Agenda

Law Society of British Columbia

Bencher Meeting

Date:	Friday, October 23, 2026
Time:	**9:00 am – Call to Order**
Location:	The Bencher Meeting is taking place as a hybrid meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting as a virtual attendee, please email BencherRelations@lsbc.org
Recording:	***The public portion of the meeting will be recorded.***

OATH OF OFFICE

President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC will administer an oath of office (in the form set out in Rule 1-3) to Bencher Jessica N. Saris.

1	Administer Oaths of Office

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.

2	Minutes of September 25, 2026 meeting (regular session)
3	Minutes of September 25, 2026 meeting (*in camera* session)
4	2027 Fee Schedule Amendments
5	External Appointment: Land Title and Survey Authority

REPORTS

6	President's Report	5 min	Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
7	CEO's Report	5 min	Gigi Chen-Kuo
8	Briefing by the Law Society's Member of the Federation Council	5 min	Tanya Chamberlain, KC

UPDATE

9	Articled Student Education Update	5 min	Lesley Small

Agenda

Law Society of British Columbia

FOR INFORMATION	
10	External Appointment: Law Foundation of BC
IN CAMERA	
OTHER BUSINESS	

Law Society of British Columbia

Bencher Meeting: Minutes (Draft)

To: Benchers

Purpose: Approval (Consent Agenda)

Date: Friday, September 25, 2026

Present:

Thomas L. Spraggs, KC, President
Katrina Harry, KC, 1st Vice-President
Cheryl D'Sa, KC, 2nd Vice-President
Simran Bains
Tanya Chamberlain, KC
Christina J. Cook, KC
Tim Delaney, KC
John Greschner
Ravi R. Hira, KC
Sara K. Hopkins
Derek LaCroix, KC
James A. S. Legh
Benjamin D. Levine
Jaspreet Singh Malik
Marcia McNeil
Arun Mohan
David A. Perry
Georges Rivard, KC
Michèle Ross
Gurminder Sandhu, KC
Nicole E. Smith
Karen K.L. Tse, KC
Kevin B. Westell
Ruth Wittenberg
Michael Zimmerman

Absent:

Nazanin Aram
Aleem Bharmal, KC
Tanya Heuchert
Jay Michi
Jessica N. Saris
Natasha Tony

DRAFT

Senior and Meeting Support Staff	Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director (CEO/ED) Tara McPhail, Chief Legal Officer Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer & Senior Director, Trust Reg. Su Forbes, KC, Chief Operating Officer, Lawyers Indemnity Fund Lesley Small, Senior Director, Credentials, Prof. Dev. & Practice Supp. Barbara Lu, Director, Policy & Strategic Initiatives Michael Lucas, KC, General Counsel Christine Tam, Director, Communications Adam Whitcombe, KC, Senior Advisor Avalon Bourne, Manager, Governance & Board Relations Rebecca Neal, Senior Administrator, Governance & Board Relations Volodymyr Burlachenko, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations Deborah Mah, Administrator, Governance & Board Relations

Staff present:	Sylvester Aniogbe	Mandana Namazi
	Barbara Buchanan, KC	Michelle Robertson
	Nick d'Artois	Carrie Robinson
	Jackie Drozdowski	Nadia Rowe
	Sandra Haywood-Farmer	Saheli Sodhi
	Jeffrey Hoskins, KC	Arrie Sturdivant
	Jessica Jones	Maddie Taylor
	Joyce Johner	Eva Theiss
	Jane Ladesma	Andrea Wardrop
	Nicolette Lang-Andersen	Patrick Wruck
	Michael Mulhern	Charlene Yan
	Doug Munro	Vinnie Yuen
	Rashmi Nair	

Guests:	Connor Bildfell	President, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
	Brenna Brown	2026 Indigenous Scholarship Co-Recipient
	Ian Burns	Digital Reporter, The Lawyer's Daily
	Hardeep Chahal	Guest
	Chidimma Ike	2026 Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies Co-Recipient
	Claire Marchant	Executive Director, Lawyers Assistance Program of BC
	Cary Morin	2026 Indigenous Scholarship Co-Recipient
	Caroline Nevin	CEO, Courthouse Libraries BC
	Linda Russell	CEO, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC
	Kerry Simmons, KC	Executive Director, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
	Astitwa Thapa	2026 Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies Co-Recipient

DRAFT

Oath Of Office

1. Administer Oaths of Office

President Thomas L. Spraggs, KC administered an oath of office (in the form set out in Rule 1-3) to newly elected Bencher Derek LaCroix, KC and to First Vice-President Katrina Harry, KC and Second Vice-President Cheryl D'Sa, KC.

