



FOLA'S MONTHLY SECTOR MEETING UPDATE

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SECTOR CHECK IN LOG #93
May 10, 2023
Summary

INVITED PARTICIPANTS: SECTOR CALLS

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA
Superior Court of Justices in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice
MAG – Department staff and the Recovery Secretariat

COURT UPDATES

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

[CaseLines in the Superior Court of Justice – Quick Tips](#)

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES:

The Ontario Court of Justice has launched its redesigned public website as of May 8, 2023. The external website has been redesigned and revitalized from a user task-focused perspective and all the contents and resources have been updated. The updated site will provide an improved user experience and be easier to navigate. Some of the key features of the redesigned website are:

- Website information content for Criminal, Family and Provincial Offences Act are housed within each respective section.
- Clearer content that is user-friendly and user focused.
- Quick jump access menus that quickly takes the user to the location/tools they need most.
- The site is mobile-friendly and can be accessed from home, work or on desktop, tablet or smartphone and it is fully accessible.

You can access the website [here](#).

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO UPDATES:

No updates this week

CONSULTATIONS

PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS – CIVIL RULES COMMITTEE

The Partial Settlement Subcommittee is a newly-formed subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee that is about convene to consider whether or not a new Rule is needed to address the disclosure of partial settlements. Learn more about this consultation and about how to submit your input for consideration [here](#). **Deadline is May 19th.**

MINISTRY UPDATES

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUSTICE SERVICES ONLINE FEEDBACK SESSIONS: In late March, MAG and FOLA hosted a series of regional JSO Feedback Sessions. These sessions offered productive and respectful dialogue between the

ministry, bar, and bench on online filing services and gave JSO users the opportunity to ask questions, share any challenges they may be experiencing, and suggest possible improvements to the platform, both in advance of and during the sessions. The ministry received important feedback about JSO, such as suggestions to further increase document size limitations and streamline user communication with court staff about a submission. The JSO project team is carefully reviewing all of the feedback and, in response, is exploring ways to enhance JSO and related operational processes. A summary of the feedback when available. In the meantime, here is a [link](#) to the final version of the presentation deck used at the sessions.

OTHER ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEWS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE – FAMILY LAW CONSULTATIONS (MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS)

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) is proposing to establish a permanent framework for target benefit plans in regulations made under the Pensions Benefits Act. This 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. [Learn more \(including information on how to send comments\) here.](#)

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS & HOUSING RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT, 2006

The Ministry is seeking feedback on proposed changes to help protect tenants from bad faith renovation evictions. **Deadline is May 21st.** [Learn more here.](#)

REMINDER: ONTARIO'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACT: Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) took effect on October 19, 2021. Existing non-profits have 3 years from that date to bring their governing documents into compliance with the new law. Learn more on our [ONCA Resource Page](#).

BENCHER ELECTIONS

RESULTS ARE IN! FOLA congratulates all successful Benchers. See our [website](#) for the full list of our new Benchers. Note that they will officially take office at the next Convocation on May 25th.

FOLA PRESS RELEASE: Following the announcement of the results, FOLA issued [this Press Release](#) titled "FOLA Reacts to Law Society Bencher Election Results".

- FOLA also sent all new and returning Benchers a congratulatory email with a FOLA info guide attached. You can see our Info Guide [here](#).

LiRN UPDATE

LFO FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Legal Information and Resource Network (LiRN) announced today that The Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO) has accepted their proposal to fund a special two-year project. The \$1.4 million project grant will help foster innovation and promote equity of access to legal resources. The Innovation and Equity of Access in Ontario Courthouse Libraries Project includes two streams of activity: The Innovation Sandbox and Equity of access to standard library collections. Learn more [here](#).

