

Bartering Legal Services

September 6, 2016. The Law Society has recently been made aware that some members may be using improper methods to facilitate the delivery of legal services. For example, Tradebank is a company that uses "TRADEdollars" and a bartering system for its members to obtain goods and services. A general account is required in order to facilitate this process. As per the Rules of the Law Society, the provision of legal services through the use of Tradebank, or similar institutions, is prohibited by the Law Society as it does not meet the requirements of an approved depository.

Law Society **Rule 119(1)** states:

119(1) In this Part,

(b) "**Approved depository**" means a branch in Alberta of (i) a chartered bank or trust company that is a member of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation,

- (ii) a Credit Union or Caisse Populaire that is a member of the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, and
- (iii) a treasury branch established under the *Alberta Treasury Branches Act*;
- and in respect of a law firm practising law from an office in the City of Lloydminster, includes a trust account in
- (iv) a branch of a Canadian chartered bank located in the portion of the City of Lloydminster within Saskatchewan,
- (v) a branch of a Credit Union or Caisse Populaire located in the portion of the City of Lloydminster within Saskatchewan, that is a member of the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, and
- (vi) a branch of a corporation located in the portion of the City of Lloydminster within Saskatchewan, if that corporation is registered as a loan corporation or trust corporation under the *Loan and Trust Corporations Act* (Alberta).

(g) "**General account**" means an account, other than a trust account, maintained by a law firm in connection with the firm's law practice.

Any members who have made arrangements through Tradebank or similar institutions should cease doing so immediately. If you have concerns about clearing a remaining balance in your account, please contact a Practice Advisor for guidance.
