

MOTION FOR DEBATE - AGM
Pursuant to By-Law 2, Section 16
(which By-Law was made under Section 62 of the *Law Society Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. L.8)
<https://lso.ca/about-lso/legislation-rules/by-laws/by-law-2>

THIS MOTION IS DATED AS OF THE 10 DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

PURPOSE:

1. Pursuant to By-Law 2, Section 43 of the Law Society of Ontario, Convocation shall, on such terms as it considers appropriate, appoint a person as Chief Executive Officer of the Society;
2. Pursuant to By-Law 2, Section 45, the Chief Executive Officer has such duties appointed to them as more particularly set out in Schedule “A”;
3. The Chief Executive Officer did, by way of various “Corporate Statements”, more particularly set out in Schedule “B” attached hereto, communicate to the public that a “policy” was in effect to deny unvaccinated individuals (including members of the public and members of the Law Society) access to the Great Library, by stating [**emphasis added**]:

*“The Law Society’s **vaccine policy remains in place. Anyone entering Law Society premises at 130 Queen St. W. or 393 or 375 University Ave., including those attending the Great Library, scheduled visitors and third-party service providers **are required to follow the Law Society’s Vaccine Policy and show their Canadian vaccine receipt** proving that they have received a full series of COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada at least 14 days prior.**”*

4. Contrary to the Chief Executive Officer’s Corporate Statement, neither Convocation nor a standing committee of Convocation, approved a policy authorizing the CEO to deny people access to the Great Library;
5. Excluding people from the Great Library up until August 15th, 2022, on the basis of vaccination status, was not justified;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT THIS MOTION WISHES TO HAVE IT RESOLVED THAT:

6. The CEO’s Corporate Statements set out in Schedule “B” are void *ab initio*;
7. Any individual denied access to the Great Library shall be indemnified at a per diem rate determined by the Special Priority Advisory Committee, acting reasonably;
8. Any policy, rule or requirement by the Law Society to exclude a Member of the Law Society or a member of the public from the Great Library, based on the individual’s vaccination status, shall require the unanimous consent of Convocation, or two thirds vote of the Law Society members at the most recent Annual General Meeting;
9. And that the foregoing resolution be brought to the Special Priority Advisory Committee and the Access to Justice Committee for further consideration.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

Daniel Freiheit

Michael Ian Beardall Alexander

Adam Blake-Gallipeau

Barry W. Bussey

James Cooper

Saron Gebresellassi

Ruzbeh Hosseini

Jenna Little

Matthew C. Olson

Dan Petrascu

SCHEDULE “A”

DUTIES

Duties of C.E.O.

45. (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible for the management and co-ordination of all phases of the operation, administration, finances, organization, supervision and maintenance of all activities of the Society.

Same

(2) In addition to the duties set out in subsection (1), the Chief Executive Officer shall perform all the functions and duties ordinarily associated with the office of chief executive officer including,

(a) *putting into effect all policies and procedures established by Convocation or a standing committee of Convocation;*

(b) counselling and assisting Convocation or any standing committee of Convocation in the development, adoption and implementation and advancement of the various functions of the Society; and

(c) advising and assisting in the engaging of officers and employees of the Society and directing such personnel in the on-going administration of approved policies and programmes.

Same

(3) In addition to the duties and functions set out in subsections (1) and (2), the Chief Executive Officer shall perform such functions and duties as may be assigned to him or her by Convocation.

The Osgoode Hall restaurant remains closed.

As has been our practice since the onset of the pandemic, our policies and health and safety measure are reviewed regularly and updated as conditions evolve.

If you are feeling unwell, please refrain from visiting the Law Society in-person and connect with us by phone or online, instead; we remain available to assist you and may be contacted by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated May 24, 2022

The following statement is from Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Ontario:

Effective May 24, masking is optional for all employees and visitors attending the Law Society's onsite locations with the following provisions:

- Anyone who wishes to wear a mask is encouraged and supported to do so; all choices are respected
- Employees and visitors should always carry a mask with them
- Surgical masks will be available in meeting rooms
- Be prepared to wear a mask at anytime; understand that everyone has a different comfort-level
- Support each other and engage in open dialogue about masking, particularly in meetings or other situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

The Law Society's vaccine policy remains in place. Anyone entering Law Society premises at 130 Queen St. W. or 393 or 375 University Ave., including those attending the Great Library, scheduled visitors and third-party service providers are required to follow the Law Society's Vaccine Policy and show their Canadian vaccine receipt proving that they have received a full series of COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada at least 14 days prior.

Only the east entrance to the building off Nathan Phillips Square is open for public access. Visitors to the Great Library must also use this entrance. There is no entry from the courthouse. Visit the [Great Library website](#) for library information and hours.

The robing rooms are unavailable due to required building repairs and system upgrades.

If you are feeling unwell, we ask that you please refrain from visiting the Law Society and connect with us by phone or online, instead.

Whether our team is working onsite or remotely, we remain available to assist you. Contact us by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated November 4, 2021

The following statement is from Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Ontario:

Effective November 15, the Law Society is implementing a distributed workforce plan, with employees working in onsite, remote or hybrid arrangements.

At this time, the Law Society's onsite locations remain closed to the general public, however, the Security area at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W., is accessible for document drop-off or pick-up. Only the east entrance to the building off Nathan Phillips Square is currently open.

On Monday, November 1, the Great Library reopened to licensees and members of the public, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Access to the Great Library is through the Law Society of Ontario entrance on the east side of Osgoode Hall. There is no entry from the courthouse. Read the [Great Library blog](#), for more information.

The Law Society is committed to protecting the health and safety of all employees and visitors. There is a comprehensive strategy in place at onsite locations to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, which importantly includes the Law Society's Vaccine Policy.

Anyone entering Law Society premises at 130 Queen St. W. or 393 or 375 University Ave., including those attending the Great Library, scheduled visitors, and third-party service providers, are required to follow the Law Society's Vaccine Policy and show their Canadian vaccine receipt proving that they have received a full series of COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada at least 14 days prior.

Upon arrival, visitors are also required to complete a screening form for contact tracing purposes.

Visitors and employees are required to wear a mask or face covering while in the building. Those who are feeling unwell must stay home and follow the advice of public health officials, as they will not be permitted into the buildings.

These measures are consistent with advice from public health officials and the actions of government and other organizations — all aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our workplaces and communities safe.

As we have been since the onset of the pandemic, we will continue to serve the public, our licensees and stakeholders while assuring the health and safety of our employees.

Whether our team is working onsite or remotely, we remain available to assist you. Contact us by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated: August 30, 2021

The following statement is from Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer, of the Law Society of Ontario:

The Law Society is implementing a Vaccine Policy for all employees and visitors, effective September 13, 2021.

With Ontario currently in Step 3 of its reopening plan, the Law Society's onsite locations remain closed to the general public, however, the reception area at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W., is accessible for document drop-off or pick-up. Only the east entrance to the building off Nathan Phillips Square is currently open.

Effective September 13, anyone entering Law Society premises at 130 Queen St. W. or 393 or 375 University Ave., including scheduled visitors and third-party service providers, will be required to follow the Law Society's Vaccine Policy and show proof that they have received two doses of Government of Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccines at least 14 days prior.

Upon arrival, visitors are also required to complete a screening form for contact tracing purposes.

Visitors and employees are required to wear a mask or face covering while in the building. We ask those who are feeling unwell to please stay home and follow the advice of public health officials, as they will not be permitted into the buildings.

These measures are consistent with advice from public health officials and the actions of government and other organizations — all aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our workplaces and communities safe.

As we have been since the onset of the pandemic, we will continue to serve the public, our licensees and stakeholders while assuring the health and safety of our employees.

Whether our team is working on-site or remotely, we remain available to assist you. Contact us by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated: March 18, 2021

The following statement is from Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer, of the Law Society of Ontario:

As we pass the one-year mark of the Pandemic, we reflect on how much our lives and business operations have changed. Since the onset, the Law Society has continued to serve the public, our licensees and stakeholders while assuring the health and safety of our employees.

While Toronto remains in the Grey Zone, the Law Society continues to adhere to public health guidance and follow remote working protocols for our employees.

We continue to monitor the situation as the vaccine program begins rolling out and remain flexible in our planning. We will reintegrate our team members cautiously and are targeting early September as a realistic timeframe to implement a broader plan for Law Society employees to return to the workplace.

While we encourage people to stay at home and only take essential trips, the reception area at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W., is still accessible for document drop-off or pick-up. Only the east entrance to the building off Nathan Phillips Square is open.

Prior to attending our office to drop off or pick up documents, please review the screening questions provided by the [City of Toronto](#). If you answer 'yes' to any of the screening questions or are feeling unwell, please stay home and follow the advice of public health officials. You are required to wear a mask or face covering while in the building.

We will keep licensees and Ontarians up to date regarding our return to office plan, as we move ahead in a thoughtful and measured way.

Whether our team is working on-site or remotely, we remain available to assist you. Contact us by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated: December 4, 2020

The following statement is from Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer, of the Law Society of Ontario:

At the Law Society, from the onset of the pandemic we have taken a measured and considered approach, utilizing an effective operational framework that facilitates our team continuing to serve our members and Ontarians while working remotely, in-office with strict physical distancing guidelines and measures in place, or a combination of both. In periods that Toronto is in Lockdown by the Provincial Government employees will be discouraged from attending any office locations.

This protocol will remain in effect until at least March 31, 2021.

The Senior Management Executive continue to monitor the situation closely. We remain steadfast in the implementation of our existing protocols which meet or exceed the guidance and requirements set out by government and public health authorities. As an organization we are committed to doing our part to help lower case counts and transmission levels.

While we encourage people to stay at home and only take essential trips, the reception area at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, is still accessible to candidates, licensees and the public for document drop-off or pick-up. Only the east entrance to the building off Nathan Phillips Square is open.

Prior to attending our office to drop off or pick up documents, please review the screening questions provided by the [City of Toronto](#). If you answer 'yes' to any of the screening questions or are feeling unwell, please stay home and follow the advice of public health officials. You are required to wear a mask or face covering while in the building.

We will keep licensees and Ontarians up to date regarding our return to office plan, as we move ahead in a thoughtful and measured way.

Whether our team is working on-site or remotely, we remain available to assist you. Contact us by phone at 416-947-3315, or by email at lawsociety@lso.ca.

Updated: March 24, 2020

The following statement is sent jointly from Malcolm M. Mercer, Treasurer, and Diana Miles, Chief Executive Officer, of the Law Society of Ontario:

Law offices and paralegal offices encouraged to continue operations using remote business models.

The Law Society of Ontario, which successfully implemented a work at home plan for its own employees effective March 16, encourages all law offices and paralegal offices to do the same by operating remotely and virtually wherever feasible.

Since the onset of this unprecedented event, we have seen the legal community respond as leaders in innovative and creative ways by adapting their practices to ensure continued access to justice for clients. These important measures contribute to our collective efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The Government of Ontario has deemed law offices and paralegal offices as essential workplaces. As such, law offices and paralegal offices are permitted to remain open, to address instances when remote business practices are not feasible. Further information and a full list of businesses that are permitted to stay open can be found on the [Government of Ontario website](#).

This information follows Orders issued by the Government of Ontario which require the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces effective as of Tuesday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m.

We extend our gratitude to the public we serve and our licensees as we adapt, respond and support each other to ensure the administration of justice continues, and that the legal community supports broader efforts to facilitate physical distancing and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Updated: March 18, 2020

The Law Society of Ontario is supporting public health recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have implemented a work at home plan for all employees through to Friday, April 3, at which time we will assess the situation.

We remain available to assist you as best we can. Our general phone line remains open at 416-947-3315, or you can contact us by email at lawsociety@lso.ca. Our response times may be slower than usual but we appreciate your patience.

If you usually communicate with us by courier or postal mail, please use email or the [Law Society Portal](#) instead until further notice. The email address available for specific programs can be found on our [website](#).

Continuing Professional Development programs scheduled to take place between March 17 and April 3 will be postponed. Those who were registered for an in-person program have been notified.

Availability of CPD programming after April 3 is currently being evaluated. Look for updates on this page and on the [LSO Store](#) to find current information about Law Society CPD activities.

The Lawyers Feed the Hungry program will be continuing but the format will be modified. Food packages to go will be provided.

Osgoode Hall Restaurant, the Great Library and our cafeteria are closed until April 30.

This is an unprecedented situation requiring complex and rapid business decisions. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work to amend policies and/or put new processes in place.

As the situation evolves and the advice of medical authorities is updated, the Law Society will review business operations and proactively inform all employees, licensees, candidates and others.

We will post public updates to our website as the situation requires. Licensees will find the latest updates through the [Law Society Portal](#); Licensing candidates will find updates through their [Licensing Process Account](#) messages.