NCLA NEWSLETTER

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Changes to the Trademarks Act

By: Alison Lester, *Irvine Lester & Low*

On June 17, 2019 major changes to Canada's *Trademarks Act* (the "Act") came into force. The goal was to modernize Canadian trademark law, allowing Canada to join several international treaties, and making it easier for Canadian applicants to do business and protect their trademarks internationally. I've outlined here the five most significant changes to the Act in my view.

Filing Grounds are eliminated

Under the old Act, applicants could not obtain registration of a mark unless they had actually used it in practice. A trademark application could be based on "proposed use" but the mark would not be registered until the applicant had actually used the mark in practice. This requirement to have used the mark has now been removed. This change allows legitimate trademark owners to obtain registrations more quickly. However, it certainly opens the door to "squatters" – entities who register trade-marks they have no intention of using for the sole purpose of selling them to the genuine owners.

Requirement to comply with the Nice Agreement

The Nice Agreement is a treaty that establishes standardized classes of all goods and services. The benefit is that goods and services are classed consistently across the world, which facilitates searching for potentially

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conflicting trademarks in other countries. Previously, classification in accordance with the Nice Agreement was optional in Canadian trademark application. After June 17, 2019 it is mandatory. There has also been a price increase: the application fee for online applications used to be $250.00. Now the fee is $330 for the first class, and $100 for each additional class included in the application.

Renewal term shortens to ten years

Under the old Act, trademark registrations were valid for fifteen years, after which renewal was required. Renewal cost $350. Now, renewal terms have shortened to ten years, and the fee for renewal is based on the number of classes. The fee is $400 for the first class and $125 for each additional class.

Additional filing options

The options for filing non-traditional marks have expanded. It is now possible to file trademark applications for colour alone, holograms, scent, taste and texture. However, the trademarks examination office has changed its mandate, in that it will now be examining for distinctiveness, which meaning that the mark has to have unique characteristics, rather than just consumer recognition and goodwill. This requirement to demonstrate distinctiveness will likely mean it is more difficult to obtain registration for these non-traditional marks.

Joining the Madrid Protocol and the Singapore Treaty

Trademarks are country-specific. If an application obtains a registration in Canada, it only covers Canadian use of the mark. To be protected in other countries, applicants would have to file separate applications in each country. Canada has now acceded to the Madrid Protocol which allows applicants to file one single international application with the World Intellectual Property Office, which results in registrations in a number of different countries. This significantly simplifies the process for obtaining international protection for marks. Additionally, Canada has acceded to the Singapore Treaty which standardizes certain aspects of the administration of trademarks.

Alison Lester is a registered trademark agent

Employee Interviews

By: Bruce McMeekin, *LSO Certified Specialist (Environmental Law)*

"We're under investigation. The investigator wants to interview some of our employees. How do we respond?"

When the subject of a regulatory investigation with potentially substantial penal consequences is an organization, this is never an easy question to answer. There are two reasons: (1) Employees have legal personality separate from the organization; and, (2) There are legal and practical limits on how much an organization can and should do to control an investigator's access to employees.

Reason (1) creates a potential ethical minefield for counsel retained by the organization. Counsel's client is the organization, and, given the circumstances, perhaps the one or two executives or managers with responsibility over the area of operations that is the focus of the investigation. Subject to the caveat below, participation by witnesses in investigations is consensual. By purporting to provide legal advice to employees as to whether they should consent to be interviewed, external counsel (and in-house counsel for that matter), risk a conflict of interest. Counsel cannot provide advice to an employee on whether he should agree to be interviewed if the employee's potential evidence may harm the organization's interest.

This issue becomes more serious when the investigator has advised that she intends to interview one or more employees under caution. A law enforcement officer is required to caution an individual before taking a statement if the officer believes that the individual may be a party to the offence under investigation and the officer intends that the statement be used against the individual's interest should a prosecution ensue. The risk of a conflict for counsel purporting to advise suspect employees is extremely high. In providing the statement, an employee may exculpate himself but inculpate the organization. If he stays silent, he may be charged as a party, along with the organization.

