



## IN MEMORIAM

The Honourable Marc Rosenberg made an indelible mark on criminal law in Canada. He was a man of great integrity, intelligence, judgment and unfailing humility, serving the public and the profession from 1976 as a lawyer, jurist and educator. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1995. Justice Rosenberg will be sorely missed.

## 2016 LAW SOCIETY DUES

Annual fees for lawyers will remain unchanged at \$1,866.00. The status quo was once again achieved based on various assumptions including the expectation of ever increasing full fee paying lawyers projected to reach 39,500 in the coming year. Minor budget increases have been allocated to LibraryCo and the Compensation Fund which are covered by decreased spending elsewhere. In recent years we have seen the historic growth of expenses levelling off. We are serving more members in diverse programs but paying no more. In fact when adjusted for inflation the 2016 fees will be less than those charged in 2013. This represents great progress for which our CEO Mr. Robert Lapper deserves recognition particularly when it is noted that higher annual dues are paid by lawyers in British Columbia (\$1,992.00) and Alberta (\$2,622.00). The full budget can be reviewed at [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca).

## 2016 LIBRARYCO BUDGET

County and district law libraries will cost about \$7.6m in the coming year. About \$6.5m goes directly to the various Law Associations of which \$3.0m is for salaries, \$2.8m for collections and \$0.7m is spent on operating expenses. This is all funded by the profession through levies paid to the Law Society. There is a recurring debate among Benchers and within the profession about the importance and value associated with the cost of the law libraries found in Court houses around the province. A transition planning process is underway that will address libraries of the future.

## LAWPRO PREMIUM

November 3, 2015 is the deadline for e-filing your online renewal application to save \$25.00 on the 2016 insurance premium. The final deadline for filing applications is November 10, 2015 after which a 30% surcharge applies. The base premium for next year remains at \$3,350.00 per lawyer which has been unchanged for 6 years partly because of levy surcharges and other tools which target risks associated with particular practice areas. The cost of the Real Estate Practice Coverage Option has been reduced to \$100.00 (down from \$250.00 last year). All of this has been achieved because of the excellent performance of LawPro as a mature insurance operation.

## ABS WORKING GROUP

After years of study and an intervening Bencher Election, Convocation has accepted its Working Group recommendation to not further examine majority or controlling non-licensee ownership models for traditional law firms in Ontario. Careful examination of other jurisdictions failed to demonstrate that benefits warrant such a significant regulatory change. However, the Working Group will continue its mandate by exploring potential ABS options and other legal service delivery models and financing arrangements. Stay tuned.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Since the May election, Benchers have expended enormous effort attending meetings and completing a series of surveys to engage in a comprehensive planning exercise. The work culminated in a 2 day retreat that will result in a Strategic Plan for 2015-2019.

## LAWYERS FEED THE HUNGRY PROGRAM

Started in 1998 and funded through donations to the Law Society Foundation the Toronto initiative was emulated in Ottawa, London and Windsor. Toronto feeds about 60,000 people per year of the 100,000 meals served across the province. This important and vibrant program is now facing a significant shortfall of about \$150,000.00 which will force a reduction in the number of meals served. A fundraising event is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Rivoli on Queen Street West in

Toronto. For details or to make a much needed donation please visit:  
<http://www.lawyersfeedthehungry.ca/toronto.html>.

## WEBCASTING CONVOCATION

Following a pilot project, the Law Society will continue live on line viewing of Convocation meetings. This will increase transparency and accessibility in the decision making process involving policy issues and will hold elected Benchers accountable for their actions. You can view archived webcasts from January 2015. Before each Convocation check the Law Society's website, [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca) for the link to the webcast.

## LAW SOCIETY CPD

The Law Society continues to expand and improve its CPD offering. New initiatives to enhance the process have been adopted to help us achieve the needed hours of professional development by the end of the year. By now you should have received a Law Society letter summarizing the CPD hours you have reported in 2015. Pay attention to the outstanding remaining hours. A failure to complete or report the required hours by December 31, 2015 will lead to a late fee of \$100.00 in addition to being subject to administrative suspension. For more information visit: [ecom.lsuc.on.ca/cpd](http://ecom.lsuc.on.ca/cpd).

## LAW FIRM REGULATION

Presently the Law Society only regulates individual lawyers / paralegals. As a result, law firms themselves cannot be subjected to regulatory proceedings. A Task Force established last June is studying an approach to professional regulation that is based on encouragement and support of acceptable practices through the provision of support and information as needed. This review includes the range of possible approaches to law firm regulation. At the appropriate time there will be a consultation process undertaken with the profession.

## MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDAR FOR LAW SOCIETY SPONSORED EVENTS

February (tbc)	Black History Month
March 8	International Women's Day
March 22	Journee Internationale de La Francophonie

April 18	Careers for Women in Law
May 3	Mental Health Awareness
May 5	Holocaust Remembrance Day
May 17 or 18	Asian and South Asian Heritage Month
May 31	Access Awareness
June 23	Aboriginal History Month
June 28 (tbc)	Pride Week

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