

**Minutes for the Meeting of Benchers
Held Friday, March 20, 2026, In Person and via Zoom
Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina**

Present:

R. James Fyfe, K.C., President, Laura Klemmer, Vice President, Adam Touet, K.C., Past President, Idowu Adetogun, Keith Amyotte (virtual), Daniel Booy, Deborah Giles, Kathryn Gilliss, Jeff Lee, K.C. (virtual), Michael Marschal, Lana Morelli (virtual), Rauncie Murdoch, Tomi Olutunfese, Tiffany Paulsen, K.C., Martin Phillipson, Don Robinson, Carly Romanow, Christopher Triggs and Julie Ann Wriston.

In attendance:

Tim Brown, K.C., Jenna Faris (as recording secretary), Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA, Tim Huber, K.C., Andrea Johnston, Christine Johnston, Kara-Dawn Jordan, K.C., Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA, Jan King, Pamela Kovacs, Kiran Mand (virtual), Jody Martin (virtual), Valerie Payne, Paul Westgate and Matthew Wiens.

Andrea Argue, K.C., Federation Council, Stephen McLellan, Director of Insurance at Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association, and Amelia Lowe Muller, Legal Counsel at Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 8:59 am.

1. Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Jonathan Bodvarson.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Prior to seeking a motion to approve the Agenda, the Chair provided opening remarks and a reading of sections 3.1 (Duty of the Society) and 3.2 (Protection of the public) of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*. Additionally, the Chair recognized Bencher, Tomi Olutunfese, who was recently awarded the Victor P. Dietz K.C. Pro Bono Service Award for 2025.

Moved by Julie Ann Wriston, and seconded by Carly Romanow, to approve the Agenda as written. The motion carried.

1.3 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures

No conflicts were reported.

1.4 Committee Reports and Documents Which Are Not Available to the Public

Documents and Reports related to the following items are not available to the public.

- i. Bencher session on Entity Regulation to be held *in-camera* on Thursday, March 19, 2026;
- ii. Standing Reports referenced under agenda item 3.1(i);
- iii. Draft Audited 2025 Financial Statements;
- iv. Revised Enterprise Risk Management Plan; and
- v. Minutes from the *Closed* Bencher meeting held December 5, 2025.

It was noted that the draft internal 2025 Financial Statements were noted in error on the Agenda and not included as a document in the meeting package.

2. Decision Items

2.1 Appointments

There are no appointments to be made at March Convocation.

2.2 Society Regulation

i. Rule Amendments

a. Part 7 – Membership and Practice Privileges

Amendments to Part 7 are proposed to implement a revised process for hearings and appeals of admissions-related matters.

Historically, the Chair of the Competency Committee has been tasked with appointing panels for hearings and appeals of admissions-related matters. Such panels are primarily comprised of Benchers. The proposed rule amendments contemplate that the Hearing Administrator will appoint members of the Hearing Committee Roster to determine admissions-related matters. It was further proposed that the Law Society, as the representative of the public interest, be granted a right of appeal in respect of a Hearing Panel decision. These amendments serve to align the rules and procedures that apply to admissions matters with those that apply to disciplinary matters.

In addition, the proposed amendments clarify processes available to limited licensee applicants whose applications raise suitability issues versus those who fail to meet credentials/experience requirements set out in Part 10.

A memo providing background information and redlined rule amendments was included for review and discussion.

A meeting of the Competency Committee was held on February 26, 2026. No formal actions or decisions were taken due to the absence of quorum. Committee members present at the meeting considered the proposed amendments and were in favor of recommending the proposed amendments to the Benchers for approval. Members who were not present were provided with notes summarizing the discussion that took place at the meeting and with the opportunity to share comments or feedback.