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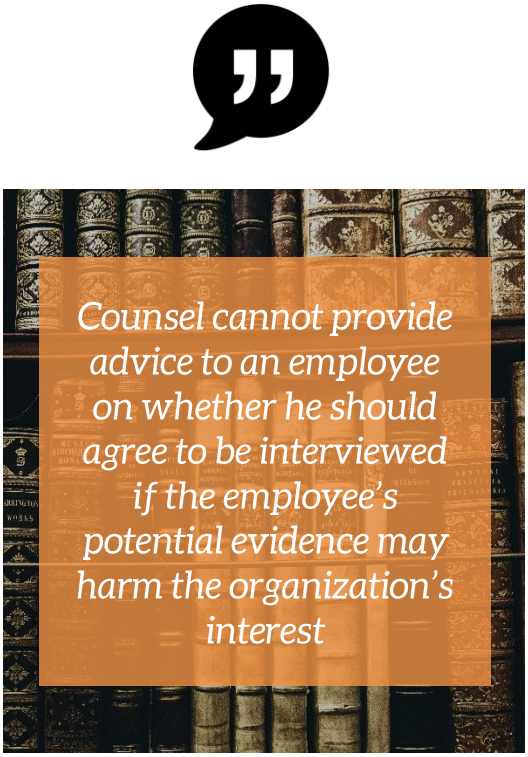
The issue becomes exigent if the organization is charged and one or more employees who external counsel advised are summonsed to testify as a Crown witness. Now counsel is placed in the position of having to cross-examine one or more of her own clients. The conflict is real and potentially damaging to the organization client. Waivers signed by employee witnesses acknowledging and waiving the conflict in the dynamic of an employer-employee relationship will seldom convince a court that counsel can continue. If it intends to proceed with a trial, the organization will have to retain new legal representation.

The best method for dealing with the risk of conflicts is to make available to employees independent legal advice (ILA). In unionized organizations, the bargaining unit will frequently step in to assist its members by providing ILA. In other organizations, policies are frequently in place governing under what circumstances employees will be provided access to ILA.

Reason (2) creates a similar but different risk. No organization has the right to instruct its employees to refuse interviews. To provide that instruction exposes the organization to the risk of an obstruction or like charge, which may be viewed by the courts as a charge more serious than the initial allegation that was the subject of the investigation.

There is a large practical benefit in an organization considering permitting interviews of independently advised employees within the workplace. If workplace access to law enforcement is refused, that puts the officer in the position of attempting employee interviews off site. Absent the willingness of interviewed employees to disclose to the organization that they have been interviewed and the content their statements, the organization risks being blindsided by the course and conclusion of the investigation. However, if the organization is open to permitting interviews onsite, not only will it be seen as co-operative (always good), but it will also provide an opportunity for the organization to negotiate with the officer for the conditions permitting it to track the course and content of the investigation. As an example, obtaining the investigating officer's consent to having an agent of the organization – such as an investigator retained by the organization – witness employee interviews. Some investigating officers may also insist on the employee's consent to having the privately retained investigator present.



Counsel should refrain from sitting in on employee interviews. Observing employee interviews puts counsel in the position of a witness. In a subsequent trial if there is a disagreement about the circumstances and content of one or more interviews, counsel becomes a compellable witness and will be conflicted in continuing as counsel for the organization. Instead, use a privately retained investigator, preferably one who is experienced in the area of regulation that the organization is alleged to have offended.

The caveat: some regulatory law enforcement agencies do not accept that interviews in the course of an investigation are consensual. Ontario Ministry of Labour provincial officers are notorious in relying on their statutory powers of inspection to unlawfully compel employee interviews in the course of an investigation by threatening employers and employees with obstruction should they refuse the invitation. Proceed with caution. If necessary, obtain the assistance of counsel that knows the regulator and its practices.

Good Activities and Bad Injuries: The Potential for a Chilling Effect this Summer

By: Warren WhiteKnight, *Partner, Bergeron Clifford Personal Injury Lawyers*

School is out and the kids need running. Dad takes his kids to the playground. That's good. One of his kids falls and is injured. That's bad. Mom consults with an injury lawyer like me. That's good. Lawyer is instructed to sue the municipality who owns the park. That's good? That's bad?

