



FOLA's WEEKLY UPDATE
May 25, 2022
Summary

SUPERIOUR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

No updates this week

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES:

No updates this week

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO UPDATES:

No updates this week

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

No updates this week

LiRN UPDATE

STAFF ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

LiRN Management has sent an updated version of Law Library Job Descriptions to their Network Policy Committee who are, in turn, sending it forward to the full LiRN Board for discussion at their May 30th Board Meeting as part of a larger report that is looking for clarification on library work vs association work and what LiRN considers core library services. The plan is to then consult with various stakeholders in June.

LiRN plans to have a package ready for distribution in the first week of June, with consultations to be scheduled later in the month. The package will likely include:

- Background / context
- A policy that sets out LiRN's core library services / core library management duties
- A policy that sets out library staff employment policies and guidelines. This will include: examples of 'additional library services' beyond the core offerings in the previous policy; examples of non-library services and samples that associations may use (not mandatory) for HR; role descriptions; and some sample performance evaluation templates.

Examples, samples and templates won't be mandatory, but should serve to help assist librarians and Association Board Members.

After getting feedback from stakeholders on the package, LiRN Management will go back to the Board with revisions, ideally in time for their July 18th Board Meeting for discussion with the goal of approval at their August 31st Board Meeting.

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO CONVOCATION REMINDER

The LSO's May Convocation will be tomorrow (Thursday, May 26th). It will start at 9am and will be webcast live. Materials should now be up on the [LSO Convocation page](#) but one thing FOLA would like to draw your attention to is the [Competence Task Force Report: Renewing the Law Society's Continuing Competence Framework](#).

On Tuesday, May 24th, FOLA sent a [Statement to the Benchers](#) supporting the Report. Specifically, FOLA welcomes the introduction of standards for technological competence and the proposed practice essentials course for those who choose to become sole practitioners for the first time. We encourage the Law Society to ensure that this requirement remains low-cost, CPD-accredited, and flexible for licensees. FOLA also commends the Law Society for doing away with the six-hour cap on archived or recorded CPD programs that are eligible for credit, recognizing that this will support licensees practicing outside of urban areas to meet their annual requirements at reduced cost. However, FOLA went a bit further, encouraging Convocation to formally recognize, in its motion on the Task Force report, that "ongoing, suitable, and sustainable funding for Ontario's county and district law libraries is a pillar of maintaining consistent standards for licensee competence and learning across Ontario. You can read our Statement [here](#). I am also attaching it to the email accompanying this Update.

BENCHER ELECTIONS REMINDER

In advance of the Bencher election set for April 28, 2023, FOLA is working to provide Association members with an easy way to identify "FOLA Friendly" candidates who champion:

1. a properly funded courthouse library system to assist lawyers in servicing their clients; and
2. a properly funded Legal Aid system to ensure access to justice for low-income Ontarians.

FOLA has prepared a [questionnaire](#) for bencher candidates and feedback can be directed to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca by June 1st.

When finalized, the [questionnaire](#) will be distributed to nominated candidates electronically. FOLA will review the responses and use them to identify "FOLA Friendly" candidates whose views on libraries and Legal Aid funding align with our priorities. FOLA Friendly candidates will be identified on our website during the election.

FOLA SUBMISSIONS:

[FOLA Statement](#) (sent to Benchers) on the LSO's May 2022 Competence Task Force Report.

MEMBER BENEFITS!

MASTER CODE SHEET: Following up on last week's update suggesting you share info reminding your members about all of FOLA's Member Rewards, attached is a master list with all our Member Reward Partners, FOLA's Codes, and direct Partner website links. Feel free to send this to all existing Members and include it with your new member onboarding packages as needed. I'll update this when needed.

ONTARIO ELECTION UPDATE

REMINDER HOW TO HELP: Every candidate needs legal help. Serving as a general legal advisor on a local campaign to deal with advertising, social media, lawn sign placement, and other campaign-related issues is one way to serve. Campaigns also look to have lawyers on hand for election day (vote counting and ballot shenanigans). But they should also have a policy advisor on justice issues. Call up the campaign office of the candidate you'd most like to help and offer your assistance. You're sure to be an asset! You can learn more on our [Ontario 2022 Election page](#).

JOBS

PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE OF CANADA

The Public Prosecution Service of Canada is inviting applications from private-sector lawyers or law firms with experience in prosecuting or defending criminal matters, to act as an Agent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A Fixed-Term Agreement (contract) is currently available in Muskoka, including the court locations of Bracebridge and Huntsville (Deadline is May 31st). Learn more [here](#).

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the above Updates to FOLA by emailing Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca. We will address them in as timely a manner as possible. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case and the Courts will NOT provide clarification on any Notice to the Profession.