



Mental Health Task Force

Terms of Reference

Updated: April 2018

Mandate

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.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Mental Health Task Force will:
 - (a) meet as required;
 - (b) prepare a mid-year and year-end report to the Benchers on its activities;
 - (c) assist and advise the Benchers in achieving the Goals, including by:
 - (i) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to the development of a "diversion" or other alternative discipline process;
 - (ii) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to other aspects of the discipline process;
 - (iii) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to the Law Society admissions process;
 - (iv) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to the potential development of additional support resources for current, former and prospective Law Society members;

- (v) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to the potential development and promotion of education materials for Law Society members that increase awareness of mental health issues and reduce stigma;
 - (vi) making recommendations to the Benchers with respect to potential development of an education program and materials for Law Society staff, hearing panel members, and Benchers that increase awareness of mental health issues and reduce stigma;
 - (vii) making recommendations to the Benchers concerning the role that other Law Society committees could have in advancing the Goals; and
 - (viii) making recommendations to the Benchers as to the advisability, viability and scope of a potential voluntary, confidential member survey;
- (d) identify stakeholders and the role each can play in assisting the Task Force in fulfilling its mandate;
 - (e) collaborate with stakeholders, experts and other professional organizations as appropriate;
 - (f) collaborate with the Law Society Communications Department and the Executive Committee to ensure that promotion of any initiatives is included in the Law Society's comprehensive communication plan; and
 - (g) establish a process to receive input from Law Society members at key stages of the Task Force's work in regard to matters within the Task Force's mandate.