

MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Thursday, 26th October, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

PRESENT:

The Treasurer (Jacqueline Horvat), Adourian, Alford, Banack, Banning, Chan, Chugh, Dimokopoulos, Donnelly, Durcan, Emmett, Enejajor, Gagnon, Gold, Hansen, Hrick, Hulan, Kalajdzic, Kitagawa, Klippenstein, Konanur, Krishna, Letersky, Levitt, Lewis, Lomazzo, Mietkiewicz, Monforton, Moriah, Ouellet, Painchaud, Pirnia, Radan, Rodriguez, Rosenthal, K. Ross, Q. Ross, Rotstein, Shortreed, Siran, Spurgeon, Strosberg, Surchin, Sutherland, Townsend, Troister, Waddell, Walker, Wellman, Whitehead, Wilson and Winward.

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Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

IN PUBLIC

TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed everyone to Convocation.

The Treasurer advised that benchers have gathered virtually today, and that she is joining Convocation from Windsor, which sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi.

She recognized and respects the longstanding relationships with First Nations people in this place, in the One Hundred Mile Windsor-Essex Peninsula and the Straits, le détroits, of Detroit. She advised that for this Convocation, benchers are participating across the province and perhaps elsewhere, and across many First Nations territories. She recognized the long history of all the First Nations in Ontario and the Inuit and Métis peoples and thanked all Indigenous peoples who lived and live in these lands for sharing them with us in peace.

The Treasurer noted that the 8th annual Access to Justice Week began with a sunrise ceremony on Monday, October 23, 2023 guided by Elder Myeengun Henry. The Treasurer advised that the program was on the theme of "10-year anniversary of Canada's Justice Development Goals".

The Treasurer announced that Fanshawe College has been selected to collaborate with the Law Society on the design and development of the training program for paralegals for the Family Legal Services Provider (FLSP) credential, and is expected to launch in January 2025.

The Treasurer advised on the protocol for Convocation via videoconference.

The Treasurer advised that the Tribunal Committee Report is being removed from the agenda today and will be brought back to a future Convocation.

MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA – TAB 1

It was moved by Ms. Siran, seconded by Mr. Wellman, that Convocation approve the consent agenda set out at Tab 1 of the Convocation Materials.

Carried

Tab 1.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of September 28, 2023 Convocation were confirmed.

Tab 1.2 – APPOINTMENT

THAT Sonia Ouellet be removed from the Professional Regulation Committee at her own request.

Carried

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Troister presented the report.

Re: Law Society of Ontario 2024 Budget

It was moved by Mr. Troister, seconded by Ms. Lomazzo, that Convocation approve the Law Society's 2024 Budget as presented in the report, including:

- a) Annual fees for lawyer and paralegal licensees of \$1,956 and \$990, respectively,
- b) The use of fund balances to fund operations and mitigate annual fee increases totaling \$8,318,000 as defined below,
- c) A loan of up to \$5,675,000 from the Lawyer General Fund to the Capital Allocation Fund restricted to fund the Business and Technology Transformation Initiative (the "Transformation"),
- d) The transfer of \$3,500,000 from the fund balance of the Lawyer General Fund to the Capital Allocation Fund restricted to fund the Transformation, and
- e) The use of \$600,000 of available fund balance in the Capital Allocation Fund to fund facility preservation and infrastructure projects in 2024.

Proposed 2024 Annual Fees:

Fund	Lawyers	Paralegals
General Fund	\$1,589	\$934
Compensation Fund	\$105	\$1
Capital Allocation Fund	\$55	\$55
County Libraries Fund (LiRN Inc.)	\$207	-
Total	\$1,956	\$990

Proposed use of \$8,318,000 of fund balances to fund operations in 2024:

Fund Name	2024 Draft Budget
General Fund – Lawyer	\$6,000,000
Errors and Omissions Insurance Fund	1,200,000
General Fund – Paralegal	600,000
Special Projects Fund	518,000
TOTAL	\$8,318,000

Carried

Mr. Klippenstein abstained.

Re: 2024 LiRN Inc. Budget

It was moved by Mr. Troister, seconded by Ms. Lomazzo, that Convocation approve the LiRN Inc. budget for 2024, which includes funding of \$10,079,900 from the Law Society of Ontario.

Carried

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Lewis presented the report.

Re: Implementation Date for the Practice Essentials Course

It was moved by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Kalajdzic, that Convocation extend the date for implementation of the practice essentials course from January 2024 to January 2025, so that it applies to all licensees who become sole practitioners in or after January 2025.

Carried

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Shortreed presented the report.

Re: Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Summary Orders*

It was moved by Ms. Shortreed, seconded by Ms. Lomazzo, that Convocation adopt amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Summary Orders* (the “Rules”) as detailed in the report and redlined at Tab 4.1.1.

Carried

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chief Executive Officer Diana Miles updated Convocation on the development of the Law Society's strategic plan following the bench planning session in September 2023.

CONVOCATION ADJOURNED AT 9:49 A.M.

Confirmed in Convocation this 30th day of November, 2023.

Jacqueline Horvat,
Treasurer