Ugghhhh. I dunno what to do (lawyer's inner monologue).

This is a hard topic to address and one that always makes me feel conflicted. My favourite hobbies are mountain biking, snowboarding, cross country skiing and snow shoeing, hunting, and soccer – usually I have one of my gaggle of kids with me. I don't even have a TV in my house. I love the outdoors. I think municipalities and governments both large and small have a duty to encourage recreation, and thus it is understandable they would be peeved (to put it mildly) if sued for an injury on a playground. Even objectively normal playgrounds can be the site of tragic injuries to small children. What is a municipality to do? Get rid of all the playgrounds?

As an injury lawyer I have a duty to pursue my client's case with all my skill. However, I don't have a duty to take every case that comes through the door. As a lawyer I also have a duty to engage with my clients, the law, the courts, and the public in a way that helps shape a better society.

Current trends in kids' cell phone usage, social media addiction, and time spent on video games is astonishing. Any outdoor activities are to be encouraged – tobogganing, soccer, ice skating, swimming in public pools and beaches, all are to be encouraged. All of these activities come with normal risks. Even if I get past the question of actual fault – as in – was the risk assumed – I am often hesitant to start these claims. I would hate for a municipality to close their tobogganing hill, close their public beaches, or close their public skateboard parks to the thousands of kids and families who use them because of the injury (and lawsuit) of my lone client.

What if the child fell at the playground and broke his wrist but the doctors say it will heal fine in 6 weeks? Unless there is some extenuating circumstance, I'll likely turn this case away. Lawyer Bob down the road might take this case, but not me. What if it's the exact same broken wrist but it happened at a Big Box store?

I'll take that case and file the claim the next day.

Why the difference? Big Box stores aren't going to shut down their business because of my client's claim.

But what if it's not a broken wrist – what if a child is injured on a playground, or in a soccer game, or a public pool and is brain injured or paralyzed? What is a family to do when they are facing a lifetime of expenses and uncertainty?

I think most families would leave no stone unturned in trying to figure out how to pay for those expenses. That's what I will recommend they do. I will start a claim and fight for every dollar. I will help that family do the best they can for their child, even if it means litigating a complicated and lengthy claim with the insurer for the municipality.

Consent and Sexual Assault Cases

By: Nathan Baker, *Nathan Baker Law*

Consent in the context of sexual assault has featured significantly in the news over the last month. In the recent Superior Court decision of R. v. Rivera, the trial judge found that where a person does not wear a condom in circumstances where consent was based on having protected sex, the failure to wear a condom vitiates consent. This follows logically as a person may put certain conditions on how, when and in what manner they might consent to sexual touching. Where this issue becomes more difficult is in cases where a person is living with a sexually transmitted infection. Does non-disclosure of an STI vitiate consent? Current law would indicate it does. However, groups like the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network are trying to change the law in this regard. They say that the risk or danger in many people with HIV/AIDS may be so low and the stigma so great that non-disclosure should not vitiate consent. In 2012, in the case of R. v. Mabior, the Supreme Court stated that a person with HIV must disclose their status to a sexual partner before any sexual activity that poses a "significant risk of serious bodily harm" and that a "realistic possibility of transmission of HIV" engages such a risk.

In the case of R. v. Cepic last week, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the trial judge's finding of guilt where the analysis of credibility and reliability relied in great part on what a "normal person" would do in similar circumstances. The court reminded itself that "the use of a common-sense approach to credibility assessment is fraught with danger for it can 'mask reliance on stereotypes.'" In that case, a young woman attended a strip club and purchased a lap dance. She later had sex with the stripper. The trial judge indicated that they did not accept that consent was realistic because the complainant "having never had a lap dance before in her life would [not] have reached into [the appellant's] pants and touched his penis." The Court of Appeal said that the reaching "outside the evidence to make credibility findings base on generalizations about sexual behaviour of men and women" should not be done. This is the flip side of one of the Criminal Code s. 276 twin myths. Just because a person has consented to sex in the past does not mean they are more likely to consent to sex in the moment. Similarly, just because they have not consented in the past does not mean that they did not in the case before a court.

