



Law Society
of Saskatchewan

2020 Annual Report

Committee Reports

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Audit Committee

The Audit Committee monitors the financial affairs of the Law Society including oversight of the audit of the annual financial statements.

Committee Members

- Monte Gorchinski (Chair)
- Glenn Hepp (Vice-Chair)
- Craig Zawada, Q.C.
- Crystal Norbeck

Staff

- Tim Brown, Q.C.



Competency Committee

The Competency Committee assists the Benchers in upholding the standards for admission to the Law Society by ensuring that only those individuals who are qualified are admitted and continue as members of the Law Society. The Committee is responsible for overseeing and developing policy related to admissions, membership, and education (including both continuing professional development and the Bar admission program), and as appropriate, recommending amendments to the Rules, *Code* and *Act*. The Committee also considers and determines applications, and conducts hearings and appeals, referred to the Committee or required by the Law Society Rules to be determined by the Committee, which relate to admissions or education matters.

The Competency Committee reviews practice-related trends and issues that arise as a result of complaints, practice advisor reviews, and concerns raised by the membership, from which it creates policies and best practices to help members maintain good practice management and competence standards. Members of the Committee also consider complaint matters referred to them by Professional Responsibility Counsel. As well, the Committee also oversees the [Practice Advisor Program](#), including the New Solo/Small Firm Program and the Expanded Practice Advisor Program.

Committee Members

- Glenn Hepp (Chair)
- Jill Drennan (Vice-chair)
- Cara Haaf (Vice-chair)
- Suzanne Jeanson (Vice-chair)
- James Korpan, Q.C. (Vice-chair)
- Will Lane (Vice-chair)
- Martin Phillipson (Vice-chair)

Staff

- Andrea Johnston
- Stacey McPeck
- Kiran Mand
- Christine Johnston

Highlights from 2020

- a) Response to [COVID-19](#)

The Competency Committee and relevant staff reviewed a variety of issues triggered by [COVID-19](#), and responded as follows:

- Granted a temporary reduction in the [articling term](#) from 12 months to a minimum of 8 months, which was [extended to March 31, 2021](#) (and will be revisited to determine if a further extension is appropriate).



- Granted a [temporary waiver](#) of Rule 707 to permit a waiver of the secondment requirement for students articling at the Courts.
- Granted a temporary waiver of Rule 715(1)(b)(i) to permit applicants to be admitted as a lawyer and permitted to practice law, prior to signing the Law Society Roll. A modified admission process was developed and implemented.
- Granted a temporary waiver of Rule 703(b) to remove the obligation on student-at-law applicants to provide a notarized copy of proof of identification documentation (a regular copy is acceptable due to difficulty for students to get the document notarized in light of COVID).
- Encouraged and supported the CPLED Board decision to untether PREP from articles.
- Redeveloped CPLED Module 9 (the last module of the legacy CPLED Bar Admission Course) to transition from in-person to online delivery.
- Following a referral from the Privacy Commissioner, the Committee circulated a reminder to the membership that their privacy obligations continue when working outside their offices.

b) [CPD OnDemand](#)

The Competency Committee reviewed and supported the development and implementation of CPD OnDemand, the Law Society's CPD streaming service, which has received a positive response from members. The Law Society will continue to populate this service with CPD programs and solicit feedback to evaluate and improve the service. There were approximately 325 subscribers in 2020.

Strategic Goals Accomplished

Expanded Approach to Competency

a) [Expanded Practice Advisor Program](#)

The program allows any member to obtain practice management advice directly from a practice advisor. The program is confidential, with only non-identifying information provided to the Law Society.

b) [PREP](#)

The Law Society received updates and engaged in discussion related to the development and implementation of PREP (the new CPLED Bar Admissions Course). The Committee also reviewed and recommended amendments to the Rules to facilitate the transition to PREP.

c) [Online Store](#)

The Law Society launched the online store as part of the new website implementation. Members are now able to purchase recorded versions online and register and pay online for upcoming CPD events. Advanced search functionality is also built into the online store which further simplifies the process for members.

d) The Cloud Computing Working Group

Provided guidance to members on issues related to electronic practice, technology and cloud computing.

