



FOLA News

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Important Information

LSO Approves Recommendations in Response to the FOLA Motion re: Access to Legal Services in Underserved Communities

On November 30, 2023, Convocation approved recommendations from the Access to Justice Committee in response to a FOLA-backed motion carried at the Law Society's May 2023 Annual Meeting.

The committee plans to undertake research concerning the motion including consulting stakeholders and examining what communities are under-served both geographically and in areas of law, prior to bringing recommendations to Convocation for approval.

The Access to Justice Committee report can be found [here](#). Included in the report is the FOLA motion presented at the LSO annual meeting in May 2023, and a follow up letter from Douglas Judson, FOLA's Chair.

New OCJ Judge in Fort Frances Fills 11-Year Vacancy

FOLA is pleased to share that a new judge of the Ontario Court of Justice has been appointed in Fort Frances. The Rainy River District Law Association, with the support of FOLA, has been advocating to see this long-standing judicial vacancy filled for more than a decade.

Justice Terry Waltenbury was sworn in on November 16, 2023 and is the only judge based in chambers in the Rainy River District. We thank Attorney General Doug Downey and provincial court Chief Justice Sharon Nicklas for allocating this position to Fort Frances.

Congratulations to the local legal community, and to Justice Waltenbury! Read the news article [here](#).

Law Society's Certified Specialist Program to Continue

On November 30, a report went to Convocation which made several recommendations in response to the robust feedback from the professions in response to the Certified Specialist Program (CSP) consultation earlier this year.

Convocation approved several recommendations regarding (CSP) as presented in the report including:

- The Law Society will continue to administer the CSP.
- Commencing January 1, 2025, Certified Specialists will be required to complete 10 hours of Continuing Professional Development, in their area of speciality every year, in addition to the 12 hours of CPD required by all licensees providing legal services on an annual basis.



- The Law Society will explore opportunities for the enhancement of the CSP including the re-certification process and the potential expansion of the CSP to paralegals and report back to Convocation on their viability.

More information, including a link to the report presented to Convocation, can be found [here](#).

FOLA Estates Committee: Identifying Issues and Interest

In response to feedback from lawyers, FOLA is currently exploring whether to strike an Estate Law Committee to provide advocacy around the issues facing the estates bar.

Estate law practitioners are invited to help us identify areas of advocacy that are impacting their estate practice. We are aware of concerns regarding long delays in the granting of Certificates of Appointment in various jurisdictions. In addition, members of the estates bar interested in being part of this committee or listserv are asked to contact us.

Please direct your communications to Corey Wall, FOLA's Central East Representative and Treasurer (corey@walllaw.ca) and Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca).

FOLA Fall Plenary

FOLA would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent FOLA Fall Plenary that was held in Windsor from November 8 to 10, 2023. We hope everyone found the presentations and panels to be thought-provoking, informative, and relevant to their law association membership.

The slides from the panels and presenters can be found [here](#).

LiRN – The Key Library Network Processes Project

LiRN recently wrote to the Law Association Presidents announcing a new LiRN project - The Key Library Network Processes Project. The project will focus on bringing courthouse libraries across the province together to work even more seamlessly by examining key library processes. LiRN will be working with a representative from Parallax Information Consulting, who will take a close look at the work the libraries are performing to:

- Discover existing co-operative processes (the network-wide interlibrary loan system is a great example of this working well) and recommend improvements if necessary; and
- Recommend new processes that could be added or centralized for more effective functioning;
- Recommend any support required to implement the recommendations.

Consultations are scheduled to begin in November and the representative from Parallax Information Consulting will meet with the following groups to get their thoughts on the key processes common to courthouse libraries across the network:

- LiRN's Board of Directors



- Shareholders
- Association Presidents
- Library Staff

Please watch for consultation invitations from LiRN.

LiRN 2024 Budget Approved by Convocation

Convocation passed the 2024 LiRN Budget on October 26. The budget provided for the increased staff salaries requested by Associations effective January 1, 2024, as well as the continuance of e-LiRN and other improvements such as zoom booths requested by some.

Current Consultations and Submissions

Ottawa Law Review – Call for Submissions

The *Ottawa Law Review's* blog is currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis for publication from Presidents and members of law associations. The Blog Submission Policy can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email rdo-olr.enligne-online@uottawa.ca.

FOLA Submissions

Ministry of the Attorney General: Vexatious Litigant Procedural Framework

The Ministry of the Attorney General recently sought input and perspective on a potential amendment to the *Courts of Justice Act* regarding the procedure to seek a “vexatious litigant” order. MAG sought input on the following questions:

1. Is your organization concerned about vexatious litigants/vexatious litigation in the Ontario civil justice system?
2. With respect to the current framework for dealing with parties who engage in vexatious litigation (including the provisions in the *Court of Justice Act*, the Rules, and case law), what are the downsides?
 - a. What are the strengths?
3. Are there specific reforms to this framework that you would propose?
4. In contemplating possible reforms to this framework, what safeguards do you consider important to protect the right of Ontarians to access the civil courts to resolve their disputes?