Discussion

- A question was raised about the direct-to-appeal process for limited licensee applicants who are denied solely on credentialing grounds, noting its similarity to the summary dismissal of complaints, and asking whether there are any other comparable processes.
 - Administration indicated that was reasonably unique. The proposed amendments evolved through the recognition that staff are making the initial decision to deny an application for not meeting Part 10 credentials. If there was a hearing, the Hearing Panel are not subject matter experts in that area and staff would testify as the experts to the Hearing Panel as to the reasons of the decision, which created an inefficiency. Credentialing issues are not well suited to a viva voce hearing in the same way that suitability issues do. It was noted that Principal Applications also go directly to appeal.

Moved by Idowu Adetogun, seconded by Christopher Triggs, that amendments to Part 7 – Membership and Practice Privileges, as written in the memo dated March 2, 2026, be approved to:

- Rule 729 - Application of Rule, Rule 730 - Hearing Panel and Rule 742 - Appeal Panel, to allow for the appointment of Hearing Committee Roster members by the Hearing Administrator to adjudicate applications under Part 7;
- Rule 738 - Transcript, an amendment considered to be housekeeping;
- Rule 740 - Decision of the Hearing Panel, to allow the Society to apply to an Appeal Panel for a review of a decision by a Hearing Panel; and
- Rule 743 - Appeal Panel Review, to reflect the materials for consideration by an Appeal Panel when conducting a review pursuant to subrules 729(6) and 740(6).

The motion carried.

A motion to grant second reading on the same day was moved by Martin Phillipson and seconded by Deborah Giles. The motion carried.

Moved by Idowu Adetogun, seconded by Kathryn Gilliss, that amendments to Part 7 – Membership and Practice Privileges, as written in the memo dated March 2, 2026, be approved to:

- Rule 729 - Application of Rule, Rule 730 - Hearing Panel and Rule 742 - Appeal Panel, to allow for the appointment of Hearing Committee Roster members by the Hearing Administrator to adjudicate applications under Part 7;
- Rule 738 - Transcript, an amendment considered to be housekeeping;
- Rule 740 - Decision of the Hearing Panel, to allow the Society to apply to an Appeal Panel for a review of a decision by a Hearing Panel; and

- Rule 743 - Appeal Panel Review, to reflect the materials for consideration by an Appeal Panel when conducting a review pursuant to subrules 729(6) and 740(6).

The motion carried.

2.3 Society Governance

i. Resolutions

a. TD Asset Management Inc. – Investments

A TD Asset Management Inc. (TDAM) Resolution authorizing the President and Vice President as signing authorities, required by TDAM, was provided for approval.

Moved by Julie Ann Wriston, seconded by Carly Romanow, that the TD Asset Management Inc. Resolution be approved as written. The motion carried.

b. TD Bank – Bank Accounts

A TD Bank Resolution authorizing the President and Vice President as signing authorities, required by TD Bank, was provided for approval.

Moved by Don Robinson, seconded by Christopher Triggs, that the TD Banking Resolution be approved as written. The motion carried.

ii. Law Society CPLED Subsidy

The Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) tuition will decrease from \$6,100 to \$5,000 beginning in September 2026, representing a \$1,100 reduction. The revised tuition reduction is also \$100 higher than the amount forecast in the October budget. The tuition reduction had been anticipated in the October budget, based on the expected addition of the Law Society of British Columbia (LSBC) to CPLED. At that time, it was projected that the reduction would not take effect until January 2027. Now that LSBC has officially joined CPLED, the reduction will occur earlier than expected, beginning in September 2026.

Administration recommended that the \$1,100 reduction be shared equally between:

- Students/Firms (through reduced fees), and
- The Law Society (through a corresponding reduction in subsidization levels).

Administration noted that the savings results in approximately \$50,000 annually.

