

Overview of FOLA's Consultation Session with LiRN
June 17, 2022

Discussion Topic: [LiRN's Library Services & Management Responsibilities Policy HR Policy and Guidelines](#)

Attendees

Doug Judson, Chair, FOLA
Allen Wynperle, PRCC Chair, FOLA
Katie Robinette, ED, FOLA
Rosalie Fox, Chair, Network Policy Committee, LiRN
Theresa Leitch, Managing Director, LiRN
Jacquie Fex, Data Analyst, LiRN

Overview

Allen started off by saying that it is FOLA's hope that we are able to work together to get a workable, equitable document and stressed that FOLA is also eager to play a role in helping Associations move forward. He added that we appreciate that standards need to be met and that we would be a willing contributor to educating Associations around the steps needed to meet those standards.

Key points from our FOLA's Consolation

1. **Point of Clarification from LiRN:** The Additional Library Services section (page 10) is deemed to fall under what IS covered by LiRN grant funding.
2. **CPD**
RE: Association Service or Duty: FOLA argued that in many Associations, there are two types of CPD – one that may not generate revenues for Associations and one that does. As such, CPD and educational programing should be under both sections and that some CPD would be covered in grant funding.

It is FOLA's opinion that the vast majority of educational programing be covered by grant funding and that individual Law Library staff and Associations should be able to determine whether specific CPD events/programing are designed as revenue generators for Associations or free services for all lawyers.

3. **Association Board Management**
RE: Association Service or Duty: It is FOLA's contention that staff time dedicated to assisting the Board (AGM's, Board Meetings, Library Committee Meetings, Practice-related Committees, etc) should be covered by grant funding. Healthy Law Associations are the backbone of the Law Library system in Ontario. They are responsible for overseeing the operations their local Law Library and require staff (Law Library Staff) to assist.
4. **Office Space Booking**
RE: Association Service or Duty: There are many cases where office space/room space may be requested by non-member lawyers. As such, there should be room for flexibility here.

5. **Library Services and Library Management Responsibilities Policy** (Attachment A on page 2 on the Draft Consultation document)

RE: The Law Society of Ontario's By-Law 13

The LSO's By-Law 13 states that Law Libraries provide services for all licenced LAWYERS. However, the LiRN Consultation document states that "Core Library Services shall be readily available to all licensees in Ontario" (bullet point 6). Because this would include Paralegals (who do not currently pay into the system), this wording should be replaced with Law Licensees and should keep in line with the existing language in By-Law 13. FOLA told LiRN that it would be willing to work with LiRN to have the LSO amend the By-Law, but that until it does, this is the wording would need to change. LiRN committed to making this change.

6. **RE: The 10% issue:** Page 2 of the Consultation Document (in the Background section) suggests that the Association only needs to contribute to library staff salaries if Association activities take up more than 10% of the staff member's time and asks if this is an appropriate threshold.

FOLA has heard conflicting opinions from Associations and may need to be a % that is unique to each Law Library.

Moving Forward

LiRN has committed to developing educational materials for Association members and Law Library staff to access that will help in future Law Library management. FOLA has informed LiRN that they are happy to collaborate on both the creation and promotion of such resources.

LiRN and the Shareholders (the TLA, FOLA, and the LSO) are planning on meeting the week of the 27th of June to revisit the Consultation document again following LiRN hearing from Associations.