Trusted and Transparent Regulation

a) Rule Amendments

Reviewed and recommended amendments to the Rules to eliminate the requirement for applicants to submit Certificates of Character as part of their application, as there are more reliable ways to assess character.

Innovative and Flexible Leader of an Engaged and Forward-Thinking Membership

a) The Cloud Computing Working Group

The group surveyed the membership about their current use of technology to inform their review of the materials and training currently available from the Law Society and make changes and/or recommendations.

b) [CPD Programming](#)

The Law Society increased programming related to innovation and technology, including COVID-related topics such as [business continuity](#) in a remote work setting.

Increased Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the Law Society and Legal Service Provision

a) CPD Programming

The Law Society worked to encourage/incentivize members to participate in education related to EDI and TRC topics, including offering such programs for free or at a reduced fee.

b) Mental Health First Aid

Law Society Staff and Practice Advisors completed Mental Health First Aid training.

Increased Access to Legal Services

a) Locum Registry

The Locum Registry continues to be active and accessible on our [website](#).



Conduct Investigation Committee

The Conduct Investigation Committee is made up of a panel of Benchers who review and investigate each complaint referred by Professional Responsibility Counsel. These referrals are matters which raise issues of member conduct that appear to be “conduct unbecoming”. The Committee considers the information available and determines the appropriate response to the conduct in question. Ultimately, the Conduct Investigation Committee may make one of the following directions:

- a) Issue a formal caution, providing advice to the member in relation to the member’s conduct;
- b) Direct the member to participate in a Conduct Review;
- c) Direct that formal charges be brought against the lawyer so that the allegations of conduct unbecoming against the member may be determined by a hearing committee;
- d) Refer the matter to the Competency Committee or the Ethics Committee; or
- e) Direct that no further action is necessary in relation to the complaint.

Committee Members

- Jeffrey Baldwin (Chair)
- Ian Wagner (Vice-chair)
- Crystal Norbeck (Vice-chair)
- Suzanne Jeanson (Vice-chair)
- Monte Gorchinski
- Craig Zawada, Q.C.
- Evert Van Olst, Q.C.

Staff

- Valerie Payne
- Tim Huber
- Stacey McPeck
- Jenna Bailey
- Jackie Lane

Highlights from 2020

21 matters were considered by the CIC in 2020:

- a) 13 matters were directed to a Conduct Review Committee
- b) 5 matters were referred to a Hearing Panel to hear charges of “conduct unbecoming a lawyer”
- c) 1 matter was addressed by Formal Caution
- d) 1 matter resulted in the voluntary practice cessation by the member
- e) 1 matter was sent back for further investigation and remains under consideration

Strategic Goals Accomplished

Trusted and Transparent Regulation

a) CIC Referrals

The work of the Conduct Investigation Committee supports timely, fair and informed decision-making regarding allegations of member misconduct. The Committee continues to find the large group consideration of CIC referrals, implemented in January 2019, to be very successful in moving matters forward in an efficient and effective manner. The Committee is a consistent panel of seven members, including a Public Representative Bencher and a non-Bencher lawyer. Having a consistent panel results in decisions that are more consistent and uniform, such that the outcomes of conduct investigations are supported by precedent and justifiable.



Discipline Policy Committee

The Discipline Policy Committee's mandate is to develop policies to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and fairness of the Law Society of Saskatchewan's investigation and disciplinary processes. The Committee recommends amendments to provisions in the Rules, *Code* and *Act*, which relate to disciplinary proceedings involving LSS members. The Committee also works to develop policies, standards, and procedures to improve investigation and discipline. Administrative goals include ensuring timeliness, consistency and fairness in investigations and discipline decision making.