Moved by Tomi Olutunfese, seconded by Rauncie Murdoch, that the allocation fee savings in the amount of \$1,100 be shared equally between students and firms through reduced fees and the Law Society of Saskatchewan through a corresponding reduction in subsidization levels. The motion carried.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Society Governance

i. Standing Reports

- a. President's Report – James Fyfe, K.C.'s report was included in the materials.
- b. Executive Director's Report – Tim Brown, K.C.'s report was included in the materials.
- c. Federation Council's Report – Andrea Argue, K.C.'s report was included in the materials.

ii. 2027 Convocation Scheduling

The Executive Committee considered scheduling Convocation dates for 2027, and proposed the following dates to the Benchers:

- March 24 and 25, 2027;
- April 29, 2027 – *virtual* meeting for approval of audited 2026 financial statements and consideration of the Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association Insurance Levy;
- June 17 and 18, 2027;
- September 23 and 24, 2027 – Budget on Thursday afternoon, Convocation on Friday morning; and
- December 2 and 3, 2027.

Discussion

- It was noted that scheduling Convocations around en banc sittings is helpful for the Benchers who practice in the area of litigation.

iii. Financial Reporting

a. Financial Statements

The preliminary draft audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, along with a memo from Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA, containing a variance analysis both from budget and most recent forecasts, were included for review and discussion.

In addition, the internal year-to-date February 2026 financial statements were included for review and discussion.

Administration reported that:

- the draft audited financials were included, as the audit is further ahead than typical at this time of year;
- the draft audited financials reflect a positive variance of \$363,000 from the most recent forecast. A deficit of \$139,000 was forecasted in the general fund and the year ended with a surplus of \$224,000, largely due to investments performing better than forecasted, but also less spend than forecasted on physical books in the libraries and online resources,

- smaller spend in Governance areas (i.e., Bencher training and development, and no Special Fund claims); and
- the surplus will last longer and improve the outlook for the next budget.

Administration noted that although the internal 2026 February financials are under budget, it is premature to analyze any variances, as some differences may only be temporary.

b. Investment Reports

The following documents were provided for review:

- December 31, 2025 TDAM Investment Summary;
- TDAM Quarterly Investment Review for the period October 1 to December 31, 2025; and
- TDAM Investments Summary as at February 28, 2026.

Administration reported that the investments trended downwards in December, which is typical due to the declaration of year-end dividends, but have since trended back upwards, as expected.

Discussion

- A question was raised as to the overall financial health of the investments since the losses experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the gains experienced in the last few years.
 - Administration reported that the investments have not returned to the highs prior to the pandemic. It was noted that the timing of COVID-19 and the transition of the investments into a diversified portfolio was unfortunate, however, this transition has left the Society in a better position overall to better weather market fluctuations moving forward.

c. Annual General Meeting and Approval of Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025

Audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, will be approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026. In advance of this meeting, the Board will be required to approve the audited financial statements during the virtual April Convocation scheduled for April 30, 2026.

iv. Workplan 2026 and Risk Management Update

The following documents were included for review and discussion:

- a summary of key strategic action items for 2026;
- the full updated version of the 2023-2026 workplan; and
- the Risk Management Plan with updates to controls and action items as of March 2026.

It is anticipated that the workplan will be reworked following Strategic Planning and that the Risk Management Plan will undergo a formal review in conjunction with or following Strategic Planning.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Strategic Initiatives Update

i. Strengthen Regulation (Goal 1)

Public Concerns Pathways Project

The [Public Concerns Pathway](#) launched on the website on October 6, 2025, and was also introduced to the public via a [public news release](#) and to the membership via ReSource. Feedback and usage are being tracked and recorded, and analysis of the data collected will be provided to the Benchers in June. To date, feedback has been almost entirely positive.

ii. Enhance Competency (Goal 2)

a. Firm Regulation

The current quarter began on February 1, 2026. There are 28 firms assigned to the current quarter, consisting primarily of small firms. To date, there are 71 firms that have completed or are in progress completing the Assessment Tool for the second time. This may provide those firms with unique feedback on any progress made since their first assessment. Staff met with AvvyPro on February 3, 2026, and discussed opportunities to receive enhanced data and comparative reporting information on the Regulator Dashboard for administration and for firms who are in subsequent completion cycles completing the Assessment Tool. A proposal from AvvyPro regarding these opportunities is currently under review. Administration is in the process of completing updates to the Assessment Tool Workbooks and master library to ensure the most up to date and relevant resources are available in the Workbooks and pushed to the firms through their Assessment Report. Administration continues to review trends identified in the Assessment Tool with a view to development of resources and continuing professional development programming.