In May, the Supreme Court released R. v. Barton which reworded the concept that has been escaping so many in the legal community regarding the myth regarding prior sexual activity being relevant in a trial. Rather than thinking about things as an honest but mistaken belief in consent, it is that there is an honest but mistaken belief in the communication of consent. Prior sexual activity is not relevant as to whether a person is more or less likely to consent in any particular case, but rather it is relevant in determining whether the method in which the accused appreciated consent was communicated was reasonable. If a person engages in sexual activity in a similar manner 100 times, it does not mean they consented in the 101st, but if things proceeded in the exact same way, it may show why the accused was honestly mistaken that consent had been communicated even if actual consent was lacking.

In June, the Supreme Court released R. v. Goldfinch, which further examined a s. 276 case. It highlighted that prior sexual behaviour, namely a "friends with benefits" relationship, was not relevant or admissible. The defence sought to admit the evidence to show that the two parties had been in a relationship and that the manner in which matters proceeded did not seem artificial to a jury. To the contrary, the Court found that this was inviting the exact harm s. 276 was meant to protect against. Whether the two parties had been in a relationship was being introduced only to suggest that the complainant was more likely to consent. It was not a case of honest but mistaken belief of consent but a difference of the actual facts and should have been decided on those facts and not with regard to any prior relationship.

Building an Empire, and Using Paralegals to Get There

By: Teresa Williams, Paralegal, *Racine Law*

Like it or not, paralegals are not going anywhere. The Law Society is focussed on access to justice and are considering expanding the scope of what paralegals can do. In light of this, how do you work together with paralegals and not against them?

I became a paralegal in 1998. Then, because of regulation, I was no longer a paralegal. I was still practicing as one in an exempt class. I then became a paralegal in 2013. After approximately 13 years of practicing mostly administrative law, as a paralegal, in the broader public sector, I was ready for a change and knew that being in a local private practice was where I wanted to be.

I knew that I did not want to be self-employed, and after focussing on the specific areas of law I wanted to practice, Racine Law fit for me. They practiced corporate law, real estate and wills and estates. I joined to offer adjacent services to new and existing clients. For example I can offer to assist with commercial and residential tenancy advice and representation, as well as employment law services – including WSIB and small claims court, defending employment standards claims. It also means providing advice and representation on post-closing real estate matters that would appear before the Small Claims Court, the Environment and Land Tribunals of Ontario and/or the Landlord and Tenant Board.

Having appeared before the Consent and Capacity Board, I can assist people appeal decisions about their capacity, which is an adjacent service to the wills and estates practice. It would be true access to justice if Legal Aid Ontario would provide certificates to paralegals when someone appeals a decision that has been made about his or her capacity. However, this itself is another article for another day.

We are able to work as a team to ensure that we may assist clients with as many legal matters in-house as possible. It often happens that our clients purchase property with commercial or residential tenants. Our clients appreciate that if a legal matter regarding a tenancy arises, they can continue their relationship in the same firm. Similarly, clients often purchase, sell or restructure businesses. Any of these ventures may mean hiring or firing of employees, etc. A paralegal can offer to assist with post-closing issues at a lower rate. As a result, our clients are not forced to enter into a poor settlement agreement due to lack of representation and they are not also forced into a costly retainer at a litigation firm.

Having said that, we do value our relationships with litigators and defer to them. We appreciate that when we refer out to ligation firms, the lawyers have experience and knowledge in the Superior Court of Justice, which we lack. We also appreciate that, if there is an appeal of a decision to the Divisional Court, we can refer a file out to our local colleagues and remain confident that our clients' interests are met.

Having a paralegal associate fills gaps in a firm's practice and allows continued positive client service. It also allows for lawyers to focus more directly on their practices. It may even allow the time for lawyers to specialize with less strain.

Through practicing at Racine Law, I have seen first hand the success a firm can have when incorporating paralegals into its practice. As the profession is here to stay, it is time for the addition of paralegals to law firms. Through the hiring of paralegals, firms can serve more clients with greater ease, allowing a practice to grow. Building an empire has never been so attainable.