Further, the Committee provides oversight of the Model Code Subcommittee, appointing the members of the Subcommittee and reviewing and approving any changes to the [Code of Professional Conduct](#) proposed by the Subcommittee.

Committee Members

- Leslie Belloc-Pinder, Q.C. (Chair)
- Barbara Mysko (Vice-chair)
- Nolan Kondratoff
- James Korpan, Q.C.
- Monte Gorchinski
- Lynda Kushnir Pekrul
- Jeffrey Baldwin (*ex officio*)

Staff

- Valerie Payne
- Tim Huber
- Stacey McPeck
- Jenna Kraushaar
- Jackie Lane

Highlights from 2020

a) Limited Licensees

The Committee provided guidance regarding the early stages of establishing a process to allow limited licensees to practice law.

b) Model Code Subcommittee

The Committee reviewed submissions of the Model Code Subcommittee and directed feedback regarding to harassment and discrimination.

c) [Hearing Administrator](#)

The Committee provided oversight in the creation of a new Hearing Administrator position, and guidance regarding recruitment and appointment.

d) [Annotated Code of Professional Conduct](#)



The Committee reviewed and authorized an Annotated Code of Professional Conduct for publication - the first of its kind produced by a Law Society in Canada.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Trusted and Transparent Regulation

a) Mandate

Informed by the Law Society's mandate to ensure protection of the public interest, the Committee continually reviews discipline policies and procedures with a view of increasing efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness.



Equity and Access Committee

The Equity & Access Committee assists the Benchers of the Law Society of Saskatchewan by:

- a) monitoring developments and providing advice on issues affecting equity and diversity in the legal profession, and access to legal services in Saskatchewan;
- b) exploring and recommending actions and/or initiatives to be taken with respect to equity and diversity within the legal profession, and access to legal services in Saskatchewan;
- c) identifying deficiencies in the delivery of legal services in Saskatchewan;
- d) making recommendations for and supporting ongoing education and awareness training for members of the legal profession relating to equity and diversity; and
- e) making recommendations to improve access to legal services in Saskatchewan and to provide solutions for appropriate regulation.

Committee Members

- Martin Phillipson (Chair)
- Barbara Mysko (Vice-Chair)
- Suzanne Jeanson
- James Morrison, Q.C.
- John Morrall
- Kaitlynn McArthur

Staff

- Kara-Dawn Jordan
- Julie Sobowale
- Kiran Mand

Highlights from 2020

a) Member Wide EDI Survey

The Committee continued work on the development of a member wide survey focused on identifying challenges faced by members on entry to and in advancement in the legal profession.

b) Member Demographic Data

The Committee considered further improvements to the process of collecting demographic data from the membership. This data assists the Law Society to better understand its membership and focus efforts to develop programming and other initiatives.

c) Education

The Committee continued to monitor Law Society efforts to deliver educational opportunities to members on topics related to equity, diversity and inclusion and access to justice. Topics covered in 2020 included, bias, systemic racism, sexual assault and harassment victims as clients, and gender bias.

d) Collaborations

The Committee continued to monitor progress on several access to justice projects on which the Law Society collaborates, including:

- *The Legal Coaching and Unbundling Pilot (LCUP)* - On October 26, LCUP hosted a webinar as part of Canada's Access to Justice Week, a joint initiative where Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario each held their Access to Justice events from October 26 to 30. The October 26 event, [Unbundled Legal Services in Canada: Lawyer and Client Feedback](#), kicked off the week and more than 150 participants from Saskatchewan, Ontario, Atlantic Canada, Alberta and British Columbia attended.
- SALI – In the fall, Reference Librarian Ken Fox began to offer online legal information sessions for the Saskatoon Public Library.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Increased Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the Law Society and Legal Service Provision

a) Demographic Data Collection

The Committee continues its efforts to collect data about the membership and to understand member perspectives and personal experiences related to equity, diversity and inclusion. The data collected will inform efforts to advance programs and initiatives that promote a diverse, equitable and inclusive legal profession.