Recognition

2. Presentation of the 2026 Law Society Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies

Mr. Spraggs introduced the co-recipients of the 2026 Law Society Scholarship for Graduate Legal Studies, Astitwa Thapa and Chidimma Ike.

3. Presentation of the 2026 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship

Mr. Spraggs introduced the co-recipients of the 2026 Law Society Indigenous Scholarship Brenna Brown and Cary Morin.

Consent Agenda

4. Minutes of July 3, 2026, meeting (regular session)

The minutes of the meeting held on July 3, 2026 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

5. Minutes of July 3, 2026 meeting (*in camera* session)

The minutes of the *in camera* meeting held on July 3, 2026 were approved unanimously and by consent as circulated.

6. External Appointment: Legal Aid BC

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

> **BE IT RESOLVED** that Benchers reappoint Sarf Ahmed to the LABC Board of Directors for a second three-year term commencing September 25, 2026.

DRAFT

7. Terms of Reference: Federation of Law Societies of Canada Council

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Benchers discussed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Federation of Law Societies of Canada Council appointment and agreed to approve the proposed Terms of Reference, subject to paragraph 9 being revised as follows:

If the Council member is or becomes a Life Bencher, or is defeated in a Bencher election or not reappointed at the conclusion of their term, the Council member will complete the current balance of their term, but will not be eligible for a further term unless re-elected or reappointed.

8. Terms of Reference: Tribunal Chair Appointment Process

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

> **BE IT RESOLVED** the Executive Committee recommends to Benchers the approval of the proposed Terms of Reference attached as Appendix A to guide the Tribunal Chair appointment process.

9. KC Nomination Advisory Committee Appointment

The following resolution was passed unanimously and by consent:

> **BE IT RESOLVED** the Benchers appoint First Vice-President Katrina Harry, KC as the Law Society's second representative to be consulted pursuant to section 2(2)(c) of the *King's Counsel Act*.

Reports

10. President's Report

Mr. Spraggs began his report by speaking about the upcoming National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, and its importance as an opportunity to acknowledge and reflect upon the history, legacy, and impact of residential schools. He indicated that the Law Society's offices would be closed to commemorate this important day.

Mr. Spraggs then provided an update on his recent activities since the last Bencher meeting, including chairing the Law Society's annual general meeting, attending a Rule of Law conference organized by the Barreau du Québec, attending call ceremonies, attending a New Westminster Bar Association event, and attending the Law Society's Journey of Practice seminar. He also provided an update regarding the ongoing work of the Law Society Advisory Committees and Task Forces.

Mr. Spraggs announced that the Westminster County Bencher By-election nomination period was currently open and would close on October 15. He also provided an update regarding the process to determine the Benchers' nominee for 2027 Second Vice-President.

Mr. Spraggs concluded his report by providing an update on the Single Legal Regulator initiative and the Law Society's appeal of the Supreme Court of BC's decision. He indicated that the BC Court of Appeal had released reasons on intervener status, and that the appeal was scheduled to be heard on November 16 and 17, 2026.

11. CEO's Report

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director began her report by speaking about the one-time practice fee rebate pilot program, which was previously approved by Benchers to support lawyers experiencing financial hardship. She informed Benchers that the pilot had been launched in July and applications would be accepted until mid-September.

She then updated Benchers on the increase in the number of complaints being received relating to Artificial Intelligence ("AI") and as such, the complaints process section on the Law Society website had been updated to include an AI information sheet for complainants.

Ms. Chen-Kuo provided an update regarding the recent International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives Conference. She spoke about the conference program, which included discussions around threats to the rule of law, evolving relationships with governments, the impact of AI, developments in legal education, and cultural change within the profession.

Ms. Chen-Kuo concluded her report by speaking about the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and the Law Society's commitment to truth and reconciliation.

Discussion & Decision

12. 2027 Initiatives, Fees & Budgets

Katrina Harry, KC, First Vice-President and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee introduced the item and spoke about the work of the Finance and Audit Committee regarding the proposed 2027 budget. She indicated that the Committee was of the view that the Law Society should aim to have a balanced budget for 2027, and that a practice fee increase would be necessary to do so. Ms. Harry noted that this would be just the second increase in seven years, and the Lawyers Indemnity Fund fee would remain the same as it has been since 2018. She then reviewed the recommendation from the Committee that the Benchers approve a special assessment for 2026 and 2027 to cover the transition costs imposed upon the Law Society by the *Legal Professions Act* ("the New Act").

Ms. Chen-Kuo spoke about the work undertaken to develop the proposed budget and provided an overview of areas requiring additional funding, as well as opportunities for efficiencies and cost reductions. She indicated that the special assessment would cover the Law Society's share of costs associated with the transition to the New Act.

