

January 20, 2026

Sent via email

Dear Tanya Chamberlain:

Re: 2026 Mandate for the Access to Justice Advisory Committee

Thank you for agreeing to accept the appointment as Chair of the Access to Justice Advisory Committee (“A2JAC”) for 2026.

The 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference along with the priorities outlined below should guide the A2JAC in its work this year.

In order to fulfill its mandate for 2026, I would appreciate if the A2JAC would advance the following:

1. Meet early in 2026 to establish a work plan for the year, which sets out the matters that the committee expects to address this year, the outcomes it expects to achieve, and the time frames by which it intends to do so;
2. Provide to the Executive Committee A2JAC’s work plan by **February 27, 2026**;
3. Consistent with the recommendations to the Benchers from the A2JAC at the December 5, 2025 meeting, and with the assistance and guidance of staff, convene a workshop in the fall of 2026 with participants across the justice sector (and with fellow Benchers) to explore how to improve the collection and sharing of data to support policy and system reforms that improve access to legal services and the justice system, and improve outcomes for people who access legal services and the justice system;
4. As part of that workshop, also explore the concept of triage hubs as identified in the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan (and in the 2017 Legal Aid Task Force report), with consideration of what is being developed or exists (e.g. such as the Any Door initiative overseen by Access to Justice BC), as well as what larger scale

approaches could be developed, identifying what would need to be done to move the idea forward and, ideally, identify whether participants in the workshop are aligned to such efforts;

5. Provide a summary report of the workshop to the Benchers for the December 2026 meeting;
6. Provide policy support to the group advancing the Strategic Plan work on alternative business structures (“ABS”) (when that group is established) by identifying what might be done to ensure ABS improve access to legal services and justice; and
7. Resume the historical tradition of meeting with representatives of the Law Foundation of BC, Legal Aid BC, and Access Pro Bono as part of the A2JAC’s monitoring function, learning about key initiatives those organizations are engaged in, and challenges they are grappling with, in order to enhance the Law Society’s ability to see the bigger picture of access to justice needs in BC. These meetings are intended to be learning and information sharing opportunities, and not a pipeline for new strategic initiatives.

As a final note, please plan to include time to meet with me and First Vice-President Michael F. Welsh, KC midway through 2026 in June, July, or August, for an informal update as to the status of the Advisory Committee’s work.

Yours truly,



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