



January 22, 2021

Sent via email

Brook J. Greenberg, QC
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
2900 - 550 Burrard Street
Vancouver V6C 0A3

Dear Brook:

Re: 2021 Mandate for Mental Health Task Force

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Mental Health Task Force for 2021.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference along with the particular priorities outlined below should guide the Mental Health Task Force in its work this year.

The mandate from the Terms of Reference for the Mental Health Task Force is:

1. *The Law Society of British Columbia's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan includes a focus on the mental health of the legal profession and provides that the Law Society will take steps to improve the mental health of the legal profession by:*
 - a. *identifying ways to reduce the stigma of mental health issues; and*
 - b. *developing an integrated mental health review concerning regulatory approaches to discipline and admissions.*
2. *The Mental Health Task Force has been created to make recommendations and take steps to assist the Law Society in achieving these goals (the "Goals") in order to further promote and protect the public interest.*

Dean Lawton, QC
President

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I expect that you will guide the Mental Health Task Force in its work over the year in a manner that reflects its terms of reference, the Benchers Code of Conduct and the Benchers governance policies regarding committees, always ensuring we remain committed to evidence-based decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on our members and the public and that we act in the public interest.

In particular, please keep in mind that the Benchers have directed that:

- a) Benchers committees are to help the Benchers do their job, not to help the staff do its jobs. Committees ordinarily will assist the Benchers by preparing policy alternatives and implications for Benchers deliberation.
- b) Benchers committees do not exercise authority over staff.
- c) In keeping with the Benchers' broader focus, Benchers committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations.

I expect you and the members of Mental Health Task Force to work in a professional and respectful manner with the staff assigned to support the Task Force.

During 2021, I would like to see the Mental Health Task Force make substantial progress on the following priorities:

1. *Liaise with Federation of Law Societies representatives, and Law Society of B.C. Federation Council member Pinder K. Cheema, QC, concerning the status of the Federation's National Well-Being Study undertaken by researchers at the Universite de Sherbrooke and report periodically to the Benchers on the status of this research.*
2. *Liaise with the director of the Lawyers Assistant Program (LAP) to assess what mutual cooperation may be occur between the LAP and the Law Society with the objective of providing ongoing, augmented, or new initiatives to assist lawyers experiencing mental health issues, isolation, and stigma relating to mental health issues.*

As Chair of Mental Health Task Force, please ensure that all members of the Mental Health Task Force understand they are expected to abide by the Benchers Code of Conduct and the Law Society's workplace policies and that the Mental Health Task Force is expected to act within its Terms of Reference.

I look forward to hearing about the work of Mental Health Task Force over the balance of the year and trust that you and the Mental Health Task Force will make substantial progress on the priorities in this letter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lawton". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dean Lawton, QC
President, Law Society of BC