Remember Your Lawyer Assistance Program

By: Emma Durand-Wood, for *Slaw.ca*

Research shows that lawyers are at a higher risk of depression, anxiety and substance abuse than average. And according to Ontario lawyer-turned-social worker Doron Gold, "If there's stigma in society generally, the stigma is tenfold in the legal profession."

Today's practice tip is a reminder that every province and territory has a lawyer assistance program that exists to help members of the legal profession and those that care about them. Services and programs vary, but most have confidential helplines, counselling, peer support programs, and many more offerings to benefit lawyers, judges, law students, their immediate families and colleagues.

Ontario: Member Assistance Program (MAP)

The Judges Counselling Program is another Canadian organization that provides support to judges, justices of the peace, masters, prothonotaries, and their spouses and eligible children.

My Favourite Apps

By: Lesha Van Der Bij. For *Slaw.ca*

While smart phones are an increasingly big part of most lawyers' practices, many lawyers only use their phones for email, text and calls. But there's so much more you can do! This is the first post in a series on my favourite apps.

I am continually collecting receipts and Genius Scan is a great app for scanning them on the go. Using the camera on your phone, you can scan a single document or a series of documents. Then crop the scanned image or make other edits, including changing the page order. Finally, save the scanned document(s) as a PDF, and send it via email or print it.

Genius Scan's security is probably not sufficient for scanning client documents. However, if you upgrade to Genius Scan+, there are options to encrypt PDF documents, as well as to create optical character recognition (OCR) or searchable PDFs.

In any event, if you have a use case like mine, where you need to create and edit PDFs of non-sensitive material, you may find Genius Scan to be very helpful.

Travelling Librarian

CALL & AALL

This year I was the lucky recipient of two bursaries from LibraryCo which enabled me to attend both the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) Conference, held in Edmonton, as well as the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Conference, held in Washington, DC.

I would like to express my gratitude to both LibraryCo and the NCLA Board for supporting me through these two professional development opportunities. I am always striving to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas into both the NCLA Library and the Ontario Courthouse Library community, and having these experiences helps increase my knowledge and understanding. For copies of the full conference reports, please email me – otherwise, here are some highlights:

CALL Conference
This was my first time at an OCLA Executive Meeting in my official role on the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large.

(Plenary) How Will Artificial Intelligence Reformulate Legal Information Processing?
This plenary opened with the assurance that AI is not about Robots vs. Humans; it's about how humans who are building models have evolved into building predictive models, that build their own predictive models. The role of AI in the legal system, including the formulation of laws/statutes/etc., is to improve the process for building case law summaries, and legal reasoning patterns to increase accuracy during research. AI in legal research is about producing things that are easy to interpret, in plain language, but also about machine learning, and putting these two concepts together to build smarter analytics. The speaker also touched on Thomson Reuter's Open Source Calais Tagger, which is an example of how AI is being used to build better analytics for legal databases.

Sample of other sessions attended:

- **The Government of Canada buys Trans Mountain from Kinder Morgan**
- **Artificial Intelligence and Implicit Bias**
- **Indigenous Justice Issues Faced by the Provincial Court of Alberta**

AALL Conference
This is the conference that makes me excited about being a law librarian, and helps me to see more clearly the difference and impact (law librarians in general) can have within our jobs and within the legal community.

(Plenary) Shon Hopwood
In 1999 Shon Hopwood stood before a judge and was sentences to 12 years and three months in federal prison for armed robbery. While in prison he worked in the library, checking out books to other inmates, and following a decision handed down by the Supreme Court in June 2000, which could lead to reduced sentences, he began to study the law independently. He wrote his first brief, and ended up filing it in the wrong court. He started spending his time writing habeas petitions for his friends in prison, and later wrote an appeal to the Supreme Court for his friend John Fellers, which ended up being successful. The Supreme Court received 4,000 appeals that year, and they only chose 74 cases to heard, and John Fellers' case was one of them.

After sharing more of this story, Shon went on to share that he believes "we need to get out of the business of thinking people aren't deserving of second chances", stating that the longer someone remains in corrections the more likely it Is that they would reoffend when out because there are so few options for individuals who have served time in prison. He finished his talk by stating that "the law library gave me freedom".

