



Federation of
Ontario Law
Associations



FALL 2022 POST PLENARY REPORT

NIAGARA FALLS

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FALL 2022 PLENARY REPORT

FOLA's Fall 2022 began with FOLA Chair, Douglas Judson, reminding us that we all practice on lands that have been, and continue to be, cared for by Indigenous peoples. This Conference was held on Treaty Land that has a rich history of First Nations such as the Hattiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. He then did our Roll Call followed by a few additional remarks. You can watch Douglas's remarks [here](#).

We were then welcomed by Welland County Law Association President, Ashely Gibson for some brief (and rather humorous) introductory remarks. You can watch Ashely's video [here](#).

Next up was FOLA's Executive Director, Katie Robinette, who provided an update of FOLA's work over the past six months and a look at some upcoming events (including our 2023 Lobby Day). Her presentation can be found on our [Plenary page](#). It should be noted that her Report includes hyperlinks to all FOLA Submissions since our May Plenary as well as highlighting all [Member Rewards](#) which are available to all Law Association members and library staff! Katie's video clip can be found [here](#).

Next up were our Committee Chairs (Mark Giavedoni, FOLA's Real Estate Chair, Laura Oliver and Logan Rathbone, FOLA's Family Law CoChairs, and Terry Brandon, FOLA's Legal Aid Chair) who provided recent and current areas of focus. Terry's Legal Aid Report can be found on our [Plenary Page](#) and you can watch a clip of their Reports [here](#).

Taking us into our morning break was FOLA's Treasurer Jane Robertson, with an update and review of FOLA's 2022 Financial Statements.

Following our break, we heard from Diana Miles, CEO of the Law Society of Ontario, who updated us on the LSO's activities, including a detailed overview of the recently passed 2023 Budget, the 2023 Benchers Elections, and operational updates. She also offered highlights of some of the many resources the LSO provides lawyers and offered some background on the current Mandatory Succession Planning Proposal. You can access her report on our [Plenary Page](#) and view her presentation [here](#).

Then it was a session with Ontario's Attorney General, Hon. Doug Downey, MPP. Keeping his remarks brief to allow for a fruitful Q&A session, Minister Downey fielded questions about legal aid, family law, courthouse infrastructure, and other topics before we broke for lunch. You can watch the video of the Attorney General [here](#).

Our first afternoon session was our "Road Ahead" session with Douglas Judson, FOLA's Chair, Sam Misheal, FOLA's 1st Vice Chair, and Allen Wynperle, FOLA's 2nd Vice Chair, who provided an overview of our Strategic Plan. As noted, FOLA is committed to the following four objectives: 1) Improve Communications; 2) Influence Decision-Makers; 3) Sustain and Support Law Associations; and 4) Provide Practice Resources. They also discussed FOLA's plans to increase engagement and help Law Association members make informed decisions about voting in the 2023 Benchers Elections and discussed the role of paralegals in law libraries. Of note, FOLA has prepared some questions we plan on asking candidates in the upcoming elections. You can review those questions [here](#). If you have any questions about these, please let Katie know at katie.robinette@fola.ca. The presentation and Strategic Plan are on our [Plenary Page](#) and the video of this panel can be found [here](#).

Next up was a three-part session on LiRN and law libraries. The first part featured LiRN's Managing Director, Theresa Leitch, and FOLA's Practice Resource Centres' Committee Chair, Allen Wynperle. In addition to discussing some of the new resources LiRN offers, we heard updates on LiRN's three new policies that are in

development: Core Services and Management Responsibilities Policy; Additional Services and Responsibilities Policy; and Network Library Staff Employment Guidelines. Following a Q&A session, we then heard from Theresa Leitch, Ashley Gibson, President, Welland County Law Association, and Mary-Jo Petsche, Executive Director, Welland County Law Association who offered an overview of LiRN's accounting procedures and how Law Association Board members and library staff should work together to ensure that funds are being allocated appropriately and can be fully accounted for by both staff and Board members. Wrapping up this marathon session was Vicki Whitmell, a former librarian at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, who covered staffing and recruiting best practices. All of our LiRN/library presentations can be found on our [Plenary Page](#). Our video of this three-part session can be found [here](#).

Following our afternoon break, we had a rapid-fire sponsor panel ([video here](#)) followed by a briefing by LawPRO CEO Dan Pinnington. Dan's presentation included information on claims' trends; 2023 insurance program changes; and new resources. You can access Dan's presentation on our Plenary Page and view his video [here](#). It has been accredited for 30 minutes of Professional Content by the LSO.

Closing out our Thursday program was the announcement of the 2022 FOLA Award Winners! Jennie Clarke, Librarian at the Durham Region Law Library prepared a short video highlighting why she nominated Doug Turner, winner of our 2022 Distinguished Service Award; Jillian Burford-Grinnell, President of the Lennox & Addington Law Association, also did a video highlighting why she nominated E. Barbara Burford, winner of our 2022 President's Award, and Virginia Schenk created a video articulating why she nominated Barb Alcock Librarian, Huron Law Association, winner of our 2022 Luminary Award. You can view all our Award Winner videos [here](#).

We kicked off our Friday sessions bright and early with Regional Breakfasts. These breakfasts are a favourite among our members but this year it was even more appreciated to have time to discuss regional issues face-to-face following two years of virtual meetings.

Following breakfast, we had an interactive session with Juliet Knapton on equity & inclusion. Titled "IDEA(s) in Practice: Tools to enhance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Law Firms", Juliet Knapton walked us through why having diverse teams is a value add, how and when to take action, had members explore their own biases and stereotypical beliefs, and how to be aware of subtle acts of exclusion. You can access her presentation [here](#) and watch her video [here](#). Note that this session is accredited by the LSO for 1 hour and 30 minutes of EDI.

As this was Remembrance Day, we then had a moment of silence to remember and give thanks to all Canadians who have or continue to serve in our military before starting our breakout sessions.

Each member was asked ahead of time to chose two of three sessions to attend: "ONCA's Here. Now What?" with Benjamin Miller, Staff Lawyer, Nonprofit Law Ontario, Community Legal Education Ontario & Ontario Non-Profit Network. Benjamin Miller covered Ontario's Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) and walked members through what's new in the ONCA, steps nonprofits need to take to transition to the ONCA, and how CLEO's free resources can help create ONCA compliant bylaws from scratch or adapt existing bylaws; "Non-Dues Revenue Generation " with Marc Clare and Tracy Geoffroy, from the Association of Fundraising Professionals" and Membership Retention & Recruitment with Nicole Sproule from Clio. Of the three, only the ONCA presentation was recorded and you can access that video [here](#). It is accredited by the LSO for 30 minutes of Professional Content. We also have a recap of the ideas for non-revenue generation [here](#). PowerPoint Presentations for all three sessions can be found on our [Plenary Page](#).

And with that, FOLA's Chair, Douglas Judson, thanked everyone for attending organized a group photo, and concluded the event. Photo gallery is [here](#). And our complete Fall 2022 Plenary Playlist is [here](#).

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