



Approved Benchers Public Minutes

Five Hundred Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Benchers of the Law
Society of Alberta (Law Society)

February 26, 2026

In person in Calgary, AB and by videoconference

ATTENDANCE

Benchers	Stacy Petriuk, KC, Outgoing President Bud Melnyk, KC, President Jim Lutz, President-Elect A. Danielle Bourgeois Arman Chak, KC Stephanie Dobson Adam Drew John Evans, KC Kene Ilochonwu, KC Levonne Louie Scott Matheson Kelsey Meyer Sharilyn Nagina, KC Afshan Naveed Mary Ellen Neilson Sandra Petersson, KC Ali Rakka Erin Runnalls, KC Ron Sorokin, KC Nicole Stewart David Tupper
Executive Leadership Team	Elizabeth Osler, KC, CEO and Executive Director Sarah Klein, General Counsel Nadine Meade, Chief Financial Officer Kendall Moholityny, Director, Regulation and Professionalism



ATTENDANCE

Andrew Norton, Chief Information Officer and Director, Business Operations

David Weyant, KC, President and CEO, Alberta Lawyers Indemnity Association

Staff

Barbra Bailey, Manager, Policy and Education (in person)

Nancy Bains, Tribunal Counsel & Privacy Officer (in person)

Catherine Bennett, Executive Assistant to the CEO & Executive Director

Reed Bjerkseth, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person)

Avery Stodalka, Senior Advisor, Communications & Stakeholder Engagement (in person)

Christal Chapman, Policy and Education Counsel

Calvin McCarron, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person)

Andrew McGrath, Support Staff, Business Technology (in person)

Noria Neuhart, Policy and Education Counsel

Michael Oxman, Policy and Education Counsel (in person)

Christine Schreuder, Supervisor, Governance (in person)

Karly Walker, Coordinator, Governance (in person)

Rebecca Young, Legal Counsel

Guests

Loraine Champion, KC, Executive Director, Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society

Carsten Jensen, KC, Law Society of Alberta representative to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Liza Worthington, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Legal Education

Christine Laing, Executive Director, Pro Bono Law Alberta

Regrets

Ryan Callioux, KC

Dr. Riad Tarrabain

Moira Váně, KC

Grant Vogeli, KC

Secretary's Note: All Bencher and Executive Leadership Team attendees were in person. All staff and guests attended via videoconference unless otherwise stated. The arrival or departure of Benchers during the meeting are recorded in the body of these minutes.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Mr. Melnyk called the public meeting to order at 9 a.m. and provided a Territorial Indigenous Land Acknowledgment statement.

2. Remarks from the Outgoing President

Ms. Petriuk provided her final remarks as outgoing President, thanking the Benchers for the opportunity to serve. She acknowledged Ms. Osler and commended the support of the Law Society staff. Ms. Petriuk emphasized the importance of upholding the rule of law and encouraged continued support for the Ours to Protect Campaign.

3. Opening Remarks from the President and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Melnyk expressed his appreciation to Ms. Petriuk for her dedicated service, specifically recognizing her leadership as Chair of the Annual General Meeting. He also thanked her for her guidance, support, and friendship.

Ms. Petriuk left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Melnyk shared his enthusiasm for the year ahead and the Law Society's ongoing strategic initiatives. He welcomed new Bencher Ryan Callioux, KC, and all guests attending by videoconference. The agenda was adopted as presented.

4. 2026 Committees, Liaisons and External Bodies

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting.

Mr. Melnyk reported that the Nominating Committee consisting of Ms. Petriuk, Mr. Lutz, Ms. Neilson, Ms. Meyer, and himself have worked since the beginning of December 2025 to consider the 2026 Committees, Liaisons and External Bodies. The Nominating Committee recommends the Benchers approve the motion below as proposed.

Motion: Meyer/Dobson

That the Benchers appoint the 2026 Bencher committees, liaisons and representatives to "external bodies" as set out in the 2026 Committees, Liaisons, and External Bodies list; and

To continue the term of appointment for any person on a 2025 committee involved any ongoing adjudicative matter until such time as a report or decision is rendered on the matter in which they are involved.

Carried

5. Statement of Investment Policies and Goals Amendment

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting.

Ms. Meade reported that, at its February 13, 2026, meeting, the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) reviewed proposed amendments to the Statement of Investment Policies and Goals for Bencher approval. The amendments address the termination of the custodian arrangement with RBC Investor Services and clarify the asset mix for the Undisbursable Trust and General Fund short-term funds. The AFC recommends approval of the amendments as proposed.

Ms. Neilson, Chair of AFC, highlighted the opportunity for housekeeping revisions to the SIP&G and expressed support for the recommendation.