FOLA UPDATES

- ❖ **FOLA'S SPRING 2023 PLENARY:** FOLA will be hosting our Spring 2023 Plenary starting today (May 10-12th) in Toronto. With a theme of **Growth & Opportunities**, we have great speakers, panels, and sessions lined up. Please take a moment to check out our Agenda, Speaker Bios, and Sponsors [here](#).
- ❖ **LiRN WORKSHOP - USING LiRN'S ROLE DESCRIPTIONS AND SALARY BANDS FOR LIBRARY STAFF:** Join FOLA & LiRN for an online live workshop on May 18th from 3-4:30pm. Panelists include: Vicki Whitmell, LiRN Board of Directors, Theresa Leitch, Managing Director, LiRN, Jacquie Fex, Roving Librarian, LiRN, and Ashley Gibson, former President, Welland County Law Association. Topics include: Using the role description and salary matrices; Tips for providing an effective review of staff performance; The importance of providing a salary analysis for the 2024 Budget Cycle; and a Q&A session. [Register here](#). Your login information will be provided following registration.

- ❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD:** Bell Mobility has a brand new special offer this month. [Learn more and shop now!](#)
- ❖ **FOLA AWARDS 2023:** FOLA'S 2023 Awards have changed a bit. We have changed (slightly) the eligibility requirements for the Presidents' Award and the Luminary Award (for library staff and association staff) and have replaced the Distinguished Service Award with the Emerging Leader Award. Nominations are now open and full eligibility requirements and nomination forms can be found [here](#).
- ❖ **FOLA's MAY NEWSLETTER:** FOLA's May Newsletter is now available. Read it [here](#).
- ❖ **FOLA IN THE NEWS #1:** FOLA will push for 'efforts to bring lawyers to under-served communities' at next LSO annual meeting – Law360. Read article [here](#).
- ❖ **FOLA IN THE NEWS #2:** "Ontario law federation raises alarm over dwindling number of lawyers in remote areas" – CBC News. Read article [here](#).

APPOINTMENTS/JOBS

- ❖ **ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL:** Ontario Land Tribunal is an independent and impartial tribunal which adjudicates matters related to land use planning, environmental protection, cultural heritage protection, land valuation and compensation, mining disputes and other matters. Ontario Land Tribunal is seeking full-time and part-time Members to adjudicate cases in relation to a range of matters governed by a broad range of statutes. **Deadline is May 14th.**
- ❖ **LICENCE APPEAL TRIBUNAL (LAT):** The LAT derives its legislative authority from the Licence Appeal Tribunal Act, 1999. The LAT adjudicates and resolves appeals concerning compensation claims and licensing decisions made by a variety of regulators under laws that protect consumers and the public and ensure the integrity of the regulated businesses and occupations. Common appeal types that come before the LAT involve liquor licenses, new home warranty claims, medical suspension of driver's licences, impoundment of motor vehicles and licensing of various businesses and occupations. In addition, the Automobile Accident Benefits Service (AABS) division of the LAT accepts applications for automobile insurance dispute resolution. The LAT is currently seeking applications for Tribunals Ontario is seeking full-time and part-time Members for the Licence Appeal Tribunal. **Deadline is May 14th.**
- ❖ **FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION (FSC):** Under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, which governs fire safety in Ontario, the FSC adjudicates applications and resolves disputes regarding inspections, orders and decisions for repairs, alterations or installations to be made to a building, structure or premises made by inspectors or the Fire Marshal. Under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, which governs fire safety in Ontario, the FSC adjudicates applications and resolves disputes regarding inspections, orders and decisions for repairs, alterations or installations to be made to a building, structure or premises made by inspectors or the Fire Marshal. Tribunals Ontario is seeking part-time Members and Vice Chairs for the FSC. **Deadline is May 17th.**
- ❖ **ANIMAL CARE REVIEW BOARD (ACRB):** Under the authority of the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, the ACRB resolves disputes and conducts hearings regarding animal welfare, including orders made by inspectors of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. When reviewing appeals and applications, the welfare of any animal involved is the ACRB's main priority. Tribunals Ontario is seeking part-time Members for the ACRB. **Deadline is May 17th.**
- ❖ **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (MULTIPLE):** At the request of the Attorney General, and in accordance with the Justices of the Peace Act, the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee (the Committee) invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario in multiple locations across the province. **Deadline is May 31st.**

Learn more & apply to any of the above postings on our [Job Board](#).

