

# CONVOCATION AGENDA

Convocation Date: October 28, 2016  
Location: Hotel Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Suite, Regina  
Commencement and End Time: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 am – 1:00 pm *in camera*;  
1 - 4:00 pm Bencher Meeting, President's Dinner in the evening

## 1. Approval of the Agenda

### 1.1 Apologies for Absence

David Rusnak, Q.C. will miss the morning portion and will attend at 1:00 pm. Rennie Harper will attend via conference call.

### 1.2 Introduction of Guests

Jeff Hirsch, President of the Federation of Law Societies and Roberta Campbell, President of the Law Society of Manitoba, will attend the President's Dinner, but they will not attend the Bencher meeting.

### 1.3 Confirmation of Agenda

### 1.4 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures

### 1.5 Agenda Items, Committee Reports and Documents Which Are Not Open to the Public

There should be nothing specific in the budget itself that requires confidentiality, although questions from the Benchers might raise issues. The morning portion of the meeting from 10:45 am to 1:00 pm is to be held *in camera*, therefore, is not open to the public.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes of September 16, 2016

### 2.1 Amendments

### 2.2 Confirmation of Minutes

### 2.3 Business Arising from Minutes

## 3. Agenda Items for Decision

### 3.1 Budget 2017

Attached is a memo from Donna Sigmeth, Q.C., with budget related documents for each department. Donna will brief the Benchers with a power point presentation and answer questions.

Also included, is a memo from Melanie Hodges Neufeld setting out possible options to address the Library budget shortfall, as well as a summary document explaining the work done at the libraries.

### **3.2 Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan**

PBLS has requested that the Law Society increase its support, as per the attached memo from Kara-Dawn Jordan, Executive Director. The Executive Committee does not recommend an increase in funding at this time.

### **3.3 Appointments**

#### **i. Saskatchewan Legal Aid**

The term for Amanda Dodge expires December 31, 2016 and she is interested in serving another term. According to Law Society policy, appointments are usually made for two-year terms with the possibility for renewal to a maximum of six years. Ms. Dodge is eligible to serve a second term and the Executive Committee recommends Amanda Dodge serve a second term.

#### **ii. Legislative Assembly – Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Law Society placed an ad and collected resumes. The resumes are attached for review. The Standing Committee requested nomination of a member of the Law Society based on particular criteria.

#### **iii. Designated Complaints Counsel (DCC)**

A second out-of-province Designated Complaints Counsel (DCC) is required and Katherine Whitburn of the Law Society of Alberta has agreed to act in this capacity. A motion of the Benchers is required.

### **3.4 Bencher Election Reform**

The Law Society of Manitoba did a reform of their electoral process recently; therefore, having someone from the Law Society of Manitoba to speak to this would be very useful. The Executive recommends that a facilitated discussion be set for February 2017 Convocation to allow the new Executive Director to obtain some governance training in advance of the February meeting. Administration will also be in touch with the Law Society of Manitoba to organize speakers.

## **4. Communications Strategy**

One of the responsibilities of the new Executive Director is to hire a new Communications Coordinator. Donna Sigmeth, Q.C. has highlighted all budget line items that may pertain to “communication” for reference by the future Executive Director.

## **5. Financial Statements**

For review, attached are financial statements for the period ended August 31, 2016.

## **6. Regulation**

### **6.1 Rule Amendments**

Attached is a memo from Barbra Bailey regarding amendments to Rule 92 "Procedure at Meetings of the Benchers," along with a blacklined copy of the corresponding Policy that is maintained in the Governance Policy Manual.

### **6.2 Law Society Fees and Assessments**

Attached is a redlined copy of Law Society Fees and Assessments for Bencher approval.

## **7. Reports**

- 7.1 President's Report**
- 7.2 Executive Director's Report**
- 7.3 Federation Council Report**

## **8. Informational Items**

- a. Recipient of the Law Society Entrance Scholarship 2016-17
- b. University of Saskatchewan Senate report from Alma Wiebe, Q.C.

## **9. Meeting Finalization**

- 9.1 Review Actions to be Taken**
- 9.2 Confirm Items under 1.4**
- 9.3 Meeting Evaluation**
- 9.4 Next Meeting**

The final Convocation of the year is scheduled December 1 and 2, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon.

Please ensure you have all 2017 Convocation Dates diarized. A copy of the 2017 Convocation dates is attached again for your convenience.

### **9.5 Motion to Adjourn**

## **10. Bencher In-Camera Session**