Sample of other sessions attended:

- **The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program**
- **Engaging Public Librarians in the Access to Justice Movement**
- **When Law Librarians Hear #MeToo**

Upcoming CPDs

Six-Minute Criminal Lawyer Professionalism: 30m Substantive: 3h 30m	Criminal law decisions are released almost daily by the courts, plus there are frequent legislative changes. How can you keep on top of it all? Drawn from the bench and defence and Crown counsel bars, our presenters impart valuable perspectives and—taken together—cover a lot of ground, keeping you abreast of the year's most important developments.	**10 September** (Half Day)
Criminal Law Refresher 2019 Professionalism: 1h 30m Substantive: 2h 30m	An effective criminal law practitioner needs a solid grasp of the fundamentals. Hear the latest on the initial client interview, disclosure, the pre-trial and trial process, and more. You also receive useful tips on etiquette and ethical dilemmas as well as how to manage, promote, and build your practice.	**10 September** (Half Day)
16th Annual Real Estate Law Summit Professionalism: 1h 40m Substantive: 10h EDI Professionalism: 20m	Over two days, our presenters unpack the details on the most vital issues to real estate lawyers. You also learn what lapses real estate lawyers are being disciplined for, receive an HST "road map", gain an understanding about vehicles for income-producing properties, and more.	**16 & 17 October** (Two Day)
Practice Gems: Working with the New Construction Act Professionalism: 30m Substantive: 2h 30m	The Construction Act is undergoing its most significant reform since 1983. What do we know so far? Some changes took effect in December 2017 and July 2018, and lawyers and their clients have had time to digest and adapt. Our presenters explain the lessons learned from that process, including transitional provisions. Next, they go over prompt payment and interim adjudication regimes, which take effect October 1, 2019.	**7 November** (Half Day)
Intensive Child Protection Training Primer Professionalism: 2h 10m Substantive: 10h 25m EDI Professionalism: 1h 25m	A child protection case needs to be handled delicately. Our presenters teach you the strategic and advocacy skills for each stage of the case. They reinforce your understanding with numerous practical demonstrations, including conduct of temporary care and custody hearings, summary judgment motions, conferences, opening and closing statements, voir dires, and examinations of witnesses. Finally, you receive an array of relevant materials, including topical case law, precedents, and social science literature. You leave with the confidence that comes from an intense focus on the fundamentals of this area of family law.	**TBD November** (Two Day)

To register, or request content, please contact the librarian!

The NCLA has been growing rapidly – and so have the needs of our members. Please take a moment to complete this survey: https://bit.ly/2YkPA0l to help us serve you better.

Call for Committee Members

The following committees are seeking members:

- Social/events committee
- CPD committee
- Bylaw review committee
- Bench and bar committee
- New/young lawyers committee
- Paralegal committee

FOLA Update

By: Katie Robinette, *Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Law Association*

Hello Northumberland Law Association Members,

I hope you are all enjoying your summers and that you are able to take some time to enjoy the warmer weather – I'm sure enjoying the sunny days from the heart of downtown Toronto.

That said, the team at FOLA is hardly calling these summer days the "dog days of summer" (as some people like to refer to them as). With the Ontario government, the new team at the Law Society, and the many faces beginning to fire up their election teams ahead of the federal election, there's plenty to report on so here goes.

Let's start with the Provincial government. Lindsay Park, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General, has been traveling around the province to meet with stakeholders to discuss family and civil legislation, regulations, and processes. While those consultations have officially ended, the Attorney General was also seeking submissions from interested parties. We are pleased to report that, as part of the consultation process, Ms. Park reached out to FOLA to ensure that all our members whose jurisdictions she visited were invited to these meetings.

You can read more about the consultation process, and access FOLA's submission here. While we don't yet know what action the ministry will take, they do score one point for proactively reaching out to small and sole practicing lawyers.