Increased Access to Legal Services

b) Legal Information

The Committee continues efforts to increase diversity and inclusion within the legal profession to advance access to justice and legitimacy and responsiveness in the administration of justice. The Committee also continues to monitor Law Society efforts to increase access to legal services, including legal information.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee meets several times during the year to review matters of ethical concern that come to the Committee by way of either complaint or voluntary request for ruling by members. The Committee applies the provisions of the *Code of Professional Conduct* to the facts at hand and provides a helpful interpretation of specific *Code* sections. Following their consideration of the issues in each matter, the Committee issues Ethics Rulings (“Lawyer X” Rulings) for the guidance of the membership, generally.

The primary function of the Committee is to consider complaint matters and requests for ruling from the membership, where ethical “grey areas” have arisen. The Committee considers and discusses the ethical issues at play and determines how to apply the provisions of the *Code* to guide the members involved in that specific matter. Following this specific guidance and education piece, the Committee creates an anonymized Ruling, containing a summary of the factual information and analysis of the applicable *Code* section(s). These Rulings provide education and guidance to members of the profession, should they encounter similar issues in the future.

Committee Members

- Scott Moffat (Chair)
- Andrea Argue (Vice-Chair)
- John Morrall (Vice-Chair)
- William Lane
- Cara Haaf
- Jill Drennan
- Kaitlynn McArthur

Staff

- Jenna Bailey
- Stacey McPeck
- Valerie Payne
- Jackie Lane

Highlights from 2020

- a) 204 Informal Ethics Opinions requested by members

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Expanded Approach to Competency

- a) Ethics Opinions

Throughout 2020, the Ethics Committee guided the membership in the following areas:

- What stage plea agreements become binding on legal counsel, and the steps counsel should take if an accused wants to back away from an agreement;



- Conflicts of interest against a former client; the delay of delivery of file materials; failure to respond to a former client's request for information; and releasing a statement against a former client who is a form of governmental organization;
- Whether or not sharp practice occurred between lawyers in the same office;
- The ethical permissibility of registering a miscellaneous interest on title of the family home, which was part of the family law proceedings, to secure the payment of legal fees; and
- The ethical obligations of criminal defence counsel continuing to represent the defendant on an appeal of a rejected joint submission on sentencing; specifically, in a situation where the joint submission as to sentence by the Crown prosecutor and defence counsel is rejected by the trial judge, and the trial judge instead imposes a sentence that is lower than the joint submission.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee provides direction and oversight for the strategic and operational planning of the Law Society and develops agendas for Benchers meetings to ensure that Benchers exercise their oversight, regulatory and policy development responsibilities.

Committee Members

- Gerald Tegart, Q.C., President
- Foluke Laosebikan, Ph.D, Vice-President
- Leslie Belloc-Pinder, Q.C., Past President
- Tim Brown, Q.C., Executive Director

Staff

- Tim Huber
- Kara-Dawn Jordan



Firm Regulation Committee

The Firm Regulation Committee makes recommendations regarding Rules and practices governing law firms and proactive law firm regulation, and related matters. The implementation of firm regulation is an important building block in moving towards a proactive/coaching model for law firms. The goal of this approach is to reduce complaints and claims, which has the effect of better protecting the public we serve while enhancing the reputation of the profession.