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **LSO AGM:** The Law Society's AGM will take place virtually today (May 10 at 5:15pm). Watch the [LSO Portal](#) for log-in and meeting information and take a moment to check your [Portal](#) account now to ensure you have your credentials and that they are up to date.
- ❖ **FOLA MOTION AT THE LSO's AGM:** FOLA is bringing a motion to have the LSO devote more resources to ensuring access to lawyers in under-served communities of the province. As many of you will know the population of lawyers is not getting any younger but, in some areas, people in need of legal services will

not be able to get a lawyer. As time goes on this situation is getting worse. FOLA's motion asks the LSO to develop a plan and devote resources to this growing challenge. We encourage you to attend the AGM and support our Motion. [Read our Motion here](#). Please log in and vote for our Motion!

- ❖ **EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:** As part of its mandate, the Law Society recommends and makes appointments to a variety of boards, councils and committees. The Law Society is currently seeking applications from qualified lawyers for the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. **The application deadline is May 10th.** [Learn more & apply here](#).

ASSOCIATION & OTHER EVENTS

HALTON COUNTY LAW ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL ESTATES SEMINAR

Date: Friday, May 12, 2023, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Oakville Golf Club, 1154 Sixth Line, Oakville L6H 6M1

This program contains 1.5 Professionalism Hour(s) and 1.0 Substantive Hour(s)

[Learn more and register here](#)

AN EVENING WITH CHRISTINE HOGARTH, MPP & PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

May 16, 2023 – 6pm (Toronto)

Join Christine Hogarth for an event in support of the Etobicoke Lakeshore PC Riding Association.

[Learn more and register here](#)

NAVIGATING THE MARKETING MINEFIELD (PEEL LAW ASSOCIATION)

May 31, 2023 - 4:30-5:30pm (Zoom)

Speaker: Sandra Bekhor, Practice Management Coach, Bekhor Management

Marketing impact starts with being intentional. Better choices will lead to more effective marketing efforts. Join Sandra Bekhor for this valuable session which will help you better understand the marketing journey.

You will learn:

- How to set priorities
- How to determine your audience
- How to identify your objectives
- How to be proactive instead of reactive
- How to select appropriate media options
- How to build a marketing plan

[Learn more and register here](#)

TACKLING THE SEPARATION DATE STALEMATE (PEEL LAW ASSOCIATION)

June 6, 2023 - 4:00-5:00pm (Zoom)

Speakers: David Frenkel, Frenkel Tobin LLP and Yunjae Kim, Birenbaum Steinberg Landau Savin & Colrairie LLP

This education session will provide you with information on how to obtain a preliminary assessment of the separation date issue and how to better understand the foundational elements of a couple's relationship.

Topics will include:

- Relationship, Communication and Intimacy
- Household and Family
- Financial Affairs
- Activities with the Public
- Separate Residences
- And more

[Learn more and register here](#)

17TH SOLO AND SMALL FIRM CONFERENCE: SECRETS FOR SUCCESS

June 8, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

What does success mean for you and your law practice? No matter what goals you have, being able to achieve your objectives means greater satisfaction in both your professional and personal life. Our experienced presenters share their secrets on being successful in key areas including effectively managing your time, business, staff, technology, and so much more. [Register today](#) (in-person event or live webcast).

SAVE THE DATE: DURHAM REGION LAW ASSOCIATION 2nd ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, September 28 & Friday September 29, 2023

Ajax Convention Centre - Information and registration coming soon

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

COURT WORKING GROUPS

SCJ FAMILY LAW & IN-PERSON vs. ONLINE MATTERS: If you have ongoing concerns regarding in-person vs online appearances at the SCJ, please direct your concerns to katie.robinette@fola.ca and they will be shared with our Family Law Working Group.

SCJ SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP: FOLA is requesting that practitioners (as well as Deputy Judges) take a moment to consider and comment on what works well and what could use improvement in our Small Claims Court so that constructive feedback can continue to flow to the Small Claims Court Working Group. Please send comments to katie.robinette@fola.ca.

ANYTHING ELSE? Email Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca