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March 2, 2021

Teresa Donnelly, Treasurer
Law Society of Ontario
130 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N6

Dear Madam Treasurer:

RE: FLSP Survey

Last year FOLA made submissions regarding the Family Law Service Providers (hereinafter "FLSP"). In summary, the said proposal failed to demonstrate and or establish a business case, provide or increase access to affordable and competent legal services, and lacked empirical data supporting the proposal.

Recently, the Law Society of Ontario conducted a survey to gauge the level of support for the FLSP licence. While FOLA appreciates and is pleased to see the Law Society's effort towards same, FOLA has concerns regarding the survey. For example, in general:

1. Some questions appear to be leading which causes imbalanced response options. This ultimately curtails a particular answer and does not allow for transparent feedback. Thus circumventing an accurate collection of data from the survey participants.
2. While FOLA appreciates all the efforts made with respect to compiling the survey, there were several questions relating to hourly rates and billing options that appeared to be out-of-context and neglected to canvass many other options, such as sliding scale, flat fee, and deferred fee.
3. Some survey questions provide various answer options but do not allow the survey taker to elaborate their answer for accurate results. For example, the survey seems to contemplate a practical component after college of fewer than 12 weeks. In fact, 12 weeks or more is the absolute maximum time entry one can suggest despite the likelihood that some survey participants may choose a time period that mirrors the duration articling
4. The survey compels the survey participants to answer all questions. This concerns FOLA because some may have abandoned the survey. For example, the survey contains questions relating to office expenses, and the list of overhead expenses is significantly curtailed and does not provide the survey participant the ability to provide fulsome answers.
5. The questionnaire presumes the outcome in the way it is structured in so far as it apparently ratifies the LSO proposal for FLSP.



FOLA is mindful of the extensive task LSO has undertaken, and commends you on your comprehensive consultation process. We welcome any opportunity to continued dialogue on these critical proposed changes relating to Family Law Services.

Yours very truly,

Rasim Sam Misheal
Family Law Chair
Federation of Ontario Law Association