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#198



### **MANDATORY INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TRAINING**

Following a public consultation, Convocation thoughtfully and emotionally debated a Committee recommendation in principle requiring licensees to take a **mandatory** course within 2 years to respond in a meaningful way to the 2015 Call to Action 27 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The framework contemplates a no cost, 6 hours, one-time, online, bilingual program. As an incentive, completion of the course will fulfill an entire year's 12-hour CPD requirement. It was advanced as a baseline, cultural foundational competence requirement which unfortunately echoed the demonized and ultimately revoked prior mandatory Statement of Principles. Other Canadian jurisdictions have adopted or rejected comparable proposals. The majority of Benchers discussion time focused on whether the proposed training be voluntary or mandatory. The motion including the mandatory requirement was passed (26 for and 23 against). Contemplating a Spring launch, an implementation report is to be brought to Convocation in April. To better understand the debate background and the basis of the decision please see: [the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee Report](#).

### **NEWEST LSO C.E.O.**

Following a comprehensive recruitment process **Tom Tehen** has been appointed Chief Executive Officer effective February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He has spent more than 20 years in senior leadership roles with government, the broader public sector and highly regulated industries. He had been President and CEO of Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 1997. He will now lead approximately 550 LSO staff overseeing operations, strategic priorities and key initiatives to ensure that lawyers and paralegals meet high standards of learning, competence and professional conduct. Good luck Tom.

## ACCESS TO INNOVATION PROGRAM: DOES IT PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

This LSO initiative was designed to encourage the delivery of safe and effective legal services through technology. The providers were to be evaluated and approved by the LSO to participate in the A2I so the public may trust that the products or services they are receiving from these providers are effective and safe. The program has grown to include:

### **Online wills and estate planning**

- [ClearEstate](#)
- [eState Planner](#)
- [LegalWills](#)
- [Willful](#)

### **Real estate services/transactions**

- [Deeded](#)
- [Ownright \(formerly Doormat\)](#)
- [Philer](#)

### **Incorporation and corporate maintenance services**

- [Counselurdocs](#)
- [Incorporight](#)
- [SkyLaunch](#)

### **Family law**

- [Plaid Fertility Law](#)
- [Jointly](#)

### **Immigration law**

- [PR Coach](#)

### **Consumer rights**

- [airfairness](#)

In your own areas of expertise open the links and examine the approved, private entrepreneur offerings to assess whether the online tools provided through the LSO website are in fact effective, safe and represent the best interests of the public. One Estate lawyer who clicked on a link advised that "... instantly my security software blocked a malware attack. The link is junk and the concept that LSO would support this is crazy. I have no problem with software for lawyers, but the ones that laypeople use directly have no place at LSO."

Please share your views with your elected Benchers.

Recognize that even prior to the scheduled 5-year review in 2026, the program is expanding by currently accepting new proposals to participate with the LSO stamp of approval.

## WOW - CANLii AI SEARCH CAPACITY

CanLii has launched a new research assistant powered by artificial intelligence to make access to legal information more intuitive, faster, and more efficient. It has been developed to transform our website search experience, making access to legal information more intuitive, faster, and efficient for the legal community and the Canadian public.

Query searches can be made in plain, natural language with internal features designed for accuracy. CanLII Search is now available to anyone with a free my CanLII account (subject

to a daily usage limit). To learn more visit: [CanLIISearch+](#)

## COMING SOON

### March 1

#### **COMMISSIONERS FOR TAKING AFFIDAVITS**

Articling students and those enrolled in a Law Practice Program will be able to take affidavits and administer oaths, affirmations or declarations without prior application to the government. Help may be found in the Law Society's [Practice Supports and Resources](#).

### March 10

Log on for a free one-hour CPD session at 12:00 p.m. to learn how to use the LSO Connects system to meet our administrative obligations. [Register now](#).

### March 13

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

For an experienced lawyer wishing to serve as Discrimination and Harassment Counsel team lead. [Learn more and apply](#).

### March 16

#### **ADVOCATES' SOCIETY NOMINATIONS DEADLINE**

The Douglas K. Laidlaw Medal for Excellence in Advocacy and the Eric Hoaken Excellence in Mentoring Award. Details are on the TAS website.

### March 31

#### **LSO DEADLINE**

To pay annual fees, file annual reports and record CPD Hours. Learn of the requirements at: [LSO.ca/about-your-licence](#).

#### **EXPANDED REPORTING TO LSO**

New obligations involve criminal and other charges and findings of guilt as well as reporting business names used to practice law. For more information see: [LSO.ca/Enhanced-reporting](#).

#### **CONTINGENCY PLANNING REPORT**

You must report compliance with this obligation. Learn more: [LSO.ca/contingency-plans](#)

### April

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#### **LICENSE REVOCATION**

Any licensee who has been administratively suspended for more than three years and has not cured the administrative suspension will have their licence to practice law revoked in April 2026. To cure an administrative suspension, apply to surrender your licence or for further information email the Client Service Centre at [lawsociety@LSO.ca](mailto:lawsociety@LSO.ca).

### May 1

#### **TRUST ACCOUNT DIRECTION**

Those keeping trust accounts must provide an irrevocable direction that Banks release trust account records to the LSO. Information and resources will be coming soon. To better

understand please: [Read the report.](#)

## [NEXT CONVOCATION](#)

Thursday April 30, 2026. Watch via live broadcast connecting through [LSO.ca](#)

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