

2022 Minutes Draft

Annual General Meeting of the Law Society of Alberta

Dec. 1, 2022

Videoconference meeting

11 a.m.

	Item
1	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Law Society President, Ken Warren, KC, called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), agenda, Law Society financial statements, and the Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association (ALIA) financial statements were sent to members via e-bulletin on Nov. 16, 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Louie delivered the Indigenous land acknowledgment statement for Alberta.</p> <p>Eighteen members of the public were in attendance to observe and not participate in the meeting. This number included four Public Representatives and six Law Society staff.</p>
2	<p>Credentials Report</p> <p>One inactive and 80 active members were present. Mr. Warren confirmed this met quorum in accordance with section 27 of the <i>Legal Profession Act</i>.</p>
3	<p>Meeting Special Rules and Etiquette</p> <p>Rule 33 of the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta provides Special Meeting Rules for this AGM that facilitate the transaction of business through the electronic meeting platform. Mr. Warren reviewed the Special Meeting Rules and etiquette to remind attendees of key items.</p>
4	<p>Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>There being no objections, the AGM agenda was adopted as presented.</p>
5	<p>Adoption of the 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes</p> <p>The Dec. 2, 2021 AGM minutes were distributed to all registrants with the meeting materials via email on Nov. 30, 2022. There being no corrections, the minutes were adopted as distributed.</p>



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6 President's Report

In accordance with subsection 27(2) of the Act, the President presented a report of the proceedings of the Benchers since the last AGM, noting that during 2022 the Law Society continued to navigate the pandemic including a hybrid work-model return to office early in the year. The Strategic Plan provided direction and focus to the Board (Benchers) and the organization for decision making, resource allocation and priority setting. The highlighted projects and initiatives which advanced the Law Society's strategic goals included:

Innovation & Proactive Regulation

- a) The Innovation Sandbox launched in February and provides an opportunity for the development of innovative models for the delivery of legal services.
- b) The Benchers approved amendments in April to the Bencher Election Rules to improve the election processes and efficiency for the next online election.
- c) Virtual hearings were approved by the Benchers in June as the standard format for all Law Society oral hearings.
- d) In September, the Benchers approved the return to a 12-month articling term, or 15 months if clerking with the Court, that includes completion of the Practice Readiness Education Program within that term.

Competence & Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- e) February launch of the Mandatory Principal Training Course developed in response to the 2019 Articling Survey and follow-up survey to current and recent principals, articling students and mentors.
- f) The Articling Placement Program was launched in February to assist articling students who are in untenable or unsafe articles due to harassment or discrimination.
- g) In April, the Benchers approved the release of an acknowledgment of systemic discrimination.
- h) There was ongoing work on a new approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) that will provide more guidance in important areas of focus for professional development.
- i) In April 2021, the Indigenous Cultural Competency Education requirement called The Path (Alberta) — Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada was launched with a mandated completion date of Oct. 20, 2022. The decision to mandate this training for all active lawyers in Alberta was integral to the Law Society's commitment to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #27, which calls upon



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	<p>Canadian law societies to ensure all lawyers receive Indigenous Cultural Competency Training.</p> <p>j) In collaboration with the Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society, ALIA and the Canadian Bar Association – Alberta Branch, the Law Society hosted a virtual two-day Well-Being in Practice Summit in October dealing with issues of personal and professional wellness.</p> <p>Access</p> <p>k) There were discussions with other Law Societies from across the country at the Benchers' annual retreat about opportunities for future initiatives in this area.</p> <p>l) The Law Society continues to operate the Lawyer Referral Service to prove members of the public with information for up to three lawyers that may help meet their needs.</p> <p>Mr. Warren then responded to member questions regarding cost of The Path and the Law Society's authority to mandate it.</p>
7	<p>Business Arising from 2021 minutes.</p> <p>There were no items of business arising from the 2021 AGM minutes.</p>
8	<p>New Business</p> <p>There was no new business brought before the meeting.</p>
9	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.</p>