Committee Members

- Ian Wagner (Chair)
- Erin Kleisinger, Q.C. (Vice-chair)
- David Chow
- Nolan Kondratoff
- Jill Drennan
- Lynda Kushnir Pekrul

Staff

- Jody Martin
- Stacey McPeck

Highlights from 2020

a) Rule Amendments

The Firm Regulation Rules ([Part 9 of the Law Society Rules](#)), came into effect on January 1, 2020.

b) Law Firm Registration

Pursuant to the new Rules, all law firms successfully completed the law firm registration process and appointed a Designated Representative to act as liaison and primary point of contact for communications from the Law Society.

c) [Designated Representatives](#)

Having the Designated Representatives in place prior to the onset of the pandemic was invaluable. The Law Society was able to rely on communications with the Designative Representatives to ensure that all firm members and their staff, as appropriate, had timely access to important information as the COVID 19 crisis unfolded, and communications with the Designated Representatives has been ongoing with the various departments of the Law Society since that time.



d) [Practice Management Online Assessment Tool](#)

The Committee was sensitive to the circumstances of Saskatchewan law firms recognizing that the pandemic created unprecedented challenges, both known and unknown for law firms in the province, driving an amended approach and shift in timeline for the release of the Practice Management Online Assessment Tool. As a result, the launch of the Assessment Tool was delayed into early 2021 and the mandatory requirement lifted until at least mid-2021.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Expanded Approach to Competency

a) [Practice Management Online Assessment Tool](#)

Throughout 2020, the Committee remained committed to the development of the online Assessment Tool. The Assessment Tool allows firms to self-evaluate their practice management tool kit and identify areas of strength and areas that require further development. This process enables the Law Society to provide coaching, resources and support to firms in all areas of practice management and where they have self-identified as needing additional supports. Specific resources will be made available to firms through the online Assessment Tool.

The Practice Management Principles contained in the Assessment Tool are aimed at implementing controls to manage risk, enhance client services, promote infrastructure that supports ethical practice, and contribute to the overall financial soundness and profitability of a firm.

b) Trust Accounting Safety Program – Rule 902(5)

On January 1, Rule 902(5) came into force requiring members to obtain Law Society approval prior to opening a trust account. The Committee began to look at the development of a trust safety program to strengthen the controls around trust account procedures and to educate and assist members to feel more secure in the management of their trust accounts.

Trusted and Transparent Regulation

a) Communication with [Designated Representatives](#)

The law firm registration process has created a new channel for communication with law firms through the Designated Representatives. As we continue to communicate with the membership about firm regulation, it creates opportunities to educate the members individually and through their Designated Representatives regarding the

various initiatives of the Law Society as a whole and facilitates communications from the Designated Representatives to the Law Society.

b) Implementation of [Firm Regulation](#)

Additionally, firm registration ensures accuracy of current law firm information. As well, the Assessment Tool will provide aggregate data on firm demographics and identify areas where firms in general require the most support. This will help the Law Society identify common problem areas or resource gaps and provide better data directed education and resources addressing the areas of greatest need.



Future of Legal Services Committee

The Future of Legal Services Committee facilitates the development and implementation of new initiatives pertaining to alternative legal service providers and implementation of a limited licensing framework arising from the Legal Services Task Team Recommendations and subsequent amendments to the *Act* and Rules. The Committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding Rules and practices governing alternative legal service providers, limited licensing and related matters.

Committee Members

- Gerald Tegart, Q.C.
- Foluke Laosebikan, Ph.D.
- James Korpan, Q.C.
- Cara Haaf
- Martin Phillipson
- Nolan Kondratoff
- Suzanne Jeanson
- Lynda Kushnir Pekrul

Staff

- Tim Brown, Q.C.
- Jody Martin
- Julie Sobowale
- Tim Huber
- Kara-Dawn Jordan
- Kiran Mand

Highlights from 2020

a) [Legislative Amendments](#)

Effective January 1, 2020, amendments to *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* were enacted to include a clearer definition of the practice of law and clarify and identify what represents an unauthorized practice of law. [The Law Society Rules](#) were amended to identify certain groups and individuals who may be exempted from the new unauthorized practice provisions and, in the public interest, continue to provide limited legal services without becoming a lawyer.

b) Creation of New Committee

The Future of Legal Services Committee was constituted by the Benchers in 2020 to facilitate the implementation of the Legal Services Task Team Recommendations.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on August 31, 2020 and held a second meeting on November 19, 2020.

c) [Legal Information Guidelines](#)



Legal Information Guidelines were developed to assist the public and legal service providers delineate between legal information and other types of legal services.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Increased Access to Legal Services

a) [Notice Form Process](#)

The Committee is working to expand access to regulated legal services, in a responsible and sustainable manner, balancing the need for ensuring public protection and enhancing legal services for underserved Saskatchewan citizens. A Notice process was initiated, communicating with over 150 organizations across Saskatchewan, to identify service providers who are not lawyers that may be providing valuable legal services without posing a significant risk to the public.