Jeanette McPhee, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Director of Trust Regulation presented on the proposed 2027 fees and budget, highlighting the proposed budget's alignment with the Law Society's current strategic plan. She then provided an overview of the general fund, indicating that while operating revenues were projected to increase by 2%, the projected increase would not be sufficient to fund operating costs. Ms. McPhee indicated that due to the increased volume and complexity of the Law Society's workload, the significant draws on net asset reserves, and a number of one-time projects, an increase to the practice fee is necessary to sustain ongoing operations and advance strategic and operational goals. Ms. McPhee then provided an overview of the rationale to levy a special assessment, in accordance with Rule 2-106(1). She indicated that as reserves have been drawn down due to transition costs, in order to replenish the reserves and to ensure a minimum of three months of expenses, the Finance & Audit Committee recommends a special assessment for the 2027 and 2028 practising years.

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 2027 budget and special assessment with focus on the timing of levying the special assessment, the importance of demonstrating fiscal responsibility to the public, and the fact that the practice fee has not increased year over year.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

Effective January 1, 2027, the practice fee be set at $2,707, pursuant to section 23(1)(a) of the *Legal Profession Act,* which is projected to result in a deficit budget of $42,377.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

Effective January 1, 2027

- **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.**

The Benchers further discussed the timing of levying the special assessment. Ms. Chen-Kuo advised that without a special assessment a further increase to the practice fee would need to be implemented, which would mean that the practice fee would remain at an increased amount, whereas a special assessment would be a one-time cost. She indicated that the practice fee rebate program was in place to support lawyers who are suffering financial hardship.

Benchers discussed the impact of the single legal regulator transition on the reserves and making it clear to lawyers that this impact is why a special assessment is needed. Benchers also discussed the communication plan and timing, as well as what information to provide to lawyers regarding this matter.

Following discussion, the following resolution was passed by the majority of Benchers, with one abstention:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

For the purposes of recovering the costs incurred by the Law Society relating to transition matters required under the *Legal Professions Act* SBC 2024 c. 26, the Benchers approve the following Special Assessments pursuant to Rule 2-106, for each lawyer who holds a practising membership during the 2027 or 2028 calendar year:

a) **For the 2027 calendar year, a Special Assessment of $210 payable on or before November 30, 2026.**

b) **For the 2028 calendar year, a Special Assessment of $135 payable on or before November 30, 2027.**

13. Rule Amendments: Accounting, Client Verification, and Related Rules

Michael Lucas, KC, General Counsel/Senior Policy Counsel introduced this item and provided some background regarding the proposed amendments to the accounting, client verification, and related Rules. He summarized the previous discussions regarding this item, which took place at the July 3, 2026 Bencher meeting, and provided an overview of additional proposed amendments to the Rules following the July Bencher meeting. Mr. Lucas indicated that a January 1, 2027 implementation date had been contemplated initially, but that a July 1, 2027 implementation date was now being proposed, so as to provide adequate time for preparation.

Following some discussion regarding the additional proposed amendments to the Rules, the Benchers unanimously agreed to pass the resolution attached to the meeting materials at Appendix "D", subject to revising the implementation date to July 1, 2027.

REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY OF BENCHERS PRESENT

14. 2025 AGM Resolutions

Ms. Chen-Kuo provided some background regarding the status of the resolutions passed at the 2025 and 2026 annual general meetings ("AGM").

Benchers discussed the 2025 AGM member resolution *to Amend the Law Society Rule 3-36(1) to exempt certain former members of the judiciary from meeting the requirement of completing a course under s. 3-36(1)(c),* and the decision made by the Credentials Committee not to change the training requirements for family law arbitrators. The Benchers were in agreement that it would be helpful to have a report prepared to provide an overview of the Credentials Committee's decision to provide greater clarity.

Benchers also discussed the 2025 AGM resolution regarding *the mandatory minimum wage for articling students,* in particular the position paper that Canadian Bar Association had written regarding this matter, which may be helpful for further consideration.

Benchers discussed the 2026 AGM resolution regarding *Transparency of Government-Regulator Communications Concerning Regulatory Policy.* Benchers were in agreement that it would be helpful to provide further information on the Law Society webpage regarding the single legal regulator.

15. 2026 AGM Resolutions

This item was discussed as part of Item 14.

For Information

16. Timeline for 2026 By-Election in the County of Westminster

There was no discussion on this item.

17. 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.

