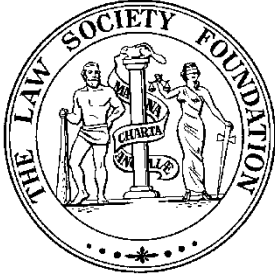


**FOR INFORMATION**  
**The Law Society Foundation**

**Convocation is requested to receive a report from The Law Society Foundation.**

Ian Hull, Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Law Society Foundation, will present to Convocation at the invitation of the Treasurer. A report from The Law Society Foundation to Convocation, providing background information, follows.



# Law Society Foundation

## Report to Convocation

February 25, 2021

### Trustees:

Ian Hull (Chair)

Derry Millar (Vice-Chair)

Jonathan Rosenthal

Megan Shortreed

Sidney Troister

## The Law Society Foundation | Overview

Established in 1962 and expanded through supplementary letters patent in 1998, The Law Society Foundation (Foundation) is a charitable organization that serves the profession and public by:

- encouraging and promoting legal education,
- providing financial assistance to law students in Ontario, including students in the Law Society of Ontario's Licensing Process,
- preserving objects of historic significance to Canada's legal heritage, and
- by undertaking hunger relief initiatives through the Lawyers Feed the Hungry Programs.

The Foundation is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees: Ian Hull (Chair), Derry Millar (Vice Chair), Jonathan Rosenthal, Megan Shortreed and Sidney Troister.

The Foundation has fund balances totalling approximately \$5.6 million to support fulfilling its objectives, with about \$3 million restricted for hunger relief efforts. The Lawyers Feed the Hungry Programs are predominantly volunteer driven and donor funded with operations in nine centres across the province: Toronto, London, Ottawa, Windsor, Barrie, Peel-Halton, Hamilton, Timmins and Waterloo. The Toronto Program is a stand-alone meal service program and the other Programs partner with local community agencies providing grants, financial support and/or volunteer time to assist with meal preparation and delivery. As an example, the London Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program provides funding to most of London's "soup kitchens" and meal programs, community gardens and nutrition classes.

## Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry | Operations & Funding

Established in 1998, Toronto Program is one of the city's few year-round meal programs providing access to free, hot, nutritious meals, made-from fresh ingredients.

Almost 55,000 meals are provided each year through a traditional a sit-down meal service. Operating four times per week, dinner is served on Tuesdays and Wednesday with breakfast on Thursdays and Sunday.

Operations are managed by a full-time Coordinator, paid for by the Foundation, with meal delivery supported by a team of three lead volunteer coordinators and



over 130 volunteers from both the legal and general community contributing in excess of 20,000 hours last year alone.

Supported by the Foundation's Development Manager, also funded by the Foundation, revenues are generated through a comprehensive fund development program generating revenue through charitable donations, meal sponsorships and proceeds from annual events including the Buggy & Ken Golf Tournament, Billiards with the Bar, and the Bowling Challenge. Approximately 100 law firms support the Program annually, with donations also coming from other organizations, individual donors and Law Society employees.

The Program has annual expenses of approximately \$500,000, including staffing and fundraising costs, with a fund balance of \$2.5 million at the end of 2020. The Program has fund balances to sustain approximately five years of operations.

### **Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry | Impact of COVID-19**

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Program modified operations shifting to take-away hot meals only, served at the northeast doors of Osgoode Hall. Pivoting to adhere to public health and government directives and guidance, the Toronto Program continues to safely provide quality meals to those in need. Service demand remains at or above pre-March 2020 levels.

Despite the loss of key revenue sources – all scheduled 2020 fundraising events were cancelled, meal sponsorships were reduced by over 50% – through a concentrated focus on individual philanthropic support, private foundation grants and heightened donor communications, the Program generated approximately \$800,000 in fundraising revenue in 2020, compared to \$900,000 in 2019, sustaining operations without the need to encroach on fund balances.

With the pandemic likely impacting in-person fundraising events into 2021, the Foundation is taking proactive steps to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the Toronto Program. It will be expanding its fundraising approach to include a planned giving program.

Further information about the Foundation and the Lawyers Feed the Hungry Programs may be found at <http://www.lawyersfeedthehungry.ca/>

