note: The federal goods and services tax applies to Law Society fees and assessments.

Appendix "C"

TITLE: 2026 FEE SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the Law Society Rules, effective January 1, 2026, as follows:

1. *By striking the year “2025” in each of the headings for Schedules 1, 2 and substituting the year “2026”;*
2. *In Schedule 1, by striking “\$2,321.00” at the end of item A 1 and substituting “\$2,536.00”;*
3. *In Schedule 1, by striking “\$1000.00” at the end of item A 3 and substituting “\$2,000.00”;*
4. *By striking the table in Schedule 2 and replacing it with the following:*

	Practice fee		Indemnity fee assessment	
	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31	Payable prior to call	Payable by May 31
Full-time indemnification				
January	1,268.00	1,268.00	900.00	900.00
February	1,056.67	1,268.00	750.00	900.00
March	845.33	1,268.00	600.00	900.00
April	634.00	1,268.00	450.00	900.00
May	422.67	1,268.00	300.00	900.00
June	211.33	1,268.00	150.00	900.00
July	1,268.00	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	1,056.67	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	845.33	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	634.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	422.67	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	211.33	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	1,268.00	1,268.00	450.00	450.00
February	1,056.67	1,268.00	375.00	450.00
March	845.33	1,268.00	300.00	450.00
April	634.00	1,268.00	225.00	450.00
May	422.67	1,268.00	150.00	450.00
June	211.33	1,268.00	100.00	450.00

- 2 -

July	1,268.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	1,056.67	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	845.33	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	634.00	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	422.67	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	211.33	0.00	100.00	0.00

REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY OF BENCHERS PRESENT

Reappointment of Tribunal Chair

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

From: Executive Committee

Date: October 24, 2025

Introduction

1. It is the duty of the Benchers to appoint a practising lawyer as Tribunal Chair, in accordance with [Rule 5-1.3](#)¹.
2. The term of Herman Van Ommen, KC, as Tribunal Chair expires on December 31, 2025. At the end of his term, Mr. Van Ommen will have served one two-year term and one one-year term and is eligible for reappointment
3. This memorandum provides a recommendation from the Executive Committee² regarding the reappointment of Mr. Van Ommen as Tribunal Chair.

Background

4. On December 6, 2022, the Benchers appointed Herman Van Ommen, KC as Tribunal Chair for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2023.
5. At the November 29, 2024 Bencher meeting, the Benchers amended Rule [5-1.3\(3\)](#) to provide the Benchers with the authority to appoint a Tribunal Chair for a term to be set by the Benchers, up to a maximum of three years.
6. By email confirmed on December 5, 2024, the Benchers reappointed Mr. Van Ommen as Tribunal Chair for a further one-year term commencing January 1, 2025.
7. Mr. Van Ommen is willing to be reappointed as Tribunal Chair for a further term of one year.

Discussion

8. [Rule 5-1.3](#) indicates that the term of office of the Tribunal Chair must not exceed three years; however, the Rules set no limit on the number of terms the Tribunal Chair can serve, as long as each term is not more than three years. [The Law Society's Appointments Policy](#) recommends that Law Society appointments to any position will normally not exceed a total period of six years.
9. Over the past three years, Mr. Van Ommen has effectively fulfilled the responsibilities of Tribunal Chair. Given the uncertainty and change anticipated with the transition to a new

¹ Rule 5-13 also requires that the Tribunal Chair not be a Bencher, or a member of the Discipline, Credentials, or Practice Standards Committees.

² As the powers and duties of the Executive Committee include recommending to the appointment bodies on Law Society appointments to outside bodies, as outlined in [Rule 1-51\(j\)](#), it is in line with its other appointment duties for the Committee to provide a recommendation to Benchers regarding the appointment of the Tribunal Chair.

single legal regulator, maintaining stability in the role of Tribunal Chair at this juncture is important.

10. Mr. Van Ommen is a practising lawyer and is not a Benchers or a member of the Discipline, Credentials, or Practice Standards Committees and is eligible to be reappointed.

Decision/Recommendation

11. The Executive Committee recommends that Benchers approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED the Benchers reappoint Herman Van Ommen, KC as Tribunal Chair for a one-year term, commencing January 1, 2026, and concluding on December 31, 2026.

Law Society

of British Columbia

CEO Report

To: Benchers

Purpose: Report

From: Gigi Chen-Kuo

Date: October 24, 2025

1. Single Legal Regulator Update

Litigation – Legal Professions Act (Bill 21)

As you know, the Law Society is challenging the constitutional validity of Bill 21 - the *Legal Professions Act*, which received Royal Assent on May 16, 2024, on the basis that the Act fails to ensure the independence of the legal professions and their regulator – a fundamental democratic principle.

The hearing before Chief Justice Skolrood in the Supreme Court of British Columbia commenced on October 14th and is scheduled to continue for 14 days. The Law Society led the court through the constitutional provisions, principles and case law that form the constitutional underpinnings of the independence of the bar.

The Law Society highlighted the international threats to the rule of law, and reviewed the Law Society's long history including how it has been independent and self-governing since its creation in 1869. We also stressed that throughout the Law Society's history, the Law Society has been thoroughly involved in drafting revisions to the *Legal Profession Act* after extensive consultations with the bar, and that this is the norm in every other province.

The Law Society also cross-examined Philip Girard, PhD, the government's expert historian and referred to our expert, Professor Poonam Puri, who opined that the legal regulator's independence and good governance in the public interest require a board composed of a majority of elected lawyers.

Transitional Board and Transitional Indigenous Council

The transitional board and the transitional Indigenous council last met on September 17. A number of policy papers were included in the agenda, including topics that were previously considered. Several recommendations that addressed operational considerations were not adopted, with a direction that these matters should be left to the future staff to implement rather than included in rules.