The FOLA submission can be found [here](#).



Federation of Law Societies of Canada: National Requirement Review

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) is conducting a review of the National Requirement, which is the standard that law graduates from Canada and abroad must meet to qualify for entry to bar admission programs in the common law provinces and territories.

The FLSC's National Requirement Review Committee sought feedback on options and preliminary proposals for amendments to the National Requirement described in the Discussion Paper that is available on the FLSC website, [here](#).

The FOLA submission can be found [here](#).

King's Counsel Designation

FOLA was recently contacted by the Attorney General of Ontario's office requesting input on a new public process for the selection of King's Counsel, and specifically with respect to criteria and process. A consultation document was not provided.

Due to a very tight deadline for response, FOLA was unable to consult widely with our members. FOLA's responsive submission can be found [here](#). Recognizing that there are a diversity of views on this topic, we encouraged the Attorney General's Office to consult broadly across the legal community.

Notices, Updates for Members

Amendments to Family Law Rules

The Ministry of the Attorney General has issued a Notice to the Profession regarding amendments to the Family Law Rules. The Notice to the Profession can be found [here](#).

Justice Services Online Enhancements

The Ministry of the Attorney General recently announced that they would be releasing changes to its Justice Services Online (JSO) platform effective October 30, 2023. The following enhancements will be deployed:

- The current ONE-key platform is being decommissioned and replaced by 'My Ontario Account', which is a Government of Ontario login service that will eventually allow a user to sign in quickly and securely to all Government of Ontario services using one common set of login credentials.
- JSO currently uses the ONE-key platform and must transition over to the 'My Ontario Account' service.



- Going forward, users who wish to access JSO services will be guided to create a *My Ontario Account*. Users will have the option to migrate their existing JSO account in order to retain any transaction history and confirmation of documents previously submitted to the court through JSO.
- Interac Online will no longer be an available payment method as the vendor who supports Interac payment is ceasing support across several platforms. Payment of any court filing fees can still be processed through other payment methods, including Visa, Visa Debit, Mastercard, and Debit Mastercard.

A User Guide has been developed which may be of assistance to members. The guide will walk the user on how to create a My Ontario Account, migrate their existing JSO profile if they wish or create a new profile. You can find the English version of the User Guide [here](#) and the French version can be found [here](#).

Provincial Civil Case Management Pilot – One-Judge Model

On October 19 Chief Justice Morawetz issued a Memorandum announcing the conclusion of the Provincial Civil Case Management Pilot – One Judge Model. The Memorandum can be found [here](#).

Law Society of Ontario – Licensee Updates

The Law Society of Ontario Licensee update dated October 26 can be found [here](#).

The Law Society of Ontario Licensee update dated November 30 can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Law Association News

FOLA promotes law association events and other news. If your organization has upcoming events or related news that would be of interest to our members, please email Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca) and we will include it here.

Toronto Lawyers' Association – Top 6 in 60: Six Recent SCC Cases in 60 Minutes or Less

This session will take place on **Tuesday, December 5** from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

Join legal legend Earl Cherniak K.C., and criminal defence counsel Ian Kasper for a practical, insightful and lively discussion.

- This session will take you through six recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions that you should know about in a convenient one-hour session held at the end of the workday.
- Each case will be presented with helpful takeaways so that you can easily incorporate them into your practice.



Register [here](#).

Law Society of Ontario – The 12-Minute Paralegal – Trending Topics

This session will take place on **Wednesday, December 6** from 12 to 2 PM via Webcast.

This session will focus on key professionalism topics including paralegal/lawyer teamwork, new career paths, networking tips, social media lessons and much more.

Click [here](#) to register.

Toronto Lawyers' Association – Trauma-Informed Lawyering 101

This session will take place on **Wednesday, December 6** from 12:00 - 1:00 PM via Zoom Webinar

In the pursuit of justice, understanding the impact of trauma is essential.

During this interactive session, you will learn:

- The fundamentals of trauma-informed care and practice.
- How trauma can affect your clients' interactions with the legal system.
- Practical strategies to create a safe and supportive legal environment.
- Techniques for enhancing client trust and communication.

Register [here](#).

Thursday Tips with LAWPRO and TLA – Client Management and Effective Client Relationships (Free)

This session will take place on **Thursday, December 7** from 9:30 - 11:00 AM via Zoom Webinar

In this program brought to you by LAWPRO and the TLA, you will learn from leading advocates about

- A well-drafted retainer agreement, setting fee expectations, and what to do when the client does not pay; and
- Understanding how diversity and culture can impact communication with clients; and (iii) managing communication and relationship breakdowns when they occur.

Register [here](#).



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