The Committee has reviewed Notices recommending to the Benchers: provision of a comfort letter; development of a new exemption; or a determination that the services provided fall under an existing exemption, do not fall within the definition of legal services, or that the services provided are too high a risk to the public to be delivered by an unlicensed non-lawyer service provider.

b) Legal Information Guidelines

The Committee worked with the Equity and Access Committee, Administration and a leader in the field of legal information to develop the [Legal Information Guidelines](#).

c) Other Committee Tasks

- Analysis of Legal Needs Assessment findings;
- Drafting new Rules or amending existing Rules for recommendation to the Benchers in support of alternative legal service providers including but not limited to:
 - expanded exemptions to the unauthorized practice of law,
 - regulatory sandboxes or pilot projects, and
 - a limited license framework
- Reviewing existing Rules and recommending amendments as needed to other regulatory areas of the Society that will be directly impacted by alternative legal service providers; and
- Developing and recommending policies to the Benchers to support the required framework for alternative legal service providers and limited licensing.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee oversees the overall governance and management of policy of the Law Society of Saskatchewan to ensure that the Benchers fulfill their legal, ethical and functional responsibilities.

Committee Members

- Craig Zawada, Q.C. (Chair)
- Lynda Kushnir Pekrul (Vice-Chair)
- Ian Wagner
- Crystal Norbeck
- James Korpan, Q.C.
- Glenn Hepp
- Nolan Kondratoff

Staff

- Tim Brown, Q.C.
- Kara-Dawn Jordan
- Tim Huber

Highlights from 2020

a) Bencher Evaluation Process

The Governance Committee reviewed processes used to evaluate and identify areas for improvement in Law Society Governance, developed a refined Annual Bencher Evaluation, and created a process for receiving regular Bencher feedback throughout the year. With a move to remote governance necessitated by [COVID-19](#), ongoing communication has been particularly important to ensuring continued effective governance.

b) Bencher Election Process Review

The Governance Committee began its review of the Bencher election process in preparation for the 2021 Bencher election. Work to identify and implement improvements to the Bencher election process will continue in 2021.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Trusted and Transparent Regulation

a) Policies and Procedures

The Governance Committee continually reviews governance policy and processes, evaluates the performance of Benchers, recommends initial and ongoing training, and recommends improvements to policy and process to advance effective governance in the public interest.



Trust Safety Committee

The Trust Safety Committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding rules and practices governing trust accounts, the Special Fund and related matters.

Committee Members

- Monte Gorchinski (Chair)
- Crystal Norbeck (Vice-Chair)
- Scott Moffat
- Andrea Argue

Staff

- Tim Brown, Q.C.
- Jody Martin
- Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA
- Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA

Highlights from 2020

a) Practice Directive

[Practice Directive #2](#), Wire Transfer Procedures via Online Wire Payments Service, was enacted in April pursuant to the Law Society's ongoing efforts to support lawyers in maintaining safe and effective legal services delivery in Saskatchewan during the [COVID-19](#) pandemic. To ensure members and firms utilizing this process did not face any unnecessary challenges upon the expiry of the Practice Directive, the Committee recommended to make the Rule changes permanent.

b) Ongoing Initiatives

The Committee considered several ongoing projects and initiatives working towards modernizing audit process, strategies and operations including: Digitization of Trust Forms, Trust Safety Program, Remote Audits, and a Trust Safety Pilot Project.