The BC Paralegal Association is participating in the consultation process and has asked for the appointment of a legal advisor to assist them. A proposal for funding has been made to the Law Foundation, which is currently under consideration.

The next meeting of the transitional board and the transitional Indigenous council is scheduled for October 22. I will provide an oral update on developments at the October 24 Benchers meeting.

Combined Operational Workplan

The Law Society of BC and the Society of Notaries Public of BC jointly retained Cascadia Partners earlier this year to support the development of a combined operations workplan to identify operational requirements, in advance of potential amalgamation. Over the summer months, work has been underway with operational teams in both organizations to gather relevant information, compile and analyse the responses, and prepare a workplan.

The Combined Operations Group, composed of the Law Society's Senior Leadership Team and the Executive Director and CEO of the Society of Notaries Public, met on October 10 to review and discuss the draft combined operational workplan. The plan is intended to be a living document reflecting the best information known at the time of preparation, which will be continually updated and changed over time.

The next step is for leadership to review and discuss the combined operational plan in more detail, required resources, relevant timelines, and matters relating to the implementation of the plan.

2. New Memorandum of Understanding with RCMP

The Law Society recently concluded a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the RCMP, which governs information-sharing protocols.

Starting in the early 2000s, the Law Society entered into MOUs with all 11 municipal police forces in BC and with the RCMP "E" Division, which established procedures for the Law Society to request information from the police, as well as the terms and conditions for the use and dissemination of such information. Pursuant to these MOUs, the Law Society received information from police forces which has led to or supported investigations into member conduct.

Our new MOU with the RCMP reflects changes in applicable legislation and learnings from our experience with the previous MOU. It is part of a national RCMP initiative to develop MOUs with the Law Societies in all other provinces and territories, in addition to British Columbia and Ontario.

3. Limited Licensing of Legal Professionals in Saskatchewan

Earlier this month, the Government of Saskatchewan brought into force legislative amendments that formalize the limited licensing of legal professionals in Saskatchewan. These changes were the result of significant work and consultations beginning in 2016 and the implementation of the Final Report of the Legal Services Task Team.

The [Law Society of Saskatchewan website](#) has more information about the limited license changes, the scope of the role, the application process.

4. 2025 Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") took place on October 7. The business of the AGM included confirming Okanagan District Benchers Michael F. Welsh, KC as the Law Society of BC's Second Vice-President for the remainder of 2025, and Vancouver County Benchers Katrina Harry, KC as the Law Society of BC's Second Vice-President for 2026. President Greenberg provided a Benchers' report of proceedings since the last AGM, and all six member resolutions passed, following a period of advance voting and in-meeting voting.

Staff are reviewing and developing background materials on each of the resolutions, and I will provide a further update at an upcoming meeting.

5. Consultation on Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination

The Law Society's survey to learn more about experiences of discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying within BC's legal profession opened on October 8 and will close on November 21, 2025. We are inviting participation from the legal community as well as those who work with lawyers.

This consultation is an important part of the Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Task Force's work and will help inform next steps and recommendations. Survey respondents' views are valuable and key to understanding the issue, exploring barriers, and improve reporting measures.

More information about the survey is available on the [Law Society website](#).

6. Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Symposium

On October 9, 2025, the Law Society of BC held a full day symposium which explored how discrimination and harassment, including bullying and sexual harassment ("BHD"), in BC's legal profession could be addressed. The space had been set up with intention, to welcome participants and create a safe space for conversation and discussion. Attendance included members from across several Law Society committees, as well as Law Society staff and a number of external speakers.

The symposium provided an opportunity to explore questions relating to BHD more deeply, develop new relationships and confirm a shared commitment to this work. Key insights and practical takeaways from the symposium will be presented to the Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Task Force at a future meeting.

7. Demographic data project

In November 2024, the Benchers approved in principle a new approach to collecting and using demographic data from licensees - a key step towards identifying and addressing systemic inequities within the legal profession. To fulfil the terms of the resolution, in 2025, the Law Society has been working to develop an evidence-based data collection tool and the organizational infrastructure required to deploy it.

Guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the Law Society has engaged extensively throughout this year with the legal community and with both internal and external stakeholders. In the spring and summer of 2025, the Law Society conducted seven focus groups with legal professionals from diverse backgrounds, Benchers and members of the senior leadership team. Informed by these discussions, a new demographic data questionnaire and accompanying Information Sheet outlining its purpose, use, and other details, was released publicly on the [Law Society's website](#) for an online consultation.

Findings from this year-long engagement with the legal community and internal and external stakeholders, including an updated questionnaire, will be provided to the Benchers in a report for consideration at the December 5, 2025 Bencher meeting. The report will contain recommendations regarding the deployment and content of the updated questionnaire, which will include questions about respondents' gender, sexual orientation, Indigenous identity, racial identity, disability, citizenship/immigrant status, first language learnt, religious identity, socio-economic status, and first-generation lawyer status.

8. Rule of Law Campaign Update

The Law Society of Manitoba is spearheading an initiative to increase public awareness of the rule of law across Canada. A number of law societies will be participating in the campaign, which will launch by the end of October. Thanks to the support of the Benchers, British Columbia is a key funding partner and sits on the steering committee for the campaign.

The national campaign will include paid media on television, print advertisements, social media, and online video, as well as Op-Eds, a speakers' tour, microsite, and newsroom explainers.

9. 2025 Bencher Elections

Bencher elections will be held this year in November for Benchers of the Law Society in all districts where elections are required, for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2027.

A Call for Nominations was sent to the profession on September 11, and the due date for nominations was 4:30 pm on October 15. Voting in jurisdictions requiring an election will take place from November 10 until 4:30 pm on November 17. Votes will be counted, and results will be published, on November 18.