RN
2026-10-08

Law Society
of British Columbia

2027 Fee Schedule Amendments

To: Benchers

Purpose: Decision

From: Staff

Date: October 23, 2026

Purpose

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

Discussion

2. At the September 25, 2026 Bencher meeting, the Benchers set the amount for the practice fee and the indemnity fee for 2027, as well as for a Special Assessment for the purposes of transition costs required under the *Legal Professions Act.* This assessment has been set, pursuant to Rule 2-106 (1) (a), at $210.00 for each practising members in 2027. By virtue of resolving to approve a Special Assessment, the Rules (Rule 2-108 (6)) provide for a late payment fee if the Assessment is paid after it is due of 20% of the fee ($42.00).

3. In addition, as the Benchers were advised at the September Bencher meeting, some of the other fees were to be adjusted to reflect associated costs and to align with similar fees at comparator organizations. It was also noted, in particular, that many of these fees have not been increased for at least eight years.

4. These fees include the retired member fee (to be increased to $148.00), the non-practicing member fee (to be increased to $373.00), the late payment fee for practicing lawyers (to be increased to $200.00), the application for transfer fee from another Canadian province or territory (to be increased to $1,250.00), the permit fee for law corporations (to be increased to $500.00) and the registration fee for LLPs (also to be increased to $500.00).

5. These fees are now before the Benchers for formal approval, which will be accomplished by approving the revised Fee Schedules referenced below.

6. Attached as **Appendices A** and **B**, respectively, are proposed amendments to the Fee Schedules as contained in the Law Society Rules to reflect the Benchers' decisions on the fees and the Special Assessment, as well as the fees referred to in paragraph 3 above. A proposed form of Resolution for the Benchers to approve is attached as **Appendix C**.

Decision

7. **Redlined** and **clean** versions of the Fee Schedules are attached, together with a **proposed resolution** for the Benchers, which the Benchers are asked to approve.

Appendix A

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 1 – ~~2026~~ 2027 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

	$
A. Annual fee	
1. Practice fee (Rule 2-105 *[Annual practising and indemnity fee instalments]*)	~~2,536.00~~2,707.00
2. Indemnity fee base assessment (which may be increased or decreased in individual cases in accordance with Rule 3-40 (1) *[Annual indemnity fee]*):	
(a) full-time practice	1,800.00
(b) part-time practice	900.00
3. Indemnity surcharge (Rule 3-44 (2) *[Deductible, surcharge and reimbursement]*)	2,000.00
4. Late payment fee for practising lawyers (Rule 2-108 (3) *[Late payment]*)	~~150.00~~200.00
5. Retired member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1) *[Annual non-practising and retired member fees]*)	~~125.00~~148.00
6. Late payment fee for retired members (Rule 2-108 (4))	nil
7. Non-practising member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1))	~~325.00~~373.00
8. Late payment fee for non-practising members (Rule 2-108 (5))	40.00
9. Administration fee (R. 2-116 (3) *[Refund on exemption during practice year]*)	70.00
B. Trust administration fee	
1. Each client matter subject to fee (Rule 2-110 (1) *[Trust administration fee]*)	20.00
C. Special assessments	
1. Single Legal Regulator Transition Assessment (Rule 2-106 (1) (a) *[Assessment]*)	210.00
2. Late payment fee – Special Assessment (Rule 2-108 (6))	42.00
D. Articled student and training course fees	
1. Application fee for enrolment in admission program (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) *[Enrolment in the admission program]* and 2-62 (1) (b) *[Part-time articles]*)	275.00
2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) *[Temporary articles]*)	150.00
3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c))	50.00
4. [rescinded 06/2026]	
5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) *[Review of failed standing]*):	
(a) for each piece of work	100.00
(b) [rescinded 06/2026]	
E. Transfer fees	
1. Application fee for transfer from another Canadian province or territory – investigation fee (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) *[Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction]*)	~~1,150.00~~1,250.00

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~~500.00
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~~500.00

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

L. Late fees	$
1. Trust report late filing fee (Rule 3-80 (2) (b) *[Late filing of trust report]*)	200.00
2. Professional development late completion fee (Rule 3-31 (1) (c) *[Late completion of professional development]*)	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) *[Late completion of Indigenous intercultural course]*)	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) *[Application to practise law in MDP]*).....	300.00
2. Application fee per proposed non-lawyer member of MDP (Rules 2-40 (1) (c) and 2-42 (2) *[Changes in MDP]*).....	1,125.00

