



FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

Fola.ca

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May 24, 2023

COURT UPDATES

SUPERIOR 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

CONSULTATIONS

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PROGRAM – LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

The Law Society of Ontario is seeking feedback from the professions and the public on the future of the Certified Specialist Program. FOLA is preparing a formal Submission. If you would like to send your input for consideration in our Submission, please send those to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca by September 20th. If you would like to prepare your own submission, you can do so directly until October 1, 2023. Learn more [here](#).

CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT – 5 YEAR REVIEW

The five-year legislative review of the [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#) (CYFSA) has been officially launched. The CYFSA is the primary legislation governing child, youth and family services that are provided through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This includes services such as child welfare, adoption, youth justice and out-of-home care services, as well as services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth.

The legislation requires that a formal review and a public report be completed every five years. The CYFSA was proclaimed in 2018, and the 2023 review will be the first review of the legislation.

FOLA will be preparing a formal Submission. If you would like to contribute your input for consideration, please send your comments to **Katie** at katie.robinette@fola.ca by **June 30th**. If you would like to share your feedback independently, please submit a written submission to CYFSA@ontario.ca or fill out the survey found [online here](#) by **Friday July 14, 2023**.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE: MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS (MEPPS)

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) is seeking feedback on a proposal 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. FOLA will be preparing a Submission. If you would like to send comments to us for consideration in our Submission, please send those to **Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca by June 15th**. Interested parties should review the Consultation Paper (linked on our website). Learn more [here](#).

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.

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](#).

LiRN UPDATE

LiRN "CLAWBACKS"

As you may recall, last year LiRN advised law associations that they intended to move forward with a "clawback" of previously unused grants unless the association could create an appropriate business case to redirect those funds. Associations should be aware that LiRN has not provided - and will not provide - FOLA with any specific financial information of any individual association. LiRN has previously advised that the association's financial information is confidential and they will not disclose it to us without the written consent of the individual association. As a result, they have not made us aware of their final decisions regarding the clawbacks. For this reason, we are inviting associations with concerns to follow up with either of us if you have concerns about any business case you've made or that was rejected. Please email your concerns to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca

[BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR BOARD \(Video\)](#)

Board relationships are an important component of the work for library staff and local law associations in Ontario. In this video, LiRN asked some Library staff and a past president of an association to offer their perspective of what constitutes a good relationship with the board of your relationship.

Panel

- Rebecca Bentham, Executive Director, Hamilton Law Association
- Milena Protich, Past President, Waterloo Region Law Association
- Pia Williams, Executive Director, Waterloo Region Law Association

LiRN is developing a document containing many of these helpful ideas and will share it as soon it is ready.

**Please consult LiRN's [Additional Library Services and Responsibilities Policy](#) for any clarifications about what your duties can consist of in terms of work for your association.*

FOLA UPDATES

- ❖ **FOLA'S SPRING 2023 PLENARY:** XXX Presentations are now available on our website. Stay tuned for videos and our popular Post-Plenary Report – expected in the next couple of weeks. View our Plenary page [here](#).
- ❖ **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](#).

APPOINTMENTS/JOBS

- ❖ **ONTARIO LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD:** The Ontario Labour Relations Board is an independent, adjudicative tribunal which plays a fundamental role in the labour relations regime within Ontario. It has a mandate to provide excellence in administrative justice through the effective resolution of a wide range of labour relations and employment disputes. The Board mediates and adjudicates disputes under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, the Employment Standards Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act and numerous other labour and employment statutes. The Ontario Labour Relations Board is seeking a full-time Vice-Chair. **Deadline is May 31st.**
- ❖ **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

CONVOCATION: The next Convocation will be on May 25th. New Benchers will be sworn in at that event.

EVENTS

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](#)

LAWYERS' IMPROV NIGHT

June 1, 2023 – 7:30pm (EST)

Socap Comedy, 154 Danforth Ave. (2nd Floor), Toronto

Can you convince a judge that your client didn't do it, well how about making a jury laugh?

The host, professional improviser and comedian Daphney Joseph, will lead everyone through Improv Games with a focus on improving courtroom and presentation skills. Participants will have the opportunity to get up on stage and test out your skills under 'under the lights' in a safe and non-judgmental atmosphere. Just want to watch? That's fine too. A maximum of 90 spaces are available for this exciting in-person program.

Registration is \$30. [Register here](#). \$10 discount for your members using code FOLA.

This event is eligible for 1.5 hours substantive CPD credit.

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