Contested elections will be held in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Westminster, Kootenay and Prince Rupert. Benchers were declared continued without election or declared elected by acclamation in Cariboo, with Benjamin Levine and Georges Rivard, KC re-elected, and Kamloops, with Jay Michi re-elected.

In terms of turnover at the Benchers table, at least five elected Benchers and three appointed Benchers will have reached the maximum number of terms that can be served by the end of the current term or have elected not to seek another term. The electoral process could also result in additional changes. In recognition of the number of new Benchers joining the table on January 1, 2026, we are looking ahead to the Benchers orientation process, and how we can best facilitate a smooth transition with this degree of turnover at the Benchers table.

Those seeking more information on the election process will find it on the [Law Society website](#).

Gigi Chen-Kuo
Chief Executive Officer

Bar Admission Training Program

Purpose: Report of Benchers Decision

From: Staff

Date: October 24, 2025

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to record, describe and communicate the decision of the Benchers, *in camera*, at the July 4, 2025 Benchers meeting that the Law Society:
 - i. enter into a participation agreement with the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (“CPLED”), and such other documents as may be necessary, to implement the Practice Readiness Education Program (“PREP”) as the new bar admission program in British Columbia, on terms satisfactory to the Law Society; and
 - ii. develop and implement enhanced engagement and support between articulated students and the Law Society as regulator, as described in this report, which would be independent of, but complement PREP.
2. While the Benchers are committed to transparency in their deliberations, the Benchers determined that it was necessary to hold discussions and deliberations regarding the Professional Legal Training Course (“PLTC”) and decision to adopt PREP as the new bar admission training program in BC, *in camera* for two important reasons:
 - i. the continuation or retiring of the PLTC and adoption of PREP is a matter that has a direct impact on Law Society personnel and care needed to be taken during the deliberative period until the outcome was certain and could be communicated to staff; and
 - ii. adopting PREP as the new bar admission training program involved contract negotiations with CPLED that required confidentiality until negotiations had concluded.

Background

3. The genesis of this work began in 2021, when Jordan Furlong was retained to provide a series of papers identifying issues facing, and proposing, possible changes to the Law Society’s licensing process. This work culminated in a [summary report](#) (“the Competency Report”) that was presented to the Benchers in May 2022. The Competency Report’s¹ central recommendation was the development of a Competency Profile for newly licensed lawyers in BC.
4. In September 2022, the Benchers directed that the Law Society develop a competency-based system² for lawyer licensing in British Columbia, beginning with the development of a

¹ [Furlong Report - A Competence-Based System for Lawyer Licensing in BC.pdf](#)

² [Report-to-Benchers-from-LDTF-Development-of-a-Competence-Based-System.pdf](#)

Competency Profile. In considering the recommendation to develop a Competency Profile, the Benchers were advised that establishing a Competency Profile represented the first stage of a much larger set of potential changes to the system of lawyer licensing in British Columbia.

5. In April 2024, the Benchers adopted the [Western Canada Competency Profile](#) (the “WCCP³”) as the competencies to be demonstrated on entry to legal practice in British Columbia.
6. In order to provide substance to the approval of the WCCP, work is currently underway to evaluate bar admission programs across the Western law societies, with a view to identifying which competencies should be met through bar admission training courses and which competencies should be met during articling or other experiential learning.
7. The timing of this work provided an opportunity for the Law Society to consider the current bar admission training course in British Columbia.
8. The Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the 2024 Lawyer Development Task Force (“LDTF”), met on two occasions in 2024 to discuss and consider the current bar admission training course.
9. Following those discussions and considerations, the matter was referred to the Benchers with an endorsement from the Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the LDTF to approach CPLED to explore the implementation of PREP in British Columbia.
10. The Benchers considered the endorsement at the November 2024 Bencher meeting, *in camera*, along with a presentation by representatives from CPLED, and approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Law Society approach the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education with a view to investigating the implementation of the Practice Readiness Education Program as the new bar admission course for the Law Society of British Columbia.

11. Between November 2024 and May 2025, staff consulted with CPLED on a number of matters including financial considerations, accelerated PREP offerings, online delivery of the program, and social interaction and networking opportunities. The Benchers were provided with details of the investigations and information that had been gathered at the May 31, 2025 meeting.

³ [WesternCanadaCompetencyProfile.pdf](#)

12. The matter was brought back to the Benchers for further consideration, *in camera*, at the July 4, 2025 meeting, at which time the Benchers discussed matters such as cost, time, effectiveness, resource requirements, strategic and practical considerations, as well as delivery models and social interaction and networking opportunities.
13. As noted above, at the July 4, 2025 meeting the Benchers resolved to enter into a participation agreement with CPLED and to develop and implement enhanced engagement and support between articulated students and the Law Society which would be independent of, but complement, PREP.
14. The below paragraphs describe and provide additional information about the Benchers' *in camera* deliberations regarding the July 4, 2025 decision.

Discussion

15. The PLTC was introduced in 1984 as a mandatory requirement for call to the bar, and while the substance of the course has evolved over time to keep pace with developments in the law and expectations about what should be taught, the PLTC structure and assessments have remained largely unchanged since that time.
16. For over forty years, the PLTC has supported the growth of countless students and delivered stable outcomes for the public and the justice system in British Columbia. However, the demands of today's learners, shaped by technological advances, evolving pedagogical standards and the shifting needs of the public in the delivery of legal services, are very different from those of the past.
17. When referring to survey results of participants in the 2019 and 2021 PLTC sessions, the Competency Report that was presented to Benchers in May 2022 commented "While program participants gave the PLTC generally good reviews for its "overview of different areas of practice" and "exposure to subjects not covered in law school," they were critical of the intensity of the workload in such a short period of time, as well as both the length and currency of the materials. Especially troubling were concerns about the disconnect between what the PLTC taught and what "real-life practice" required, and the negative impact of the experience on participants' mental and emotional wellness."
18. The results of the 2024 Articling Survey Report, revealed that on average, over 50% of all BC survey respondents felt that students did not receive adequate training in PLTC (55% of articling students/new lawyers and 57% of principals, recruiters and mentors). While this is a concerning finding, the results are not inconsistent with those noted in the Competency Report that was presented to Benchers in May 2022.