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

SCHEDULE 2 – ~~2026~~ 2027 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~~1,353.50	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	900.00	900.00
February	~~1,056.67~~1,127.93	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	750.00	900.00
March	~~845.33~~902.32	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	600.00	900.00
April	~~634.00~~676.75	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	450.00	900.00
May	~~422.67~~451.18	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	300.00	900.00
June	~~211.33~~225.57	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	150.00	900.00
July	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	~~1,056.67~~1,127.93	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	~~845.33~~902.32	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	~~634.00~~676.75	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	~~422.67~~451.18	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	~~211.33~~225.57	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	450.00	450.00
February	~~1,056.67~~1,127.93	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	375.00	450.00
March	~~845.33~~902.32	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	300.00	450.00
April	~~634.00~~676.75	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	225.00	450.00
May	~~422.67~~451.18	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	150.00	450.00
June	~~211.33~~225.57	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	~~100.00~~75.00	450.00
July	~~1,268.00~~1,353.50	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	~~1,056.67~~1,127.93	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	~~845.33~~902.32	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	~~634.00~~676.75	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	~~422.67~~451.18	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	~~211.33~~225.57	0.00	~~100.00~~75.00	0.00

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

SCHEDULE 3 – ~~2026~~ 2027 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~~373.00	~~125.00~~148.00
February	~~297.92~~341.91	~~114.58~~135.66
March	~~270.83~~310.84	~~104.17~~123.34
April	~~243.75~~279.75	~~93.75~~111.00
May	~~216.67~~248.66	~~83.33~~98.66
June	~~189.58~~217.59	~~72.92~~86.34
July	~~162.50~~186.50	~~62.50~~74.00
August	~~135.42~~155.41	~~52.08~~61.66
September	~~108.33~~124.34	~~41.67~~49.34
October	~~81.25~~93.25	~~31.25~~37.00
November	~~54.17~~62.16	~~20.83~~24.66
December	~~27.08~~31.09	~~10.42~~12.34

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

Appendix B

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 1 – 2027 LAW SOCIETY FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

	$
A. Annual fee	
1. Practice fee (Rule 2-105 *[Annual practising and indemnity fee instalments]*) ..	2,707.00
2. Indemnity fee base assessment (which may be increased or decreased in individual cases in accordance with Rule 3-40 (1) *[Annual indemnity fee]*):	
(a) full-time practice	1,800.00
(b) part-time practice	900.00
3. Indemnity surcharge (Rule 3-44 (2) *[Deductible, surcharge and reimbursement]*)	2,000.00
4. Late payment fee for practising lawyers (Rule 2-108 (3) *[Late payment]*)	200.00
5. Retired member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1) *[Annual non-practising and retired member fees]*)	148.00
6. Late payment fee for retired members (Rule 2-108 (4))	nil
7. Non-practising member fee (Rule 2-105.1 (1))	373.00
8. Late payment fee for non-practising members (Rule 2-108 (5))	40.00
9. Administration fee (R. 2-116 (3) *[Refund on exemption during practice year]*)	70.00
B. Trust administration fee	
1. Each client matter subject to fee (Rule 2-110 (1) *[Trust administration fee]*) ..	20.00
C. Special assessments	
1. Single Legal Regulator Transition Assessment (Rule 2-106 (1) (a) *[Assessment]*)	210.00
2. Late payment fee – Special Assessment (Rule 2-108 (6))	42.00
D. Articled student and training course fees	
1. Application fee for enrolment in admission program (Rules 2-54 (1) (e) *[Enrolment in the admission program]* and 2-62 (1) (b) *[Part-time articles]*) .	275.00
2. Application fee for temporary articles (R. 2-70 (1) (c) *[Temporary articles]*) ..	150.00
3. Application fee for temporary articles (legal clinic) (Rule 2-70 (1) (c))	50.00
4. [rescinded 06/2026]	
5. Remedial work (Rule 2-74 (8) *[Review of failed standing]*):	
(a) for each piece of work	100.00
(b) [rescinded 06/2026]	
E. Transfer fees	
1. Application fee for transfer from another Canadian province or territory – investigation fee (Rule 2-79 (1) (f) *[Transfer from another Canadian jurisdiction]*)	1,250.00

2. Transfer or qualification examination (Rules 2-79 (6) and 2-90 (5) *[Conditions on returning to practice]*)	32500

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]*)	500.00
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]*	500.00

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

L. Late fees	$
1. Trust report late filing fee (Rule 3-80 (2) (b) *[Late filing of trust report]*)	200.00
2. Professional development late completion fee (Rule 3-31 (1) (c) *[Late completion of professional development]*)	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) *[Late completion of Indigenous intercultural course]*)	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) *[Application to practise law in MDP]*).....	300.00
2. Application fee per proposed non-lawyer member of MDP (Rules 2-40 (1) (c) and 2-42 (2) *[Changes in MDP]*).....	1,125.00