Since integration of the Practice Management Course (PMC) into the New Sole Practitioner Small Firm Program on January 1, 2025, 54 firms have been notified of the requirement to complete the course with a completion rate as follows:

- 45 firms have completed the course;
- 5 firms are in progress;
- 2 firms have not yet started the course; and
- 2 firms were also advised of the requirement but ceased operations before completing the course.

Although the PMC data set is limited at this time, there are some preliminary trends noted. Most Modules have required two or less attempts to complete. Modules that have higher average attempts generally represent areas where Administration is aware issues exist through member contacts and audit or complaint procedures. Administration will continue to monitor this data and evaluate any potential relationship between the PMC data, Assessment Tool data, and complaints and audit data. This will highlight any additional areas of potential regulatory concern and guide the development of additional resources and support for the new sole/small firm demographic. In addition, the firm's performance on the PMC may provide direction to the Practice Advisor on specific areas of focus with the member over the course of the Practice Advisor review.

Administration is in the process of integrating limited licensees into the New Sole Practitioner Small Firm Practice Program.

iii. Increase Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Goal 3)

Administration finalized additional content for the [Guide to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Legal Workplaces](#) related to fair compensation practices. A working group with ten volunteers participated in two roundtables with expert assistance from consultant Prasanna Ranganathan. The Guide was updated on the Law Society's website in January and notice was provided to members.

iv. Advance Truth and Reconciliation (Goal 4)

a. Mandatory Education

Administration continues to advance renewal of the Law Society's continuing professional development systems as described under Goal 2 above. Considerations for mandatory Truth and Reconciliation education, based on discussion with and feedback from the Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Group, will be advanced through the Competency Committee and the Benchers as the project progresses.

b. Statement of Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

The [Statement of Commitment](#) was released on December 11, 2025 and disseminated to members and then released publicly on December 12, 2025 through a [news post](#). An embargoed copy of the Statement was provided in advance to:

- Advisory Group members
- Elders and Language Keepers
- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)
- Indigenous Bar Association
- Indigenous Law Students Association
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)
- Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Administration received a note from MN-S expressing thanks for the Statement and the advance notice.

Administration has requested a notice regarding the Statement be featured in FSIN and MN-S publications and will begin to regularly refer to the Statement at Law Society events and relevant forums (e.g., continuing professional development workshops).

Completion of audio translations of the Statement is underway with a timeline for release to align with National Indigenous Languages Day (March 31).

c. Review of Regulatory Processes

Administration has begun a consultative process beginning with the Advisory Group to review admission forms and processes with an aim to identify:

- any barriers for Indigenous peoples (and other equity-deserving groups); and
- any considerations that should be taken into account when applying admissions standards.

v. Increase Access to Legal Services and Justice (Goal 5)

a. Limited Licensing

The Limited Licensing Pilot ended on December 31, 2025, and on January 1, 2026, 18 limited licensees transitioned into active member status with the Law Society.

A summary of Pilot data is below and will be incorporated into a final report on the Future of Legal Services Initiative and Limited Licensing Pilot in particular.