Strategic Goal Accomplishments

Expanded Approach to Competency

a) Trust Safety Program

The Committee began work in consultation with the Firm Regulation Committee with respect to the development of a trust safety program to support the Firm Regulation Rules that came into effect on January 1, 2020.

The Committee remained apprised of the progress of developing the trust safety education materials for members to support the Trust Safety Program and assist members to feel more secure in the management of their trust accounts. In addition, the Committee considered the development of education materials for accounting staff

and other members of the firm to ensure they also have a complete understanding of trust accounting requirements and procedures. The development of the program and education materials is ongoing into 2021.

Innovative, Flexible and Forward-Thinking Leadership

a) Rule Amendments - Wire Transfer Procedures via Online Wire Payments Service

The [Practice Directive #2](#) was made permanent through various Rule amendments, which facilitated a new method for a firm to withdraw funds from trust accounts using online wire transfers. These Rule changes ensured members and the public would not face undue challenges upon the expiry of the Practice Directive and modernized the approach to the wire transfer processes generally.

b) Pilot Project

The Committee considered a pilot project to examine changes to the way our current trust safety model is administered. The pilot project would be aimed at modernizing and improving current risk mitigation strategies, potential cost reduction opportunities for members, and increasing audit capacities. Further evaluation and development of a potential pilot project will continue into 2021.

c) Remote Audits

As part of the modernization of audit practices, particularly in light of the continuation of the pandemic and social distancing requirements, the Committee considered alternative ways to complete compliance audits. The development of a process to complete remote audits is underway, which is expected to be completed in 2021.

d) Digitization of Forms

Pursuant to the Firm Regulation Rules which came into effect on January 1, 2020, all law firms are required to complete an [Annual Report](#). For firms with trust accounts, the Annual Report replaces the TA-3. The Committee considered the digitization of the Annual Report to facilitate and streamline the reporting process for members. The online Annual Report became effective January 1, 2021 for all firms with a year end of December 31, 2020.



Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group

The Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group provides advice to the Society on issues within the mandate of the Society affecting Indigenous people in Saskatchewan. The Advisory Group achieves this purpose by assisting the Society in understanding the needs of its current and prospective Indigenous members, and Indigenous people both in the regulatory processes of the Society and in the Saskatchewan legal system, and makes recommendations to the Society on how to address those needs.

Committee Members

- Elder Sidney Fiddler
- Mary Culbertson (Co-Chair)
- Gerald Tegart, Q.C.(Co-Chair)
- Kaitlynn McArthur
- Cara-Faye Merasty
- Kathy Hodgson-Smith
- Eleanore Sunchild, Q.C.
- Dr. Jaime Lavallee
- Nordika Dussion

Staff

- Kara-Dawn Jordan
- Pam Kovacs
- Jody Martin
- Riva Farrell-Racette

Highlights from 2020

- a) The Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group began consideration of an educational model to conceptualize, assess and plan the Law Society's response to Call to Action 27.
- b) The Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group began consideration of the recommendations in the report of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action Committee.

Expanded Approach to Competency/Increased Equity, Diversity and Inclusion/Increased Access to Legal Services

The responsibilities of the Truth & Reconciliation Advisory Group are broad and include:

- a) monitoring developments and providing advice to the Society on issues affecting Indigenous people;
- b) providing advice and support to the Society in effectively engaging and building relationships with Indigenous people;



- c) providing advice to the Society on and supporting the development of cultural competency in the legal profession;
- d) making recommendations for Society policies and initiatives related to Indigenous issues and advising the Society on how it should prioritize its work in this area;
- e) consulting directly with committees and departments of the Society on the development and implementation of policies and initiatives; and
- f) supporting collaboration between committees and departments of the Society and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of policies and initiatives related to Indigenous issues.

This work is integral to advancing several of the strategic goals of the Law society, including expanding competency, increasing diversity and inclusion and advancing access to justice for Saskatchewan residents.