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

LAW SOCIETY RULES

SCHEDULE 2 – 2027 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	1,353.50	1,353.50	900.00	900.00
February	1,127.93	1.353.50	750.00	900.00
March	902.32	1,353.50	600.00	900.00
April	676.75	1,353.50	450.00	900.00
May	451.18	1,353.50	300.00	900.00
June	225.57	1,353.50	150.00	900.00
July	1,353.50	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	1,127.93	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	902.32	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	676.75	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	451.18	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	225.57	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	1,353.50	1,353.50	450.00	450.00
February	1,127.93	1,353.50	375.00	450.00
March	902.32	1,353.50	300.00	450.00
April	676.75	1,353.50	225.00	450.00
May	451.18	1,353.50	150.00	450.00
June	225.57	1,353.50	75.00	450.00
July	1,353.50	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	1,127.93	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	902.32	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	676.75	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	451.18	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	225.57	0.00	75.00	0.00

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

SCHEDULE 3 – 2027 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	373.00	148.00
February	341.91	135.66
March	310.84	123.34
April	279.75	111.00
May	248.66	98.66
June	217.59	86.34
July	186.50	74.00
August	155.41	61.66
September	124.34	49.34
October	93.25	37.00
November	62.16	24.66
December	31.09	12.34

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

Appendix C

TITLE: 2027 FEE SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the Law Society Rules,* effective January 1, 2027 *as follows:

1. By striking the year* "2026" *in each of the headings for Schedules 1, 2 and 3 and substituting the year* "2027"*;

2. In Schedule 1:

By striking "2,536.00" ***at the end of item A 1 and substituting*** "2,707.00"***;***

By striking "150.00" ***at the end of item A 4 and substituting*** "200.00"***;***

By striking "125.00" ***at the end of item A 5 and substituting*** "148.00"***;***

By striking "325.00" ***at the end of item A 7 and substituting*** "373.00"***;***

By striking "1,150.00" ***at the end of item E 1 and substituting*** "1,250.00"***;***

By striking "400.00" ***at the end of item J 1 and substituting*** "500.00"***;***

By striking "400.00" ***at the end of item J 3 and substituting*** "500.00"***;***

3. In Schedule 1, by adding the following under item C:

"1. Single Legal Regulator Transition Assessment
(Rule 2-106 (1) (a) *[Assessments]*)..... 210.00
2. Late payment fee – Special Assessment (Rule 2-108 (6))..... 42.00"

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	1,353.50	1,353.50	900.00	900.00
February	1,127.93	1.353.50	750.00	900.00
March	902.32	1,353.50	600.00	900.00
April	676.75	1,353.50	450.00	900.00
May	451.18	1,353.50	300.00	900.00
June	225.57	1,353.50	150.00	900.00
July	1,353.50	0.00	900.00	0.00
August	1,127.93	0.00	750.00	0.00
September	902.32	0.00	600.00	0.00
October	676.75	0.00	450.00	0.00
November	451.18	0.00	300.00	0.00
December	225.57	0.00	150.00	0.00
Part-time indemnification				
January	1,353.50	1,353.50	450.00	450.00
February	1,127.93	1,353.50	375.00	450.00
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July	1,353.50	0.00	450.00	0.00
August	1,127.93	0.00	375.00	0.00
September	902.32	0.00	300.00	0.00
October	676.75	0.00	225.00	0.00
November	451.18	0.00	150.00	0.00
December	225.57	0.00	75.00	0.00

5. By striking the table in Schedule 3 and replacing it with the following:

	Non-practising members fee	**Retired members fee**
January	373.00	148.00
February	341.91	135.66
March	310.84	123.34
April	279.75	111.00
May	248.66	98.66
June	217.59	86.34
July	186.50	74.00
August	155.41	61.66
September	124.34	49.34
October	93.25	37.00
November	62.16	24.66
December	31.09	12.34

REQUIRES 2/3 MAJORITY OF BENCHERS PRESENT

Law Society
of British Columbia

CEO Report

To: Benchers

Purpose: Report

From: Gigi Chen-Kuo, CEO/Executive Director

Date: October 23, 2026

1. 2026 Financial Action Task Force Report

Canada's anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) measures were reviewed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in 2015. In that report, FATF concluded that the exclusion of the legal sector from Canada's AML/CFT regime constituted a "significant gap" and a major vulnerability. FATF was critical of the fact that lawyers are not required to report suspicious client transactions to Canada's financial intelligence unit, FINTRAC. Ultimately, Canada was not grey-listed but was classified in the 'enhanced follow up' category.

In 2025, FATF conducted another review of Canada's AML/CFT measures. The Federation of Law Societies of Canada and all of the Canadian law societies prepared submissions for FATF to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Canadian regulatory model. Since British Columbia is considered the leader amongst the Canadian jurisdictions in this area, we were the only jurisdiction that also prepared its own set of submissions.