19. While the Law Society was forced to move the PLTC online due to the pandemic, it is not considered an “online course” and is best described as a virtual classroom. This has allowed the PLTC to continue with the same characteristics as it did in-person and PLTC is essentially delivering an in-person model on an online platform, rather than a course that is designed for online learning.
20. The Benchers discussed the anecdotal information and criticisms about the current delivery model of the PLTC. This criticism was unsurprising as PLTC was never designed as, nor intended to be, an online program.
21. A bar admission training program exists both to support the training, and assessment, of articulated students. Given the mandatory nature of the bar admission training course as a prerequisite to being called to the Bar, one of the Law Society’s primary considerations is to prioritize the best interests of articulated students.
22. The Benchers considered that simply reverting back to the in-person PLTC model does not address the concerns raised by articulated students about both their experience and learning outcomes.
23. The Benchers’ adoption of the WCCP in April 2024, combined with survey results and anecdotal information that indicate aspects of PLTC may be detrimental to both the learning outcomes and the mental health of those required to participate, necessitated reconsideration of the status quo and that a decision be made about the future of the bar admission training course in British Columbia.
24. The Benchers accepted that continuing with the status quo bar admission course is no longer a viable option and that there is a compelling need for reform. As a result, the Benchers considered the following two options outlined below.

Restructure the PLTC bar admission training course

25. A redesign and restructuring of the Law Society’s current bar admission training course could potentially transform it into a dynamic and authoritative lawyer and professional skills program for British Columbia. However, one of the challenges of building a bar admission training program from the ground up is that this option involves high upfront costs in curriculum design, materials development, staff, training, technology, and administrative support. While a formal cost analysis was not done, as a comparator, CPLED advised that they spent \$3.2 million to develop PREP in 2018. Taking inflation into consideration, developing a similar program today would cost approximately \$3.6 million.
26. Practically, restructuring the bar admission training course would involve developing a plan for the assessment of bar admission students in BC, including retaining experts with

demonstrated understanding of the Canadian legal profession, expertise in the assessment of competencies by regulators of professions, and knowledge of psychometrics related to evaluating and testing candidates for licensure, to identify and describe competency-based assessment options for consideration.

27. The estimated time required to restructure the bar admission course to full implementation was expected to be between 2 to 3 years. During that time, apart from ensuring that PLTC keeps pace with developments in the law and expectations about what should be taught, the current bar admission training program structure and assessments would remain largely unchanged.
28. Building a new program would inevitably involve some trial and error through piloting before full implementation could be accomplished. While the Law Society would retain subject matter experts in designing a new bar admission training course, during a rollout of a new course, there would be a risk of not meeting student needs or failure to meet educational objectives.
29. Until a new bar admission training course is fully built and tested, the costs of ongoing maintenance, support and staffing for the new course would also be uncertain. Because so many variables are involved, it was difficult to determine in advance whether these ongoing costs would ultimately be passed down to users – either through tuition, fees, or other funding models.

Implement a common inter-provincial bar admission training course

30. CPLED was founded in 2004 by the Law Societies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba to develop a common bar admission education program.
31. CPLED has gone through a number of iterations, evaluations and refinements since its inception. PREP was developed and launched in June 2020 and is now the bar admission training program utilized by the Law Societies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia (with Nova Scotia joining most recently in [date]).
32. CPLED offers two distinct types of PREP intakes. The Accelerated PREP is an immersive and compressed program and the “regular” PREP is designed to be completed on a part-time basis during articles.
33. PREP has been designed as a virtual program, integrating self-study components with interactive learning and simulation over four distinct phases. This is different from a

program like PLTC, designed for an instructor and students in a classroom but delivered in an on-camera virtual setting.

34. The four phases of PREP are:

- a. Foundation Modules – comprised of 12 self-directed modules and interactive assessments with multimedia learning to provide a foundation in lawyer skills, including professional ethics, client relationship management, practice management, written skills, and oral skills such as interviewing, negotiation, and oral advocacy.
- b. Foundation Workshops – consisting of six skill-building workshops where students apply what they learned in the self-directed modules and work together in interactive sessions led by experienced lawyer-facilitators, where they role-play interviewing, negotiating, and advocacy, as well as conduct written skill simulations.
- c. Virtual Law Firm – students work in virtual law firms to address legal matters in three areas: business law, criminal law and family law. During the virtual law firm, students are assessed for learning purposes as they manage multiple aspects of legal files, including 15 assignments covering oral skills, written skills, ethics, client relationship management and practice management. During this phase, they also receive mentorship from experienced lawyers, interview simulated clients, and work in online practice groups to collaborate and network.
- d. Capstone Evaluation – candidates demonstrate their decision-making skills and competencies in simulated transactions. The Capstone Evaluation consists of nine assignments in three skill categories:
 - i. Oral skills (interviewing, negotiation, and oral advocacy)
 - ii. Written skills (legal research, writing and drafting)
 - iii. Ethics, client relationship management, and practice management.

Assignments are assessed by trained lawyer-assessors who assign competence level on multiple criteria, verified through psychometric analysis. Candidates pass PREP if they demonstrate entry-level competence on each established competency category and overall entry-level competence with the competence categories considered together.

