

## **Statement from the Law Society of Alberta Benchers**

### **Special Meeting Outcome**

The Benchers are grateful to Alberta lawyers for demonstrating their support of Rule 67.4 of the [Rules of the Law Society of Alberta](#) at the Special Meeting held on Feb. 6. Maintaining Rule 67.4 allows the Law Society to continue to uphold the expectations that come with self-governance.

The Law Society has been operating as an independent regulator since 1907. In consideration of this authority, the Law Society must regulate in the public interest, which includes promoting and enforcing a high standard of professional and ethical conduct by Alberta lawyers.

We have always understood that there is a balance to achieve between setting standards of competence to protect the public interest and allowing lawyers to choose their own continuing professional development. As previously stated, we have not identified other courses that we believe should be mandatory. However, the flexibility granted in Rule 67.4 is critically important so that we can thoughtfully consider whether specific education courses are necessary to protect and advance the public interest.

The attendance at the virtual Special Meeting, almost 4,000 active members (lawyers), showed an unprecedented level of engagement that reflects well on our profession. Further, the members should be complimented and thanked for their respectful conduct, both in the meeting and in their interactions with Law Society staff during the meeting.