The following two corrections were noted for amendment:

1. In the blacklined SIP&G Definitions, 1.02 (xix), remove “or custodian” and keep “lends securities” in the second sentence. This sentence would then read *The lending fund’s investment manager lends securities to generate incremental income on behalf of the fund.*
2. In the Segregation of Cash and Securities 1.04, remove “its” from the last sentence after “under” and before “customary“, so this sentence will read *Cash not immediately required for investment in accordance with this Policy may be held in the appropriate account under customary deposit terms.*

Motion: Neilson/Tupper

That the Benchers approve the amendments to the Law Society of Alberta’s Statement of Investment Policies and Goals (SIP&G) as amended.

Carried

6. Proposed Amendments to Rules Respecting Bencher Elections

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting

Ms. Bailey explained that the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta (Rules) clarify the number of votes per member, as well as a few other procedures. The proposed amendments do not change any of the procedures around Bencher elections but codify them.

Motion: Matheson/Petersson

That the Benchers amend the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta to clarify the Bencher election Rules as proposed in Appendix A: “Proposed Rule Amendments”, effective February 26, 2026.

Carried

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Update

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) Report, included with the materials circulated prior to the meeting, provided an update that although the EDIC has not met since the November 27, 2025, Bencher meeting, progress continued on work relevant to the EDIC’s mandate. Staff engaged in further discussions and analysis about various elements of the Articling Placement Program (APP), including funding streams to allow possible placements with not-for-profits and potential enhancements to the program parameters. Staff will reach out to former roster firms this month to provide them with information on some of the proposed program changes and to seek their feedback about future participation. A proposal addressing all of these elements will come to the Benchers at a future meeting.



8. Lawyer Competence and Committee Update

The Lawyer Competence Committee (LCC) Report, included with the materials circulated prior to the meeting, provided an update that although the LCC has not met since the November 27, 2025, Benchers meeting, progress has continued through other initiatives and work relevant to the LCC's mandate. The November and December 2025 LCC meetings were cancelled to allow time for work on the Western Canada Competency Profile initiative, a proposal to assess the feasibility of an alternative pathway for lawyer licensure, and a survey to the profession to gather feedback regarding substantive law competence and continuing professional development. The January and February 2026 Committee meetings were cancelled to allow the Law Society and Benchers to work through the implications of the *Legal Profession Act* amendments and the *Regulated Professions Neutrality Act*.

9. Policy and Regulatory Reform Committee Update

The Policy and Regulatory Reform Committee (PRRC) Report, included with the materials circulated prior to the meeting, provided an update that the PRRC has not met since the November 27, 2025, Benchers meeting and will resume with the new PRRC appointed at the February 26, 2026, Benchers meeting.

10. Federation of Law Societies of Canada Update

Mr. Jensen submitted a Federation of Law Societies of Canada (Federation) report that was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. Highlights included updates on the Federation's governance review, Federation Council meeting discussion items and a Standing Committee on the Model Code meeting update.

11. Audit and Finance Committee Update

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) Report, included with the materials circulated prior to the meeting, provided an update that the AFC met on February 13, 2026. At that meeting the AFC reviewed the investment reports as at December 31, 2025, were asked to recommend the re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to the Benchers, reviewed the Enterprise Risk Management Register and received a Transforming-Us Program update from Management.

12. Tribunal Office Update

The Tribunal Office Report, included with the materials circulated prior to the meeting, summarized last year's adjudications and provided hearing statistics for 2025. Ms. Bains announced that recruitment for public Adjudicators will begin by mid-March 2026. An Adjudicator Selection Committee will be appointed by the Nominating Committee to review the public adjudicator applications and make a recommendation to the Benchers at the May 7-8, 2026, Benchers meeting. Ms. Schreuder will email Benchers to request expressions of interest to serve on the Adjudicator Selection Committee.



Ms. Bains reported that she would give a full report including factors for the variance in complaint dismissal appeals from previous years at the November 27-28, 2026 Benchers meeting.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Documentation for this item was circulated with the materials prior to the meeting. No requests were made to remove any items from the consent agenda and the following three motions were approved concurrently.

Motion Louie/Bourgeois

That the Benchers approve the November 27, 2025, Public Benchers Meeting Minutes.

Motion

That the Benchers approve the date and time of the 2026 virtual Annual General Meeting of the Law Society of Alberta to be November 26, 2026 at 11 a.m., or such other date and time and place (or means) as the CEO and Executive Director of the Law Society may determine in their discretion.

Motion

That the Benchers approve the re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as auditors for the Law Society of Alberta for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026.

Carried

14. EXTERNAL REPORTS

The following external agency reports were circulated with the materials prior to the meeting:

14.1 Alberta Law Foundation

14.2 Alberta Law Reform Institute Report

14.3 Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society (Assist) Report

14.4 Canadian Bar Association Report

14.5 Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education Report

14.6 Legal Education of Society of Alberta Report

14.7 Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA) Report

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

The public meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.