

# The Road Ahead: Strategic Plan Bencher Election Paralegals



**Federation of Ontario  
Law Associations**

# Strategic Position

- **We are “the voice of the practicing lawyer”**
- **We represent of lawyers in all regions of Ontario**
- **We are a voice for ‘main street’ lawyers in small firms and sole practice**
- **We can speak to regional concerns and under-represented areas of practice**



# Strategic Priorities

- 1. Improve Communications**
- 2. Influence Decision-Makers**
- 3. Sustain and Support Law Associations**
- 4. Provide Practice Resources**



# 1. Improve Communications

***“ Build awareness among and on behalf of front-line lawyers across Ontario’s regions ”***

- **Re-branding and web redevelopment**
- **Submissions to official consultations**
- **Media relations**
- **Be a voice for under-represented practice areas**
- **Develop practice area-specific comms**



## 2. Influence Decision-Makers

***“ Reaching out and influencing justice sector regulators, officials, and government ”***

- **Frame the issues for the 2023 benchers election**
- **Active in consultative bodies and working groups**
- **Build on the success of Lobby Day**
- **Improve outreach to benchers**
- **Government relations**



# 3. Sustain and Support Law Associations

***“ Ensuring membership growth and leadership succession for law associations ”***

- **Governance and committee review**
- **Advocate for a competence levy to apply to all licensees**
- **Support law associations' membership benefits**
- **Review biannual plenary format and cycle**



## 4. Provide Practice Resources

***“ Protecting and growing Practice Resource Centres (courthouse libraries) ”***

- **Continue active and candid LiRN engagement**
- **Arrange LiRN shareholder meetings where necessary**
- **Support law associations with PRC recruitment/staffing issues**
- **Provide management resources and supports to law associations for their PRCs**



# Benchner Election

## Two main strategies:

- We will survey candidates and identify those who are FOLA-Friendly™
- We will be providing benchner election resources to encourage law association members to vote





# But What Defines 'FOLA-Friendly'?

- **This distinction will be based on 3 factors:**
  - 1. The candidate's engagement with their county or district law association**
  - 2. The candidate's support for properly-funded courthouse-based practice resource centres**
  - 3. The candidate's support for a sustainably-funded Legal Aid system**



# Paralegals and PRCs

- **Paralegal contributions to libraries could unlock new financial and political support for courthouse libraries**
- **Alignment with statutory mandate of Law Society to promote competency for licensees**
- **Reduce upward pressure on lawyers' licensing dues**



# Thank You



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