

Information Sheet: Survey on Improving Accessibility in BC's Legal Profession

Purpose of the Survey

The Law Society of British Columbia wants to better understand the barriers that legal professionals and law students with a disability face and explore ways to enhance accessibility and inclusion in the province's legal profession. We especially want to center and amplify the voices of legal professionals with lived experience of disability. We also welcome input from those who wish to share observations or experiences on behalf of family members, friends, or colleagues. The survey is open till October 31.

What is Involved

At the beginning of the survey, you'll be asked two questions about yourself. These questions help us understand some basic demographic information and ensure you're directed to the version of the survey that best fits your perspective - whether you're sharing your own experience (primary) or offering a secondary viewpoint as a friend, family member, or colleague. Next, you will be asked a series of open-ended questions about barriers faced by legal professionals and law students with a disability and ways to improve accessibility in the legal profession. The final section will include additional demographic questions (e.g., gender, year of call) that will be used to create a summary of who took part in the survey. The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

You can take part in one of the following ways (you do not need to do both):

1. Fill out the online survey
2. Take part in a one-on-one phone interview if you'd rather talk than write.

For phone interviews, you can speak privately with either a member of the Policy team (email policy@lsbc.org), or the Equity Advisor (email equity@lsbc.org).

Your responses are completely anonymous and will not be linked with your name or LSBC member ID. The online survey is anonymous by design. For those who choose to participate in the survey by phone, no names or identifying details will be recorded as part of your survey responses.

Potential Risks

Some questions, such as barriers and challenges faced by lawyers with disability, may bring up difficult feelings or memories. If you need support, mental health resources are available to licensees and articling students through the [Lawyer Well-Being Hub](#), such as Telus Health One, the Lawyer Assistance Program, and our Equity Advisor. You do not need to share personal experiences unless you want to; general feedback or things you've personally observed, heard about, or are otherwise aware of from others are also welcome.

Voluntary Participation, Confidentiality, Data Security, and Dissemination of Results

The purpose of this survey is to understand the barriers faced by legal professionals with a disability and gather feedback on how the profession can be made more accessible and inclusive. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without any consequences.

To support anonymity and reduce the amount of personally identifiable information, please avoid including any names or other information that could directly or indirectly identify an individual. No names or personal contact information will be transcribed or linked to the collected data. Participant codes will be assigned to promote the anonymity of all responses before analysis. All survey responses and transcriptions will be stored on password-protected computers and servers, only accessed by designated staff.

The findings will be used to create an anonymized report that will guide future policy decisions aimed at promoting equal participation in, and improving accessibility to, the legal profession. When sharing the data to fulfill our obligation to inform the public and the legal community, all quotes will be deidentified before analysis, and findings will be reported in a non-attributable manner, ensuring both confidentiality and transparency.

Privacy Notice

This data collection is authorized in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996, c. 165, s. 26 (c). If you have any questions about the collection of this information, please contact Claire Marchant, Director, Policy and Practice at CMarchant@lsbc.org

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Rashmi Nair, Senior Data and Policy Analyst at rnair@lsbc.org or 604.605.5377, or Claire Marchant Director, Policy and Practice at cmarchant@lsbc.org or 604.697.5811.