35. CPLED has subject matter expertise in education design, implementation, and pedagogy. CPLED has also demonstrated that they have the capabilities to develop and deliver new programs and courses, including developing a Legal Research and Writing course, which is recognized by the Federation of Law Societies as an approved course for students completing their National Committee on Accreditation requirements (“NCA”). In addition,

after a competitive request for proposals process in 2024, CPLED was selected by the Federation to develop options for assessment tools for the NCA's new competency profile.

36. Joining CPLED comes at a lower and more predictable cost than building a new bar admission training program from the ground up. The infrastructure, curriculum, and operational resources are already in place, which allows for better budgeting and planning from the start.
37. While there are transition costs involved, CPLED has confirmed that it does not require a buy-in from the Law Society to adopt PREP, reducing the need for significant upfront investment. The transitional costs, estimated at \$100,000, will cover an update of the PREP materials with a BC jurisdictional review, workforce transition, technology, legal work, and communication and website updates.
38. While the fee for 2026 PREP fees are not set until the CPLED Board meets in December, it is not expected that there will be a significant increase to the PREP fees relative to the current PLTC tuition fees, which have not been increased since 2015.
39. CPLED advised that in order to prepare and ensure that everything is in place to begin accepting BC students in PREP, they required approximately 10 months' notice.
40. CPLED's governance board offered the Law Society formal participation, ensuring influence and accountability is retained. As an Associate participant, BC would have additional rights and be entitled to appoint a person to the Board. An Associate participant may also request that the Board conduct a review of PREP at any time.

Enhanced Engagement and Support for Articled Students

41. A key consideration for the Benchers in deciding whether to join CPLED was that PREP is a fully online program, with no in-person component. This is a significant shift from PLTC's traditional learning environment and the Benchers raised questions about engagement, accessibility, and the quality of the learning experiences.
42. In noting that CPLED can offer flexibility and scalability, it was important for the Benchers to evaluate whether adequate interaction, support and connection for learners could be provided.
43. In that regard, CPLED advised that it provides candidates with various opportunities for social interaction and networking within PREP. These interactions range from required interactions, such as during the foundation workshops, virtual law firm assignments, virtual law firm practice managers, to informal interactions with additional non-compulsory

meetings with Practice Managers during the virtual law firm and an optional peer networking program for all PREP candidates.

44. While CPLED provides these opportunities, the Benchers felt that it was important for the Law Society to identify strategies and additional opportunities for in-person connection to implement in BC to enhance engagement and support for articulated students, independent of the core bar admission training course.
45. The Benchers directed that the following types of strategies and additional supports be designed to address concerns and complement the online delivery of practical skills training with in-person learning, connections, and support, without duplicating content:

a) In-Person/Hybrid Connection Opportunities

- A Law Society hosted orientation session for articulated students at the beginning of a student's enrolment in the admission program. In addition to representative Benchers and staff from the Law Society, the orientation session could include representatives from partner organizations such as the Lawyers Assistance Program, the Continuing Legal Education Society, and the Canadian Bar Association - BC Branch. These orientation sessions could be held both in person and virtually at various locations throughout the province.
- During the articling term, the Law Society could host subject specific learning opportunities (using a hybrid model) that may ultimately be better suited outside of any bar admission training course or experiential learning, such as topics relating to well-being, Truth & Reconciliation, and access to justice.
- A follow-up orientation session would be developed for newly called lawyers to welcome them to the profession and to provide resources for early days of practice.

b) Personalized Mentorship and Support including: providing articulated students with access to mentors to help develop ongoing mentoring relationships; facilitating pairing articulated students with volunteer lawyers based on areas of law, geographical proximity, personal experience and similar interests; pairs would be matched for the duration of a student's enrolment in the admission program, and could meet either in person or remotely depending on preference.

c) Community Building including: creation of an online community platform to allow students to connect with each other; encouraging peer mentoring or study groups for articulated students throughout the duration of their enrolment in the admission program to build accountability and social connections; organizing live and virtual sessions for peer discussion or guest talks from the local bar associations, the judiciary, and other partners in the legal community.

46. Rather than trying to concentrate all efforts during a short, high-pressure, bar admission training course – which in some cases currently occurs at the end of a student’s enrolment – these strategies and supports would take place over the entire duration of an articulated student’s enrolment in the admission program.
47. This approach facilitates enhanced engagement between articulated students and the Law Society as regulator, helping to establish a strong foundation for ongoing professional development within a supportive and continuous learning environment, consistent with the Law Society’s strategic and regulatory objectives.

Decision

48. Taking into consideration the significant changes that have occurred in the delivery of legal services in recent years and the needs of articulated students and technological capabilities, the Benchers accepted that retaining PLTC in its current structure (regardless of its delivery model) was not a viable option. As a result, the fundamental policy consideration was whether to undertake an evaluation and restructuring of the PLTC or become a participating partner in CPLED to deliver PREP as the new bar admission training program in BC.
49. While building a new bar admission training program offers full control and customization, it would come with high costs, a lengthy timeline, and some unpredictability.
50. CPLED offered a level of reliability, including outcomes data, user feedback and established support networks. CPLED’s online model delivers meaningful, effective skills-based learning and assessment that meets the needs of today’s students, while ensuring that new lawyers entering practice meet the standards necessary to serve and protect the public.
51. Standardizing the bar admission program across the Western law societies would mean that the Law Society can take immediate action to transition and integrate into PREP, while also having meaningful input as a partner into the future redevelopment of PREP.
52. A common standardized lawyer skills bar admission training course does not preclude BC from introducing further training requirements and opportunities to enhance engagement and support for articulated students, either alone or in conjunction with CPLED. In fact, offering other opportunities for in-person engagement over the course of the admission program, rather than solely within a bar admission training program, will provide even greater connection between students and the regulator, and among students.
53. Formal participation in CPLED ensures that the Law Society of BC’s core mission to serve the public interest by regulating the competence and integrity of legal service providers is met. It also aligns with the Law Society’s strategic objective to lead as an innovative

regulator of legal services providers with the goal to continuously improve the regulation and education of lawyers, the legal profession and legal services in the public interest.

