

**Minutes for the Meeting of the Benchers
Held Friday, October 29, 2021, *In-Person* and via Zoom
ALT Hotel, Saskatoon**

Present:

Foluke Laosebikan, Q.C., James Korpan, Q.C., Gerald Tegart, Q.C., Andrea Argue, Jeff Baldwin, Leslie Belloc-Pinder, Q.C., Monte Gorchinski, Suzanne Jeanson, Nolan Kondratoff, Lynda Kushnir Pekrul, William Lane, Scott Moffat, John Morrall, James Morrison, Q.C., Barbara Mysko, Crystal Norbeck, Martin Phillipson, Ian Wagner and Craig Zawada, Q.C.

In attendance:

Tim Brown, Q.C., Tim Huber, Valerie Payne, Andrea Johnston, Christine Johnston, Jody Martin, Jenna Bailey, Kara-Dawn Jordan, Michelle Owolagba, Paul Westgate, Julie Sobowale, Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA, Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA, Pamela Kovacs, Sydney Young, Chinye Talabi and Liz Lynchuk, recording secretary

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am.

1. Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Jill Drennan. Kaitlynn McArthur is on maternity leave.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Moved by Will Lane, seconded by Andrea Argue, to approve the Agenda as written. The motion carried.

1.3 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures

There were no conflict disclosures.

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

Materials for this meeting are of a confidential nature and will not be made available to the public. The Budget portion of the meeting is to be held *in-camera* and is not open to the public.

2. Governance

2.1 Financial Statements

Financial Statements for the period ended September 30, 2021 were provided and would not be addressed, as they form part of the budget.

The TD Asset Management Investment Summary as at September 30, 2021 was also provided.

2.2 Budget 2021 (*In-Camera*)

This portion of the meeting was held *in camera*. Meeting materials for this portion of the meeting are of a confidential nature and are not available to the public. A memo prepared by Tim Brown, Q.C., along with the following documents, were provided for Benchers review and discussion:

- i. Consolidated Budget 2022
- ii. Operating Fund Budget 2022
- iii. Capital Budget 2022
- iv. Strategic Development Budget 2022
- v. Special Fund Budget 2022

Other documents relating to the budget were the 2022 Budget 3-year forecasts and reserve balances (General and Special Fund).

Tim Brown, Q.C. presented the proposed budget to the Benchers.

A motion to approve the 2022 budget, as presented, was moved by Ian Wagner, seconded by Barbara Mysko. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the practicing fee for 2022 at \$2,175, unchanged from 2021, was moved by Jeff Baldwin, seconded by John Morrall. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the Special Fund assessment for 2022 at \$100, unchanged from 2021, was moved by Craig Zawada, Q.C., seconded by Nolan Kondratoff. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was not required, as the Practice Fee and Special Fund Assessment remained unchanged from 2021.

Administration recommended the establishment of a Committee to examine the future of Law Society fees and reserve fund strategies. There are significant decisions to be made which are too complex to fully consider in a 2-hour Annual Budget meeting. Details regarding the composition of the Committee will be determined at a later date.

Moved by Leslie Belloc-Pinder, Q.C., seconded by Suzanne Jeanson, to approve the formation of a new Law Society Committee to examine the future of Law Society finances. One opposed. The motion carried.

2.3 Member Data and Annual Renewal

At June Convocation, the Benchers approved the implementation of a revised approach to demographic data collection practices, updates to language and enhancements to searchability features in the external (Find A Lawyer) directory to be implemented in conjunction with annual renewal.

The goal is to be more inclusive and to allow members to identify in ways that they have not been able to do so before. What we learn today and the language that we use will continue to change as we learn more about society and the community. Advice was sought on inclusive language use and good practice resulting in revisions to demographic data collection language and to the external lawyer directory, including allowing lawyers the option of displaying gender pronouns. The Find Legal Services database will also be re-designed making it more user friendly and informative for the public.

Following discussion, the Benchers authorized the Administration to proceed as outlined in the memo.

3. Bencher Election

Nominations closed on October 4th. Members eligible to vote will receive instructions to access the voting platform and voting credentials on November 1, 2021. Voting will close on November 15, 2021 at midnight.

4. December Convocation *(Informational)*

December Convocation is going ahead as scheduled for December 2 – 3, 2021 in Elk Ridge.

An orientation session will be held on *Thursday, December 2nd* from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm. We ask for the participation of all Benchers in this session, as input from returning Benchers will provide valuable insights for the new Benchers.

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – nothing further to report.

5.2 Executive Director's Report – a written report was provided.

6. Meeting Finalization

6.1 Review Actions to be Taken

6.2 Confirm Items under 1.4

6.3 Meeting Evaluation

6.4 Next Meeting

The next Convocation is scheduled for December 2 – 3, 2021 in person at Elkridge Resort, as well as virtually for those unable to attend in person.

6.5 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Crystal Norbeck to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm. Staff left the meeting and the Benchers held an *in-camera* meeting with the Executive Director.

7. Bencher *In-Camera* Session with Executive Director

The Benchers held an *in-camera* meeting with the Executive Director.

8. Bencher *In-Camera* Session without Executive Director

Timothy J. Brown, Q.C.
Executive Director