Still, that does not quite make up for the fact that there was absolutely no consultation (with FOLA or with anyone else!) about the drastic and immediate cuts to legal aid. FOLA is hearing from association members about the disruption and uncertainty in communities throughout Ontario and we are working closely with staff at Legal Aid Ontario and the team at the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA) not only on how best to cope with the cuts, but how to help keep you informed and how we can influence the LAO and the Attorney General to rethink these cuts. We are also working to keep the issue of federal funding for legal aid (in particular, legal aid for refugee files) on the radar of all candidates running for office during this upcoming Fall election. If you'd like to stay informed of FOLA's action related to Legal Aid, please do bookmark our Legal Aid section on our website.

As well, our friends up in the Rainy River District have been without adequate judicial and prosecutorial staffing for an inexcusable length of time. Their only courthouse, in Fort Frances, has been the seat of a stand-alone judicial district since 1909. Despite this, they are the only court in the province without a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice. We are working with them to address this with both Minister Rickford, MPP and Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs and the new Attorney General, Hon. Doug Downey. And while their specific issue related to the judicial appointment may be unique to them, we have been hearing concerns around courthouse staffing issues from almost each and every law association across the province (ie: inadequate training and staffing shortages). We hear you and we continue to work on advancing these concerns.

On the Law Society front, FOLA's executive has been busy reaching out to, and meeting with, both new and re-elected Benchers to help ensure FOLA continues to enjoy a strong and positive relationship with the Law Society.

A strong relationship with the LSO is especially critical as we work to finalize our shareholders agreement governing the new LIRN (the Courthouse Libraries), which, as of this writing, should be presented to your President at FOLA's November Plenary for approval. If approved there, it will then go to Convocation in November for passage by the Benchers. While no updates are likely to be posted until closer to Plenary, you can always check on our Libraries section on our website for information as soon as that becomes available.

Now, speaking of the federal election, we have a new section on our website that we hope will help you both stay informed and, if you're interested, get involved! As a lawyer, you can play a critical role in helping at your local level – from serving as the campaign legal counsel, to volunteering as the justice policy advisor, to donating your time and legal credentials on election day, or helping as a general volunteer going door-to-door, all you have to do is pick a party and call up the team and offer to help! Easy! And our Federal Election page offers tips on how to do that. Plus – we also have a link to the amazingly insightful 338Canada.com website – chalk filled with stats and predictions. Keeping your eye on

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this just may make you the most accurate prognosticator of the election outcome in your social circle!

Finally – for this newsletter contribution anyway – we have started planning for our November Plenary. This time, the theme will be "igniting your membership" and the plenary will include a few workshops. And because we're still in the early stages, we are more than welcoming ideas. If there are any specific challenges you are facing in Northumberland (encouraging new lawyers to join, membership renewal, member engagement, community outreach, you name it, ideas for lower cost tools and resources), please do send me an email at katie.robinette@fola.ca.

While this concludes my Northumberland newsletter entry, there's always more. So please do visit us at www.fola.ca and sign up for our newsletter to ensure you are always up to date! Enjoy the rest of the summer!

From the President

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our summer party on June 13th. While the weather did not cooperate, it sounds like the golfers and spa-ers made the best of it and dinner provided a wonderful opportunity for members to re-connect and meet new people. It was interesting to hear what members would do if they were not lawyers and a great reminder that we are all people with lives outside of our files and day-to-day work. Keep your eyes out for details regarding an end-of-summer member's meet-in-greet.

As we head into fall I encourage everyone to ensure they have a plan in place to complete their CPD hours and have filled out the information in their LSO portal. While Ciara does an amazing job coordinating CPDs at the library and updating us on other CPD happenings, we cannot rely on her to ensure we each stay onside our CPD requirements or provide individualized CPD opportunities. Still need some hours? Take a look at the upcoming CPDs in this newsletter which includes something for everyone. Even if you have completed your hours you may find it worthwhile to attend one or more CPD to socialize with other members and gain more knowledge in one or more of the ever-changing areas of law covered. Not satisfied with the offerings? Consider joining the CPD committee.

Membership has been consistently increasing in the past few years with membership going from 48 members in 2015 to 85 members in 2019. As our association grows and the interests and needs of our members increases, we encourage everyone to become more involved by attending CPDs and events, joining committees, and providing input throughout the year. I wish you all a wonderful remainder of summer and a smooth transition into Fall!

Meaghan Adams
NCLA President