

Appendix D – Resolutions of Plenary

Resolution Passed at November 2014 plenary

Whereas CDLPA has already agreed that changes needed to be made to LibraryCo and to the courthouse library system to affect positive change, and;

Whereas the CDLPA supported Treasurer Conway's decision to strike a working group – known as the Treasurers Legal Information and Support Services Working Group (LISS) – and appointed CDLPA's Chair as a representative to that working group as a first-step in identifying the necessary changes; and,

Whereas CDLPA agreed with most of the general conclusions of the LISS and acted, in accordance with the other shareholders, to take action at LibraryCo to replace the Board General Manager and make certain other changes to the governance and administration at LibraryCo which were standing in the way of positive change; and

Whereas CDLPA has agreed to participate in discussions and negotiations with the other shareholders to develop a transition plan to modernize and make more effective the law information system in Ontario;

Be it resolved that the Presidents of the County & District Law Presidents' Association are instructing the Executive of CDLPA to enter into the next phase of these negotiations with the following as our statements of principle:

We desire to build a better system to service all parts of Ontario. Emphasis in the new model should be placed on creating a system that is service-oriented and meets the needs of every lawyer in the province, regardless of where they practice. This new system must integrate in every way possible, the Great Library, so that there no longer will exist separate governance and budgeting for this resource.

There should be a physical presence – in the form of a practice resource center that includes the availability of legal information – in every county courthouse in Ontario. This space is important for the practicing, private-bar lawyer particularly in courthouses where every other stakeholder has their own space.

Each county courthouse library needs to be adequately and appropriately staffed. We believe the practice resource center spaces need to continue to be staffed by qualified and competent professionals. The current staff are valued members of the justice community and should be recognized as such. Furthermore, staffing decisions should remain with the local associations.

We want to see a financially sustainable system that is efficient and effective.

The principles behind the governance model that has been negotiated and has been in effect for the past fifteen years should be maintained. Those principles are that CDLPA and the TLA are shareholders and have the rights and obligations of a shareholder to oversee and manage the direction of the system, in whatever form that system will take.

That positive change to the courthouse library system will only come about in an environment of collaboration and trust amongst all the stakeholders.

Be it further resolved that the Presidents are calling on the LibraryCo Board to regularly and thoroughly consult with and take into account the opinions of relevant stakeholders including and especially the front-line staff in envisioning and implementing this new system.

Resolution Passed at November 2016 Plenary

WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Law Associations has long had the view that Practice Resource Centres are essential resources for the practising bar across every community in Ontario as they are the only space within the courthouse that is dedicated to lawyers to allow them to conduct their business;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Law Associations believes that the physical space and staffing for our Practice Resource Centres should be maintained in order to continue servicing the bar in communities across Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Law Associations believes that these practice resource centre spaces and associated staff are ideally situated resources to help facilitate initiatives such as the Law Society's mental health strategy, mentoring, coaching and generally any initiative that is aimed at improving competence of legal professionals;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Law Associations considers it critical to the ability of lawyers to provide access to competent legal counsel and access to justice that practitioners have adequate access to updated legal information in accessible formats;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, along with the other shareholders of LibraryCo Inc.– the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Toronto Lawyers' Association - has welcomed the comprehensive process to examine the governance, operations and funding for LibraryCo Inc. and our Practice Resource Centres with a view to making their operations sustainable and to improve service to practising lawyers in Ontario and to examine other issues related to these spaces;

AND WHEREAS this Plenary believes there are other revenue generating opportunities such as the delivery of continuing professional development programming in the Practice Resource Centres that could and should be encouraged by the shareholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

This Plenary hereby instructs the executive of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations to make the case to the Board of LibraryCo Inc., and the Transition Committee that they should recommend to Convocation that a stable, separately identified levy as a portion lawyers' annual fees dedicated to Practice Resource Centres would provide the financial stability that the Practice Resource Centre system needs to be sustainable in the long run;

The Federation of Ontario Law Associations encourage all shareholders in LibraryCo Inc. to seek other revenue generating opportunities and that any such revenue be directed to improve the services provided in our local PRC's, and further that barriers standing in the way of these opportunities be removed, where practical.