FATF issued its report on the 2025 evaluation on September 28, 2026. In this latest report, Canada was upgraded to the 'regular follow up' category. With respect to the legal sector, the report recognized the significant progress made by Canada's legal regulators to enhance their AML/CFT framework over the last decade, which has been supported by meaningful preventive, supervisory, education and disciplinary measures.

The 2026 report recognized the constitutional principles that underpin the administration of justice in Canada and pursuant to which the AML/CFT framework operates. This reflects positively on the work undertaken by the law societies, and particularly British Columbia, to identify, investigate and prosecute lawyers for AML related offences. The report specifically mentions actions that have been taken by our law society.

The 2026 report identified gaps in Canada's framework, such as the absence of rules for politically exposed persons and the exemption from compliance with Client Identification and Verification (CIV) rules for funds transferred electronically. It criticized the lack of a risk-based approach to AML regulation, a lack of formal legal profession sector risk assessment being undertaken by all law societies, a lack of data/statistics from all law societies as to whether lawyers are complying with their AML obligations, and a lack of a designated supervisor over lawyer compliance with AML controls.

The 2026 report recommended that Canada formally designate an AML/CFT supervisor and a separate authority for the supervisor of law societies' AML/CFT work. This is consistent with the trend in Europe, UK, Australia, and New Zealand toward a unified AML 'super regulator'. It also recommended that Canada consider measures to monitor the effectiveness of law societies' risk-based supervision.

At the time of the FATF review, our law society was the only Canadian legal regulator that rated law firms for AML risks. We were also the only law society to have prepared, at the time of the review, a risk assessment framework that law firms can use to assess their own AML risks and also a risk assessment that lawyers can use to assess the AML risks associated with any particular client.

Staff will provide further information on the 2026 FATF report at the next Bencher meeting.

2. Single Legal Regulator Litigation Update

The Law Society's appeal of the British Columbia Supreme Court decision regarding the constitutionality of Bill 21 (Legal Professions Act), which was set to be heard November 16 and 17, 2026, was adjourned generally by Justice Groberman on October 15, 2026. We will advise once new dates are scheduled.

The factums of the parties to the appeal and all 12 intervenors, along with some related information, has been posted on the Law Society website.

3. International Bar Association

Earlier this month, I attended the 2026 International Bar Association annual conference, which was attended by over 5000 delegates. Sessions on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Rule of Law were dominant themes throughout the conference.

The sessions I attended on AI confirmed the need to advance our AI roadmap as a priority. I was also intrigued by the opportunities for technology to advance access to justice, including through the use of very practical tools that help people navigate issues before they become legal problems.

One of the sessions I attended discussed current trends regarding anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism measures around the globe. There is a move toward centralized and harmonized supervision in the European Union, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia in an effort to reduce regulatory gaps.

4. Demographic Data Implementation

In 2024, Law Society Benchers approved a new approach to demographic data collection, which involves gathering attributable (non-anonymous) data through updated demographic questions. This new approach will enable us to conduct more advanced statistical analyses.

The Law Society is targeting a launch date of November 23, 2026 to implement the new approach to demographic data collection. Staff developed the approach in consultation with the legal community and the public, and in close collaboration with both the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee. Our current practice

of collecting limited anonymous demographic information at the end of the Annual Practice Declaration will be replaced by a more comprehensive, attributable survey. Participation in the survey remains voluntary.

5. World Mental Health Day

October 10 was Mental Health Day. This year's theme, *Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change*, offers an opportunity to reflect on the importance of listening to personal experiences and turning those voices into action.

Creating opportunities to hear different perspectives and experiences can help build greater understanding of mental health in the legal profession. Firms can help turn that understanding into action by creating supportive environments where people feel heard and connected. Regular check-ins, social gatherings, and mentorship opportunities can open the door to meaningful conversations about mental health, reduce isolation, and help legal professionals feel supported.

Hearing directly from legal professionals about their experiences helps create greater awareness and understanding of the mental health challenges within the profession. Together, we can shape better solutions.

Further information and free, anonymous resources can be found on the Law Society website.

Gigi Chen-Kuo
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Law Society of British Columbia

Articled Student Education Update

To: Benchers

Purpose: Update

From: Staff

Date: October 23, 2026

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Report is to provide the Benchers with an update on in-person workshops for articled students being piloted in early 2027 to encourage local peer-to-peer connections. These workshops will be offered while the full Practice Orientation Program is being designed and developed for rollout to articled students in the Fall of 2027.

Background

2. On October 24, 2025, the Benchers directed that the Law Society supplement the new bar admission training course – the Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) - with learning and in-person connections and support for articled students.

