



LSO Connects:

LSO Connects is an important new online initiative. The tool provides members of the public, candidates and licensees with a dedicated secure communication channel to connect with various Law Society services.

Members of the public can use LSO Connects to find information about complaints, the Compensation Fund, and the Unclaimed Trust Fund. Licensees and candidates can use LSO Connects for similar information relating to complaints, proceedings at the Law Society Tribunal, practice audits, spot audits and practice reviews. In the future, additional functionality will be rolled out to further enhance interactions with the Law Society. However, for clarity please note that the **LSO Portal** will continue to be the access point for all other licensee LSO matters, such as updating contact information, paying fees, submitting Annual Report filing or logging CPD hours.

LAWPRO RENEWAL:

Our professional liability policies will be automatically renewed for 2024 without the need for a renewal application. We do not need to take any action if there have been no changes to contact information, areas of practice, part-time or full-time status, deductible / premium options, or any other details related to your LAWPRO policy. 2024 policy premiums are not payable until the new year. If you will not be practicing in 2024, please complete an Application for Exemption.

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PROGRAM:

Last Spring, Convocation precipitously voted to scrap the program in another example of bad governance. Following appropriate outrage, the cancellation was rescinded in September after the most recent Bencher election. An agreed upon, appropriate consultation was undertaken with the profession. The LSO received 453 submissions being an unprecedented response in comparison to other consultations. 85% of those responding (392, half of whom are designated specialists) enthusiastically expressed a desire to keep the program while only 71 wished to eliminate it. As a result, this Convocation (29-20) has completely reversed

the threatened termination. [The Program will be continued](#), however as of January 1, 2025, specialists will be obliged to annually complete an additional 10 hours of CPD in their area of specialty in supplementing the 12 hours required of all lawyers. Congratulations to those lawyers who were outraged by the reversal of the original thoughtful decision to grandparent specialists and joined the cause to successfully persuade our elected Benchers to reflect further on the matter and implement an outcome in the public interest. Further program enhancements will be considered by the appropriate Committee, including a re-certification process and potential inclusion of paralegals.

INCOME TAX ACT CHALLENGE:

The British Columbia Supreme Court has granted an injunction suspending the application of the Federal mandatory disclosure requirements in the Income Tax Act, to licensees pending the determination of the litigation challenging the constitutionality of the requirements. A backgrounder with additional information on the constitutional challenge is available [hetore](#).

2024 LAW SOCIETY AWARDS:

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2023.

Paralegals are eligible for the [William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award](#). Awards for lawyers include the [Law Society Medal](#) and the [Laura Legge Award](#). Both lawyers and paralegals are eligible for the [J. Shirley Denison Award](#) and the [Lincoln Alexander Award](#). More information about award criteria and the nomination process as well as the online nomination form [are available online](#).

RETIRING:

James (Jim) Varro: To many he is “Mr. Law Society”. He is a consummate legal professional experienced and well informed of every aspect of the regulation of lawyers in the public interest. He has faithfully served the professions and public since 1996, first as Policy Counsel for 14 years. His talent was recognized, and Jim became the Director, Policy and Secretary of the Law Society in 2010. The LSO and Convocation in 2016 then needed his service as Director, Office of the CEO and Corporate Secretary. For an overlapping period of seven years Jim was also co-chair of a standing committee of the Federation of Law Societies . Since 1996 he has provided wise counsel and sage advise to every Treasurer, CEO, Bencher and LSO staff member. Jim was always quietly at the centre of every major Law Society policy decision for the last 2.5 decades. He has done it all for us. For years, he was also a participant in the Movember movement promoting men’s health. Jim’s warm smile and great sense of humour will be missed at Osgoode Hall. He have will not be forgotten and each of us owe him a great debt of gratitude. Jim may you many years of good health to enjoy your youthful retirement years.

FEAR: ONE MORE PERSONAL NOTE:

As a Canadian Jew, I must share with you my growing fear since October 7th, 2023. I do not comment on the State of Israeli politics or the attraction of a two-state solution. That is for others at another time.

My fear is rooted in the barbaric atrocities of Hamas on October 7th and also in the reaction to that horrific event, in Canada and around the world.

There have been demonstrations against Israel with clever slogans understood to call for the elimination of both Israel and Jews. This is not just rhetoric but is antisemitism the likes of which the world has not permitted since the Holocaust.

We have all very recently witnessed hate crimes perpetrated in the GTA and elsewhere against the Jewish community. There is a needed police presence at the school of my grandchildren and other Jewish centres. Toronto Police Services have had to increase the size of its Hate Crime Unit. The increased police presence is unfortunately important at this time, but it does not address the underlying fear in my community.

Even as Israel and Hamas implement a temporary pause in fighting to permit a hostage exchange and for needed humanitarian aid there have been multiple repeated incidents of hateful language, defacing buildings, property damage and anti-Israel rallies. Our children are afraid to attend classes on university campuses.

I feel vulnerable in a way that I have never experienced in Canada, and I know this feeling is shared widely in the community.

This is not a time for silence. It is important to take a stand in Canada against anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christianism and against discrimination of anyone by reason of their religious beliefs, ethnicity, creed, race, national origin or sexual orientation. Silence plays into the hands of those who perpetuate hate. This must not be tolerated. Please recognize that all is definitely not well in our environs.

The famous poem by Martin Niemöller makes sense to me in a way that it has never made sense before. It is important that every single one of us heeds its crucial message:

**"First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out Because I was not a Communist**

**Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out Because I was not a Socialist**

**Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out Because I was not a trade unionist**

**Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out Because I was not a Jew**

**Then they came for me
And there was no one left to speak out for me"**

CONVOCATION:

Convocation will next meet on February 29, 2024 which will be available for viewing via live broadcast at [LSO.ca](https://www.lso.ca).

**MY WISH IS THAT WE CAN ALL HAVE A
HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**

Bay Adelaide Centre
333 Bay Street, Suite 900
Toronto, ON M5H 2R2
email: larry@banackresolutions.com
Phone: (416) 477-6880

Banack Resolutions, Inc. | Bay Adelaide Centre, 333 Bay Street, Toronto, M5H 2R2 Canada

[Unsubscribe larry@banackresolutions.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by larry@banackresolutions.com