



# FOLA News

Issue 1: July 4, 2023

## In This Issue

<b>Important Messages</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Updated FOLA Contacts .....	1
Future Updates and Newsletters .....	2
Fall Plenary Content .....	2
<b>Upcoming Events and Law Association News</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Current Consultations and Submission Deadlines</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Legal Aid Ontario: Proposed Amendments to Fees for Private Bar Lawyers .....	2
Superior Court: Consultation on Access to Attend Court Matters Virtually .....	3
Law Society of Ontario: Certified Specialist Program .....	3
Federation of Law Societies of Canada: National Requirement Review .....	3
<b>Recent FOLA Submissions</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Ministry of Finance: Multi-Employer Pension Plans .....	4
<b>Notices</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Superior Court: Revised Practice Directions .....	4
Superior Court: Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution Pilot Project .....	4
<b>Job and Appointment Opportunities</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Law Society: External Appointments .....	5
<b>FOLA Executive Contacts</b> .....	<b>5</b>

## Important Messages

### Updated FOLA Contacts

Katie Robinette has departed the role of executive director. While a process to identify a replacement has not yet been determined, in the interim, please direct your communications to FOLA as follows:



**For general matters, contact:**

Kelly Lovell, Executive Assistant ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca))

**Unless otherwise specified, for submissions on policy issues and consultations, contact:**

Douglas W. Judson, Chair ([info@douglasjudson.ca](mailto:info@douglasjudson.ca))

*and*

Kelly Lovell, Executive Assistant ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca))

## Future Updates and Newsletters

Going forward, FOLA will be issuing news and updates in this format on an approximately twice-monthly basis. We will be discontinuing the separate monthly newsletter and “weekly updates” and presenting all content together in this *FOLA News* publication. Our intention is to soon move these communications online to our new website and to deliver links to them to you via email and social media. Please watch for an announcement about the launch of our new website in the near future.

## Fall Plenary Content

FOLA is in the process of planning for our fall plenary. Member law associations with suggestions for programming content are asked to email Douglas Judson ([info@douglasjudson.ca](mailto:info@douglasjudson.ca)). The earlier we hear from you, the more likely it is that we will be able to incorporate your suggestions into the fall lineup.

## Upcoming Events and Law Association News

In this section, FOLA promotes law associations 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](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)) and we will include it in this section.

*There are no events or law association news updates in this issue.*

## Current Consultations and Submission Deadlines

### Legal Aid Ontario: Proposed Amendments to Fees for Private Bar Lawyers

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is consulting on proposed amendments to the fees that private bar lawyers are paid for doing legal aid work. LAO is proposing to:

- increase the hourly rates for roster lawyers and the amount paid for block fees;
- increase the number of hours allocated under the hourly tariff; and
- allow per diem duty counsel to bill according to their tier rate.



LAO is interested in any other ideas regarding changes to the tariff, particularly those that could help address backlog issues in the courts.

LAO's consultation is seeking feedback on the [Rules amending the Legal Aid Services Rules \(Fees and disbursements\)](#). This [consultation](#) is open until **July 9**.

Terry Brandon, our Legal Aid Committee chair, will be preparing a submission on behalf of FOLA. If you provide a submission directly to LAO, it would be appreciated if you could provide a copy of your submission to Terry Brandon ([terrybrandon@acriminaldefence.ca](mailto:terrybrandon@acriminaldefence.ca)) and Kelly Lovell ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)).

### Superior Court: Consultation on Access to Attend Court Matters Virtually

FOLA has received a letter from the Office of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice seeking input with respect to public and media access to court proceedings, and specifically with respect to the question below:

*Should the public be provided unlimited access to attend any court matter that is heard virtually by publishing Zoom link information on the SCJ's website or should Zoom links continue to be made available only upon request by email to the Court? Or how should the public be provided access to a attend a virtual hearing?*

FOLA will be preparing a submission and we would appreciate receiving your comments and feedback for consideration by **August 15** to Douglas Judson ([info@douglasjudson.ca](mailto:info@douglasjudson.ca)) and Kelly Lovell ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)).

### Law Society of Ontario: Certified Specialist Program

The Law Society of Ontario (LSO) is seeking feedback from the professions and the public on the future of the Certified Specialist Program. Information on the consultation can be found [here](#).

FOLA is preparing a submission and if you would like to send your input for consideration in our submission, please email Douglas Judson ([info@douglasjudson.ca](mailto:info@douglasjudson.ca)) and Kelly Lovell ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)) by **September 20**.

If you or your organization would like to prepare your own submission, you can do so directly until **October 1**. You are encouraged to share your submissions with us on this important topic.

### 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 is seeking 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](#).

FOLA is preparing a submission in response to this call for comments. If you would like to send your input for consideration in our submission, please email Douglas Judson ([info@douglasjudson.ca](mailto:info@douglasjudson.ca)) and Kelly Lovell ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)) by **October 1**.

If you or your organization would like to prepare your own submission, you can do so directly to [consultations@flsc.ca](mailto:consultations@flsc.ca) until **October 16**.

## Recent FOLA Submissions

### Ministry of Finance: Multi-Employer Pension Plans

The Ontario Ministry of Finance sought feedback on a proposal to establish a permanent framework for target benefit plans in regulations made under the *Pensions Benefits Act*. The framework will impact how the value of pension benefits is calculated for the purposes of family law matters for all Multi-Employer Pension Plans (MEPPs) that can reduce accrued benefits.

FOLA prepared a submission, which can be downloaded [here](#).

## Notices

### Superior Court: Revised Practice Directions

The Superior Court of Justice's revised practice directions in civil, family, criminal, Divisional Court, and commercial proceedings in Toronto are in effect as of June 15 and have now been posted to the court's website, [here](#).

You will note that parts of the court's website have been reorganized so that you can easily identify the Provincial Practice Directions and the applicable Regional Notices and Practice Directions.

### Superior Court: Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution Pilot Project

We have received correspondence from Chief Justice Morawetz regarding an update on the Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution Pilot Project. The letter can be found [here](#) and the Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution Practice Advisory can be found [here](#).



## Job and Appointment Opportunities

### Law Society: External Appointments

As part of its mandate, the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) recommends and makes appointments to a variety of boards, councils and committees. The Law Society is seeking applications from qualified lawyers for the following:

- The Civil Rules Committee; and
- The Ontario Judicial Council

Visit the LSO's [external applications page](#) for more information and to apply by **July 28**.

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### FOLA Executive Contacts

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