
[488]

**Approved Public Minutes
of the Four Hundred and Eighty-Eighth Meeting
of the Benchers Board of the Law Society of Alberta (“Law Society”)
held at the Law Society Offices, Calgary, Alberta
April 27, 2018**

Benchers present:

Donald Cranston, President
Robert Armstrong, President-Elect
Ryan Anderson
Arman Chak
Sandra Corbett
Nancy Dilts
Robert Dunster
Karen Hewitt
Cal Johnson
Linda Long
Bud Melnyk
Stacy Petriuk
Robert Philp
Kathleen Ryan
Darlene Scott
Kent Teskey
Margaret Unsworth
Louise Wasylenko
Nate Whitling

Regrets:

Glen Buick
Corie Flett
Jim Lutz
Walter Pavlic
Amal Umar

Executive Leadership Team members present:

Don Thompson, Executive Director and CEO
Elizabeth Osler, Deputy Executive Director and
Director, Regulation
Cori Ghitter, Director, Professionalism and Policy
Andrew Norton, Director, Business Technology
Drew Thomson, Chief Financial Officer

Staff present:

Colleen Brown, Manager, Communications
Ruth Corbett, Governance Administrator
Nancy Carruthers, Manager of Policy and Ethics

Guests and observers present:

Frank Friesacher, Vice-President, Canadian Bar
Association, Alberta Branch
Kendall Moholityny, Executive Director, Pro Bono
Law Alberta
Sandra Petersson, Director, Alberta Law Reform
Institute
Maura Sutherland, Executive Director, Legal
Education Society of Alberta

The public meeting was called to order at 8:40 am.

1 Opening Remarks from the Chair

Don Cranston

The Chair opened the meeting with the following acknowledgement statement: “We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Nakoda (Stoney), and Tsuu T’ina.”

The Chair advised the Board that the Code of Conduct discussion was moved to the *in-camera* meeting.

2 Law Society Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017Louise Wasylenko/
Drew Thomson

A report and two recommendations from the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) were circulated with the meeting materials. The Chair of AFC provided a summary of the AFC’s deliberations on the financial statements and the tuition fee for the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) program.

Motion:

That the Board set the 2018/19 tuition fee at \$3,011 for Alberta students as described in scenario 2 of the LESA report for CPLED Program Delivery Costs – 2018/19.

**Seconded
Carried****Motion:**

That the Board approve the Law Society of Alberta’s audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, as circulated.

**Seconded
Carried****3 Code of Conduct Amendments**

Nancy Carruthers

A report and recommendation from the Policy Committee was circulated with the meeting materials. The Board received a detailed oral report on the history of and rationale for the proposed amendments to section 3.2-7 of the Code of Conduct, including background on the relationship between the Code of Conduct and the Model Code. The Board discussed the process for changes to the Code of Conduct and the Model Code and the differences in the provision for dishonesty and fraud between jurisdictions. If the amendments are approved, an ebulletin will go out to the profession highlighting the changes and the importance that lawyers are continually aware of fraud.

Motion:

To amend Rule 3.2-13 of the Code of Conduct in accordance with the amendments set forth in Schedule “A” of the meeting materials.

**Seconded
Carried**

4 Law Firm Practice Management Assessment Pilot Evaluations

Cori Ghitler

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials and the Board received an oral update on the findings and takeaways from the evaluations and next steps.

5 President’s Report

Don Cranston

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

6 Executive Director’s Report

Don Thompson

The Executive Director’s report was circulated with the meeting materials. The Board discussed the Law Society’s review and reorganization of service awards and other celebrations. The changes described will continue efforts to streamline and simplify the Law Society’s business processes.

In response to the news that Donna Velcic, Hearing Coordinator, retired from the Law Society, the Benchers expressed their appreciation for the excellent work she did organizing hearing committees for many years.

7 Alberta Law Foundation Report

Darlene Scott

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

8 Alberta Law Reform Institute Report

Sandra Petersson

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

9 Alberta Lawyers’ Assistance Society (Assist) Report

Nancy Dilts

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials. Ms. Dilts added an update on the recruitment of a new Executive Director for Assist and advised the Board that an announcement will be made soon.

10 Canadian Bar Association Alberta Report

Frank Friesacher

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

11 Federation of Law Societies of Canada Report

Steve Raby

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

12 Legal Education Society of Alberta Report

Maura Sutherland

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

13 Pro Bono Law Alberta Report

Cori Flett

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

14 Real Estate Practice Advisory Committee Report

Darlene Scott

Documentation for this item was circulated with the meeting materials.

There being no further business the public meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.