54. The Benchers also considered that the bar admission training course is only one piece in an overall review of lawyer licensing in BC. Work will also be undertaken to develop guidance to principals/supervisors about the competencies students are expected to obtain through experiential learning and how principals will be expected to assess those competencies.
55. While evaluation of the bar admission training course and developing guidance for principals is necessary relating to the current licensing process structure, the WCCP will also be utilized to explore alternative experiential learning options that would provide students with the tools to develop the required competencies.
56. In analyzing the two options against the criteria of cost, time, effectiveness, delivery models, and resource requirements, the Benchers concluded that joining CPLED is the more strategic and practical choice, and that a key component of this decision was also to create other opportunities for in-person connection and training to be offered by the Law Society.

Next Steps

57. In order for a smooth transition, it is currently contemplated that BC students, who have not already commenced the PLTC, will commence PREP in September 2026.
58. Recognizing that interest holder engagement is essential for successful implementation of PREP as the new bar admission program in British Columbia, detailed communications and change management plans have been prepared to address interest holder concerns and questions.
59. Information and frequently asked questions will be available on the Law Society's website immediately. In addition, over the coming months, information sessions will be held in person and virtually to provide further information and address any questions.

Proposed Amendment to Rule 2-110 (Trust Administration Fee)

To: Benchers

Purpose: Discussion & Decision

From: Executive Committee

Date: October 24, 2025

Background

1. At the last Benchers meeting, the Benchers considered the rules regarding payment of the Trust Administration Fee and in particular whether the rule requiring when it should be paid should be amended.
2. The Benchers resolved to:

approve a policy change to the implementation of the Trust Administration Fee in order that it will apply to each client matter undertaken by the lawyer in connection with which the lawyer receives in trust \$10,000 or more in total, and that rules be prepared for approval by the Benchers to effect this change.
3. Staff has prepared a proposed rule amendment to reflect this policy change, and this was considered at the Executive Committee's October 8, 2025 meeting. Redlined and clean versions are attached as **Appendices A** and **B** respectively, while a proposed resolution for the Benchers' approval is attached as **Appendix C**.

Drafting Notes

4. The Benchers resolution speaks to TAF being applied to funds received in trust in the amount of \$10,000 or more.
5. Upon reflection after listening to the discussion by the Benchers, staff proposed, and the Executive Committee agreed, that the rule be drafted so that TAF will only be applied if the aggregate amount received in trust exceeds \$10,000, rather than as the resolution suggested, for amounts of \$10,000 or more. Because the intent is to reduce the incidence of TAF especially for matters where modest amounts are at stake, usually on reduced-fee retainers, and because the likelihood that a settlement amount or other payment received on behalf of a client will be in round numbers, the slight revision proposed will ensure that amounts up to and including \$10,000 received in trust will be exempt from TAF, rather than having the cut off for exemption at \$9,999.00.
6. There was no discussion about the effective date for the new TAF rule. Because TAF is payable in quarters, with the next quarter ending December 31, 2025, staff recommended, and the committee agreed, that the proposed amendment to Rule 2-110 be made effective January 1, 2026 so as not to interfere with accounting or payment requirements in the middle of a designated period.

Proposed Resolution

7. The Benchers are asked to approve the resolution attached at **Appendix C**.

LAW SOCIETY RULES

PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP AND AUTHORITY TO PRACTISE LAW

Division 3 – Fees and Assessments

Trust administration fee

- 2-110** (1) A lawyer must pay to the Society the trust administration fee specified in Schedule 1 for each client matter undertaken by the lawyer in connection with which the lawyer receives ~~any money~~ in trust funds in an aggregate amount greater than \$10,000 not including fees and retainers.
- (2) Only one trust administration fee is payable in respect of a single client matter in which
- (a) a lawyer represents joint clients; or
 - (b) more than one lawyer in a law firm acts.
- (3) For each quarter year ending on the last day of March, June, September or December, a lawyer must remit the following to the Society within 30 days of the quarter year to which they apply:
- (a) trust administration fees that have become payable under subrule (1) during the quarter year;
 - (b) a completed trust administration report in the prescribed form.

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- (a) trust administration fees that have become payable under subrule (1) during the quarter year;
 - (b) a completed trust administration report in the prescribed form.

Appendix C**TRUST ADMINISTRATION FEE****RESOLUTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED, effective January 1, 2026, to amend Rule 2-110 of the Law Society Rules by deleting subrule (1) and replacing it with

“(1) A lawyer must pay to the Society the trust administration fee specified in Schedule 1 for each client matter undertaken by the lawyer in connection with which the lawyer receives in trust funds in an aggregate amount greater than \$10,000.”

REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY OF BENCHERS PRESENT

Strategic Plan 2026 - 2028

To: Benchers

Purpose: Discussion & Decision

From: Executive Committee

Date: October 24, 2025

Purpose

1. At its meeting of October 8, 2025, the Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the Law Society’s next Strategic Plan (the “New Plan”) and agreed to recommend the New Plan to Benchers for consideration and approval.

