
**Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Law Society of Alberta (Law Society)
held at the Bell Tower
800, 10104 – 103 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
April 25, 2019**

Law Society President, Rob Armstrong, QC, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on April 25, 2019 and confirmed a quorum of 20 members of the Law Society present. Notice of the meeting, an agenda, the Law Society's draft financial statements, and the Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association audited financial statements were sent to members via e-bulletin and to those without email addresses via Canada Post on April 11, 2019.

1 Approval of the Minutes

Rob Armstrong

The minutes of the April 26, 2018 Annual General Meeting were circulated to members in attendance at the meeting.

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 Annual General Meeting.

**Seconded
Carried**

2 President's Report

Rob Armstrong

The President provided an oral report on the activities of the Law Society and the Benchers over the past year, highlighting the following:

- The Benchers welcomed three new Lay Benchers appointed by the Alberta government in November 2018: Elizabeth Hak, Barb McKinley, and Cora Voyageur.
- The Law Society conducts its operations pursuant to a Bencher-approved Strategic plan. Ongoing initiatives in pursuit of strategic goals include the following:
 - The part-time membership fee pilot project is intended to reduce some of the barriers to people staying in the profession or returning to practice. Retention, flexibility, equity, diversity and inclusion are examples of the kinds of priorities being addressed in this initiative.
 - A Practice Foundations Task Force was created to review the articling program. Surveys for students, new lawyers, law firms and practitioners, were developed and results will be used to inform ways to ensure new practitioners have the

appropriate foundation for a successful career in the law. Results of this engagement project will be reported to the profession.

- The Law Society continually reviews and updates the Rules of the Law Society to adapt to changing conditions in the legal profession. Rule changes over the past year included new Rules to expand the definition of law firm to include approved legal service providers. Collaboration with pro-bono clinics across Alberta is part of the strategic goal to address access to justice issues and is intended to ensure a high standard of service and protection of the public. Rule changes were also made to clarify insurance exemptions for lawyers providing pro-bono services.
- Anti-money laundering and terrorist financing recommendations from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada resulted in changes to the Law Society's client identification Rules to align with the Model Code of Professional Conduct.
- An Indigenous Advisory Committee was created as part of the Law Society's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. The Advisory Committee is collecting feedback from the profession on a variety of issues, particularly in relation to access to justice and competency for lawyers.
- The Law Society is partnering with the Court of Queen's Bench on group bar calls, an initiative to provide an alternative for students who do not want an individual bar call.
- Communications initiatives to engage the profession in the business of the Law Society include increased reports and video updates from the President to the profession. It is hoped that through improved communications the Law Society can build momentum in its relationship with the profession.

3 Business Arising

Rob Armstrong

There were no items of business arising from the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

4 New Business

Rob Armstrong

There were no new business items brought before the meeting.

5 Adjournment

Rob Armstrong

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.