(Final to January 1, 2026)

Applicants	Participants – Approved	Participants – Active or with Pending Conditions as at December 31, 2025	Applicants Not Approved	Participants – Approved and Withdrawn
44	38	23 / 5	6	10
Client Inquiries	Clients Served	Client Geographic Locations	Consumer Reviews – Positive / Neutral	Consumer Review - Concerns
28,739	9,165	300+	180 / 4	8
Insurance Providers Identified (Participants)	Education Institutions (Applicants)	CPD (Unique Sessions / Participants)	Co-Regulators / Associations (Applicants)	Working Group on Code of Conduct (Participants)
17	50	67 / 85	31	12

New applications for limited licenses are also now being considered and processed. All licensed members of the Law Society (lawyers and limited licensees) can be located by searching the Law Society’s [Find Legal Assistance](#) directory. As of March 4, 2026, there are 22 active member limited licensees.

4.2 Society Governance

i. Annual General Meeting

An email communication will be sent to the membership in mid-April advising that the Annual General Meeting is scheduled virtually for Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 12:00 pm.

According to Rule 402, Resolutions are required 30 days before the AGM, which provides a deadline of Tuesday, May 19, 2026. This information and deadline will be included in the communication to members.

Member Resolutions at an Annual General Meeting

402(1) A resolution presented by a member for consideration at an annual general meeting of the Society must:

(a) be in writing;

(b) be delivered to the Executive Committee via the Executive Director at least 30 days before the date set for the annual general meeting of the Society;

(c) state the subject matter of the resolution in sufficient detail, including appropriate supporting materials, to permit members to form a reasoned judgment about it; and

(d) reasonably relate to the responsibilities and duties of the Benchers and the Society under the Act.

(2) The Executive Committee shall review resolutions received and approve for the agenda resolutions that they determine are in compliance with subrule (1).

The Law Society will put forward a resolution to approve amendments to the *Rules* previously passed by the Board to provide for one Board seat to be held by a limited licensee pursuant to section 6(2.1) of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*.

ii. Bencher Honoraria

As done since 2019, the Law Society grants three continuing professional development ethics hours in a calendar year to Benchers to acknowledge their significant contribution of time and expertise. This ethics hour credit was also extended to non-Bencher lawyers who serve on one or more of the prescribed Law Society Committees.

Law Society staff have manually entered the three ethics hours for Benchers and non-Bencher Committee members.

In addition, Benchers will continue to receive an annual subscription to CPD OnDemand, which provides free access to all recorded Law Society continuing professional development resources.

5. New Business

No new business was raised.

6. Consent Agenda

The items included on the consent Agenda are set out below:

6.1 Approval of Bencher Minutes

The following Bencher Minutes were included for approval:

- i. Minutes from the Bencher meeting held December 4, 2025; and
- ii. Minutes from the *Closed* Bencher meeting held December 4, 2025.

6.2 Terms of Reference

- i. Audit Committee

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on February 10, 2026. The Committee members considered proposed changes to the Terms of Reference and were in favor of adding reference to the annual external auditor review and related annual survey that will be completed by the Audit Committee moving forward. The Audit Committee Terms of Reference with redlined amendments were included for review and approval.

- ii. Competency Committee

Given the approval of the proposed amendments to Part 7 of the Rules (see 2.2.i.a above), corresponding amendments to the Competency Committee Terms of Reference are required. A meeting of the Competency Committee was held on February 26, 2026. No formal actions or decisions were taken due to the absence of quorum. The Committee members present at the meeting considered the proposed amendments and were in favor of recommending the proposed amendments to the Benchers for approval. The Competency Committee Terms of Reference with redlined amendments were included for review and approval.

Moved by Idowu Adetogun, seconded by Deborah Giles, that the Open and Closed Minutes of the Bencher meetings held on December 3, 2025, as listed, and the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee and Competency Committee be approved, as written. The motion carried.

7. Meeting Finalization

7.1 Review Actions to be Taken

None.

7.2 Meeting Evaluation

The March Convocation survey was circulated.

7.3 Next Meeting

The next Convocation will be held virtually on April 30, 2026, from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

7.4 Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9:42 am was moved by Christopher Triggs and seconded by Idowu Adetogun. The *Closed Agenda* portion of the meeting commenced.