

# 2024 Articling Survey: Frequently Asked Questions

The Law Societies of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan along with the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society are launching two surveys to gather feedback from articling students and new lawyers (under five years of call) as well as from principals, recruiters and those who mentor articling students or new lawyers. The information gathered will help the law societies to make more informed decisions around our programs and resources, especially as they relate to articling, lawyer competence, and equity, diversity and inclusion.

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## 1. Why do you want to hear from articling students and new lawyers about their articling experiences?

We want to hear from students, new lawyers, principals, recruiters and mentors about their experiences so we can understand any current issues associated with the articling experience and the training of new lawyers generally.

A positive articling experience can provide new lawyers with a strong foundation for an ethical and competent legal career. A negative articling experience can lead to issues throughout the career of a lawyer.

We want to get a snapshot of the current state of articling by gathering feedback from as many current articling students and new lawyers as possible. We want to hear about the types of training and mentoring articling students are receiving, any issues related to discrimination or harassment and how prepared articling students feel to practice as 21<sup>st</sup> century lawyers.

## 2. Why do you want to hear from principals, recruiters and mentors about their experiences with students?

We want to hear from principals, recruiters and mentors of articling students for many of the same reasons outlined above. Principals, recruiters and mentors offer a parallel perspective of the articling experience.

We want to hear from principals and mentors because they play a vital role in the success of a student's articling process, setting the tone for the students' learning experience and ultimately for the start of new legal careers.

We want to hear from recruiters because they hire articling students and often check-in with students throughout the articling process. They provide valuable insight into articling at the firm level.

**3. Why is the same survey being used for the law societies of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Nova Scotia Barrister's Society?**

It will be beneficial to understand if the same themes are present in other jurisdictions as each law society analyzes their own survey data. We can compare information collected and collaborate on possible steps forward.

The survey is part of a broader collaboration among the five law societies. The findings will facilitate cross-provincial comparisons, offering valuable insights into how we can collectively enhance the articling experience to meet our shared objectives.

**4. When are the surveys being launched?**

The surveys are open now and will remain open until Thursday, June 20, 2024.

**5. What kinds of questions will be asked in the survey?**

Topics covered include training adequacy, mentor relationships, preparedness for early practice, positive aspects, challenges and experiences of harassment and discrimination, as defined by the respondent. We'll also ask for basic demographic and legal training details.

**6. Why are questions about harassment and discrimination being asked in the survey?**

In our role as regulator, we receive reports, both formally and informally, of discrimination and harassment issues in the profession. We also know that discrimination and harassment issues often go unreported for fear of reprisal or the future impact on careers.

We want a better understanding of the issues around harassment and discrimination in our respective provinces to support further efforts by local law societies and by the Federation.

**7. Why can't I participate in the survey if I've been called to the bar over five years ago and/or haven't supervised/mentored a law student for over five years?**

Participation in the surveys is limited to current articling students and new lawyers (who articulated in the last five years) as well as to principals, recruiters and those who self-identified as mentors. While we believe other members of the profession have valuable insight, we want to capture the most recent information about the articling experience.

**8. How do I qualify as a mentor of articling students?**

Sometimes, someone other than the principal acts as a mentor to an articling student and would have the greatest insight into the articling experience. If you spend a significant portion of your time providing guidance to articling students or new lawyers, we'd like to hear from you.

**9. Will my responses be anonymous, confidential and secure?**

Survey responses are anonymous and confidential. A third-party consultant will analyze the data for trends and improvements, ensuring findings are not linked to personal identities when presented publicly. Following the data analysis, we are committed to sharing anonymized summary findings in a report to the profession from each participating law society.

This survey is administered through the Law Society of Alberta's SurveyMonkey account. All collection, use and disclosure of information by the Law Society will be carried out in accordance with its [Privacy Policy](#). Your use of the SurveyMonkey platform is subject to its [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Notice](#). We will download all responses collected in connection with our surveys from SurveyMonkey and request the deletion of responses by SurveyMonkey as soon as is reasonably practicable.

**10. What will you do with the information collected from these surveys?**

A third-party consultant will help to analyze the information collected and to draft the results reports for each province. A summary of the report will also be shared publicly once finalized.

The results will help the law societies make more informed decisions around our programs and resources, especially as they relate to articling, lawyer competence, and equity, diversity and inclusion.

**11. Who can I contact if I have any further questions?**

Contact [consultation@lsbc.org](mailto:consultation@lsbc.org) if you have any further questions about the articling survey.