Background

2. The Law Society is in its final year of its 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan (the “Current Plan”). The Current Plan (attached as **Appendix A**) sets out the vision, mission, and values of the Law Society, together with strategic objectives and supporting actions. A new strategic plan is needed for the post-2025 timeframe.
3. In spring 2025, the Senior Leadership Team (“SLT”) embarked on preliminary work to consider the New Plan by retaining a consultant to conduct an environmental scan. The consultant conducted interviews with senior staff, members of the Executive Committee, and a number of Benchers.
4. After consultation with the Executive Committee and Benchers on the process for developing the New Plan, two Bencher input sessions were convened in August 2025 to gather further Bencher and staff input on the vision, values, goals, and strategic objectives of the New Plan. Any Bencher who was not able to participate in the August sessions was offered an opportunity to meet individually with the facilitator. Benchers also had the opportunity to provide input on the first draft of the New Plan at a session convened on October 2, 2025.

Discussion

5. Attached as **Appendix B** is the current draft of the New Plan, which incorporates feedback provided by Benchers at the October session, including the following:
 - a. Adding a new Value to address the Law Society’s commitment to advancing reconciliation, developed in consultation with the Director Indigenous Initiatives.
 - b. Reflecting broadly all of the recommendations from the Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters final report as actions under the Strategic Objective “Working Towards Reconciliation”.
6. At its meeting of October 8, the Executive Committee reviewed the updated draft New Plan and agreed to recommend to Benchers the adoption of the New Plan.

Recommendation

7. The Executive Committee recommends that Benchers adopt the Law Society's new Strategic Plan: 2026 to 2028 as attached in **Appendix B**.

Strategic Plan 2021–2025

MISSION STATEMENT

The Law Society serves the public interest by regulating the competence and integrity of legal service providers, promoting the rule of law and lawyer independence, and improving access to justice.

VISION

To be a leading regulator that promotes a culture of innovation and inclusivity when responding to challenges and opportunities in the delivery and regulation of legal services.

VALUES

Integrity

We act honestly and ethically.

Transparent

We are open in our processes and communications, and report publicly on our decisions.

Inclusive

We embrace and promote equity, diversity, inclusion and cultural respect within our leadership and staff, as well as in the legal profession, the justice sector and the public.

Objective

We seek data-driven solutions, apply evidence-based decision-making and measure our results.

Innovative

We are adaptive in our approach to regulation with the goal of achieving efficient, fair and appropriate outcomes.

Responsive

We are aware of the changing needs of the public and the profession and respond to such changes in a timely manner.

Fair

We treat the public and the legal profession with respect and are consistent in the application of our policies, procedures and practices.

Strategic Objectives

**LEADING AS AN
INNOVATIVE
REGULATOR OF LEGAL
SERVICE PROVIDERS**

GOAL:
Continuously improve the regulation and education of lawyers, the legal profession and legal services in the public interest.

Policy, Rules and Governance

- Continuously improve regulatory structures to keep up-to-date with evolving money laundering risks, guided by regulatory best practices and constitutional imperatives
- Revise regulatory processes to support and promote mental and physical health
- Clarify and strengthen governance to support our mandate
- Revise the rules to permit innovations in alternate business structures and reduce the complexity of current multidisciplinary partnership rules
- Ensure policy development is data-based, evidence-driven and informed by the views of the public and the profession
- Introduce alternative pathways for entry into the legal profession
- Create new training on managing the business of practising law
- Develop resources to improve support for in-house counsel and government lawyers

**WORKING TOWARD
RECONCILIATION**

GOAL:
Implement initiatives to take meaningful action toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the justice system.

Reconciliation within the Justice System

- Support increased representation and retention of Indigenous lawyers in senior positions throughout the justice system
- Address the unique needs of Indigenous people within our regulatory processes
- Update our Rules and Code to reflect Indigenous law and experiences
- Support the advancement of the principles set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy, and support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Introduce cultural competency training to foster understanding of Indigenous perspectives
- Work with K-12 education providers, including the First Nations Schools Association, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Métis, to increase awareness of careers in law and the wider justice system within Indigenous communities

**TAKING ACTION TO
IMPROVE ACCESS
TO JUSTICE**

GOAL:
Increase availability of affordable legal services and access to the courts, administrative tribunals, other dispute resolution providers and our regulatory processes.

Access and Innovation

- Reduce regulatory barriers to improve delivery of legal services
- Develop and implement an innovation sandbox for provision of a wider range of legal services and providers, including licensed paralegals
- Increase the availability of legal services to people in the communities where they live
- Enhance engagement with governments, courts and other stakeholders to identify areas of improvement in the delivery of legal services
- Advocate for greater access to non-adversarial dispute resolution in family law matters
- Advocate for funding to address gaps in the delivery of legal services
- Maintain and enhance measures adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that have improved access to legal services and the justice system

PROMOTING A PROFESSION THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE PUBLIC IT SERVES

GOAL:
Greater diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and equitable treatment of every individual who interacts with the Law Society.

Policy Development

- Implement and communicate equity, diversity and inclusion work plan
- Ensure current and future regulation and policy development adhere to equity, diversity and inclusion principles
- Develop and deliver cultural competency training, as well as training addressing implicit and explicit biases in the profession
- Revise the language of forms and publications to ensure they conform to current principles of inclusion
- Update the demographic data of BC legal professionals to inform policy initiatives
- Partner with community organizations to educate youth from diverse and equity-seeking groups about the role of lawyers and to encourage entry into the legal profession
- Collaborate with organizations to increase the recruitment, retention and advancement of diverse lawyers

INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN THE LAW SOCIETY, THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

GOAL:
Greater public confidence in the ability of the Law Society to regulate in the public interest and greater public awareness of the importance of the rule of law and lawyer independence

Law Society Processes

- Increase timeliness of Law Society processes, decisions and communications
- Obtain legislative changes to increase fines and recover investigation costs
- Clarify authority to obtain an order of restitution where misconduct has resulted in a loss to a party
- Increase use of victim impact statements in disciplinary processes
- Enhance the independence of the Law Society Tribunal through further administrative separation from the Law Society
- Update disclosure and privacy policies relating to Law Society processes
- Increase the Law Society’s engagement with the profession and the public about initiatives, regulatory developments and other relevant information, including the basis for decisions affecting regulation
- Engage the Ministry of Education to incorporate more information about rights and obligations, the rule of law and the role of lawyers and judges into school curricula
- Improve communication and outreach explaining the role of the Law Society in the justice system, the importance of the rule of law in a civil society and the role of an independent, self-governing legal profession in preserving the rule of law

Strategic Plan
2026 – 2028

/ Mission Statement

The Law Society serves the public interest by regulating the competence and integrity of legal service providers, promoting the rule of law and lawyer independence, and improving access to legal services.

