



November 9, 2020

To: Members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan

Colleagues,

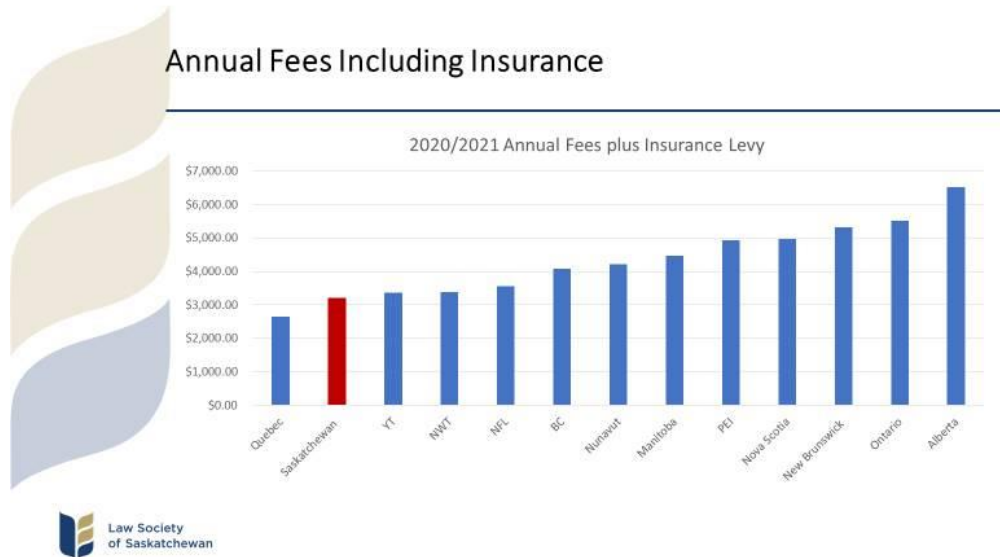
I hope this finds you well.

In 2018, I reported that the Benchers adopted a plan intended to fund programming while maintaining stable fees through to the end of 2021 assuming various financial targets could be met. I am happy to report that forecasting finds us on track to meet those targets; and, accordingly, the Benchers have set the 2021 practice fee at **\$2,283.75** for a third consecutive year.

As an organization, we take pride in the many services and resources we provide to the profession while remaining one of the most affordable jurisdictions in Canada to practice. As a Law Society, we are unrivalled nationally in terms of the online resources we offer to our membership, including full access to Westlaw. Practice advisors are available to assist in all areas of practice on a free and confidential basis, which in 2020, was bolstered to include help with technology questions related to the practice of law. With the persistence of the pandemic and the need for firms to quickly pivot to remote practice in the early days of the pandemic, we saw a dramatic uptake in the membership's use of these programs.

We also sought to further subsidize the total cost of practice in Saskatchewan by reducing costs associated with Continuing Professional Development programming. In 2020, we developed OnDemand CPD, meaning that you could have unfettered access to all CPD programming at an "all in" annual cost of \$399 per member, which represents an average annual savings of approximately \$400 per member. We also offered 9.5 hours of programming free of charge. Pandemic pricing for the OnDemand CPD platform continues to be available until the end of the year and can be purchased [here](#).

When one combines SLIA's insurance levy into the total cost of practice in Saskatchewan, the following chart demonstrates that in 2021 Saskatchewan will be second only to Quebec in terms of affordability.



There is no doubt that the pandemic has caused a bumpy ride for practitioners in 2020. There is also little doubt that the pandemic and the impact of social distancing will be our reality for some time to come. As a result, the Benchers are currently considering the establishment of a committee to review and monitor fee policy as the Law Society moves through and beyond 2021. Membership surveys and other membership consultations will continue to inform these discussions.

Where do Member Fees Go?

The work of the Law Society, as regulator of the legal profession in Saskatchewan, is multi-faceted. With our mandate to act in the public interest, many of our programs provide support to the profession in providing quality legal services. Some of the initiatives your fees support are as follows:

Regulation and Governance	1,475
Libraries (Legal Resources)	420
PREP – Bar Admissions Course	108
Special Fund Assessment	100
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers	11
Federation of Law Societies of Canada	31
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan	30
	<u>\$2,175</u>
GST	<u>108.75</u>
Total	\$2,283.75

Deadline for Payment

The deadline for payment of the annual fees is **December 4, 2020**.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Armstrong at ruth.armstrong@lawsociety.sk.ca.

Renewal Process

Please review the “*How-to*” membership renewal fact sheet that will be included in the email message to members.

Be well and best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TJB', is written over two parallel horizontal lines that extend across the width of the signature.

TIMOTHY J. BROWN, Q.C.
Executive Director