3. On May 30, 2026, we updated the Benchers on the competency-based articled student learning supports being planned. We introduced our plan to create a standalone articling orientation program – now called the Practice Orientation Program, or POP. The program will provide learning opportunities in specific areas of entry level competence contained in the Competencies for Entry to Legal Practice (CELP)[1]. Critically, POP will support community building with in-person events and learning opportunities, starting with pilot in-person workshops.

Pilot workshops to foster peer-to-peer connection

5. In parallel with POP, our larger articled student learning initiative, we will start piloting in-person workshops for articled students across BC wherever we can. The workshops will focus on building a professional network at the start of their legal career and involve live contributions from local Benchers and other senior members of the profession.

6. The workshop is called *Building Professional Connections*. Led by our Professional Development Department staff, it is designed for student groups as small as 10, and as large as 75. It will offer students:

    - insight into the importance of building and maintaining professional relationships at the entry level stage, especially with peers;
    - the opportunity to reflect on their personal and external barriers to networking and how to address them;
    - practical guidance on how to build professional connections in a way that is right for them; and

[1] Formerly known as the Western Canada Competency Profile, or WCCP. The August 2026 name change reflects the fact that this entry to practice competency initiative has expanded beyond Western Canada: Nova Scotia has joined as the fifth provincial jurisdiction.

- low-stakes practice, including a planning exercise and a catered group networking event aimed at increasing readiness to take next steps after the workshop.

7. The pilot workshops will allow us to:

   - get real-time insight into how best to deliver learning experiences that encourage peer connection among articled students, whether they are in downtown Vancouver or the only student articling in their area;

   - generate local reflection and insight into how to strengthen the culture of peer-to-peer connection and continuous learning for articled students;

   - test our assessment that the appropriate competence areas of focus for POP courses for articled students are community building, professional responsibility, practice management, and well-being.

8. The timeframe for the pilot workshops is January 19 to February 10, 2027 which takes into account the PREP Capstone Evaluation period of the Fall 2026 PREP session, avoids scheduling during the holiday season, and ensures that the workshops take place before the February 12, 2027 start of the next PREP session. We will confirm the workshop dates at the end of October 2026.

9. We will initially offer the pilot *Building Professional Connections* workshops in Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, and Kelowna in the timeframe noted above.

10. We are working with other Bencher counties and districts to explore articled student needs and opportunities to create peer connections, whether through workshops like the current pilot or as part of existing local CPD events.

POP Development

11. For 2026 and 2027, POP development will focus on articled students' needs in three identified topics: Ethics, Connection, and Care.[2] We will develop a POP course for each area. Course modules will be supported by options to practice skills afterward with in-person, live, and reflective activities and events.

12. In every event, staff is committed to producing programming that:
    a) is engaging, pedagogically sound, and relevant;
    b) always connects to the 25 CELP competencies;
    c) emphasizes a culture of practising continuous learning as a professional; and
    d) brings a community focus, drawing on local expertise from Benchers and other senior lawyers in each county and district, and encouraging peer-to-peer connection at the county or district level wherever possible.

[2] These have been combined from the four topics proposed in our May 30, 2026 Bencher report, paragraph 4.

13. In 2027-28, we will develop and introduce POP offerings targeting the needs of new lawyers in their first 12 months of practice.

Next Steps

14. Staff will:

a) Finalize project plan and announce the pilot POP workshops the first week of November 2026, and invite interested articled students to register;

b) Deliver *Building Your Professional Network* pilot workshops from January 19 to February 10, 2027 (and beyond);

c) Finalize our needs analysis and detailed project plan for the first three POP courses (Ethics, Connections, Care); and

d) Design and develop POP courses, including video and other content production and go live in the Fall of 2027, along with a schedule of supporting practice activities.

Law Society of British Columbia

October 13, 2026

Sent via email

Josh Paterson, KC
Executive Director
The Law Foundation of BC

Dear Josh:

Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
President

Office Telephone
604.605.5394

Office Email
president@lsbc.org

Re: Appointment to the Board of Governors of the Law Foundation of BC

I am pleased to advise that Law Society of BC's Executive Committee has re-appointed David Hughes to the Law Foundation of BC's Board of Governors for a second three-year term commencing January 1, 2027 and concluding December 31, 2029.

I am confident that the Law Foundation and its valuable work will be well-served served by the contributions of David Hughes.

Yours truly,



Thomas L. Spraggs, KC
President, Law Society of BC

c. Karen Ameyaw, Chair, Law Foundation of BC

Paige Zawyrucha, Governance & Executive Services Coordinator, Law Foundation of BC

Gigi Chen-Kuo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, Law Society of BC

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