/ Vision

To be a leading, independent regulator that protects the public interest in the delivery and regulation of legal services.

/ Values

We Uphold Integrity

We are honest and ethical and treat all people with fairness and respect

We Are Transparent

We communicate our processes and policies with openness and clarity and report publicly on our decisions

We Advance Reconciliation

We honor the diversity, dignity and distinctiveness of Indigenous people and foster healing through bridge-building across communities, systems and histories

We Foster Inclusion

We embrace and promote equity, diversity, inclusion and cultural respect to create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, respected and empowered to contribute within our leadership and staff, as well as in the legal profession, the justice system and the public

We Innovate

We are data driven and proactively evolve and modernize our approach to regulation

We Are Responsive

We engage with the public and the legal profession in a timely and informative manner to build trust and ensure we are accessible to everyone

/ Strategic Objectives

LEADING AS AN INNOVATIVE REGULATOR OF LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

We will continuously improve the regulation and education of the legal profession and legal services in the public interest

Actions:

1. Identify opportunities to adopt a proportional and practical approach to the regulation of legal service providers
2. Introduce alternative pathways to enter the legal profession
3. Develop and promote resources and programs to support readiness to practice upon being called to the Bar
4. Continuously improve regulation, education and resources, including combatting money laundering and promoting mental health and wellness in the profession
5. Assess the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence (“AI”) creates, including understanding how AI will affect the legal system, and adopt responsive regulatory processes, training, and education
6. Establish a regulatory framework to govern alternative legal service providers
7. Strengthen governance structures and practices to support our mandate

Desired Outcomes:

- Effective tools are in place to support the appropriate use of AI by the legal profession, reduce practice infractions related to AI, and increase the public’s access to legal services from trusted, AI based sources
- Competent legal service providers have the regulatory framework, education and resources to serve the public
- Law Society governance structures are effective and efficient

WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

We will implement meaningful action toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the legal profession and the justice system

Actions:

1. Implement and continuously monitor recommendations from the Indigenous Engagement in Regulatory Matters Report ("IERM"), including recommendations to:
 - decolonize the Law Society's institution, policies, procedures and practices;
 - indigenize the Law Society's institution, policies, procedures and practices;
 - build trust and relationships with Indigenous individuals, organizations, and communities; and
 - be more proactive in the prevention of harm to the public, particularly Indigenous individuals
 and follow up in a timely manner to assess the impact of actions taken and make appropriate adjustments as required
2. Advocate for law school funding by government to foster increased access to the legal profession for Indigenous students

Desired Outcomes:

- There is increased representation of Indigenous legal service providers entering and retained throughout the legal profession and the Law Society
- Indigenous complainants and witnesses involved in the complaint process report having positive engagement with the Law Society, including having access to culturally relevant and trauma-informed resources
- Meaningful action is taken towards the Indigenization of the Law Society's institution, policies, procedures and practices

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES

We will work with government, pro bono service providers, the legal profession and other agencies to increase equitable access to legal services for all British Columbians

Actions:

1. Facilitate an increase in the number of legal service providers, including alternative legal service providers, and continue to advocate for the licensing of paralegals
2. Identify and address unnecessary barriers to accessing or providing legal services
3. Explore incentives for the legal profession to provide services at a lower cost
4. Encourage the creation of “triage hubs” to assist people who need help with legal issues and connect them with available resources
5. Encourage use of virtual processes by Courts and tribunals where remote delivery of services would benefit the public

Desired Outcomes:

- Unnecessary barriers to accessing and providing legal services are identified and addressed
- Increased availability of competent service providers and legal resources provides more options to the public and increases the affordability of legal services throughout the province

PROMOTING A PROFESSION THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE PUBLIC IT SERVES

We will promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and provide equitable treatment of every individual who interacts with the Law Society

Actions:

1. Work with partners to identify and address barriers to entry and retention to the legal profession for people from equity-deserving groups
2. Explore ways to help the public identify the best legal services and resources for their needs, including accessing legal service providers with similar lived experience
3. Continue legal education and training regarding diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness for legal service providers and Law Society staff
4. Ensure legal publications and documents published by the Law Society are accessible, including the use of different languages and formats

Desired Outcomes:

- There is increased representation of legal service providers from equity-deserving groups entering and retained throughout the legal profession and at the Law Society, reflecting the diversity of the province
- Interculturally competent and trauma-informed resources and educational opportunities addressing equity and inclusion are available to the legal profession

INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

We will promote and take steps to increase public confidence in and respect for the rule of law, the administration of justice and the regulation of legal service providers to protect the public interest

Actions:

1. Develop communications, education and outreach to increase public awareness and respect for the importance of the rule of law in a civil society and the role of an independent, self-governing legal profession and judiciary in preserving the rule of law
2. Proactively take steps to ensure the Law Society is adhering to the highest standards of regulatory oversight to preserve confidence in and respect for the independence of the legal profession

Desired Outcomes:

- There is increased public and media awareness regarding the importance of the rule of law and the connection between the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and legal profession
- There is a high degree of public confidence in the regulatory oversight of the legal profession