

FOLA SPRING 2020 POST PLENARY REPORT

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MAY 2020 POST PLENARY REPORT

FOLA's Spring 2020 Plenary had been scheduled to be held in Niagara Falls from May 13-15th. With a planned over-arching theme of Diversity in the Legal Profession and some amazing speakers and panelists confirmed, FOLA's Board was working away to create another great conference for members. However, due to the Coronavirus, we had to cancel our plans and on May 14th, FOLA hosted a short, business-only Plenary where Presidents or a delegate and a limited number of members and association and library staff met via Zoom to approve the annual financials, elect four new Regional Reps, and see William Woodward become our new Chair, taking over from Mike Winward.

As part of the Board turnover, three Board members stepped down and, while we are big fans of Zoom, convening through video was not an ideal way to express our gratitude for all their hard work! Those who served their last day on May 14th were Jaye Hooper (who completed her term as Past Chair), Rene Larson (Northwest), and Brigid Wilkinson (Northeast). Nathan Baker, who served as Central East Chair will continue as FOLA's LIRN Chair and John Krawchenko, who served as 2nd VC and Central South Regional Representative, moved up to 1st VC and stepped down as Central South Regional Rep. Taking their places are Douglas Judson (Northwest Region), Gordon Prisco (Northeast Region), Corey Wall (Central East), and Allen Wynperle (Central South). We also welcomed William Woodward as FOLA's new Chair and you can listen to his comments [here](#) (01:16:18 - 01:22:17). You can view all our Board Members [here](#).

LIRN highlights:

In addition to the elections, the Chair's report, the Executive Director's presentation (which you can view [here](#)), and our Treasurer's Report, registrants heard from Johanne Blenkin, LIRN Board Chair, and Neil Guthrie, LIRN Vice- Chair. Following self-introductions, Johanne and Neil provided a brief overview of the Board's plans - both immediate and long term.

- In the short term, the Board asked one of its directors, Rosalie Fox, former librarian with the Supreme Court of Canada, to assist with library staff/LIRN communications.
- To support law libraries during the pandemic, a number of law association librarians secured short term digital services to support libraries (from LexisNexis and Thomson Reuters). Nathan Baker, FOLA's library committee chair, and Rosalie Fox assisted.
- LIRN will be hiring a librarian for a 6-12 month contract starting in late June to work on updating the inventory of resources that was done a few years ago, start work on a new website and to act as a liaison with the county and local bar associations while the search for a permanent Managing Director continues.
- Once the interim person is in place, LIRN is planning on hosting a meeting with the FOLA Library Committee in June to answer pandemic related questions and to begin discussing needs and concerns. LIRN will also be reaching out to all shareholders and stakeholders as appropriate.
- LIRN's Board is continuing to establish governance policies and procedures.

You can watch the LIRN Presentation [here](#) (jump to the 00:44:58 - 00:58:12 mark).

e-Hearings Task Force highlights:

Participants also heard a brief update from Kristin Muszynski on the e-Hearings Task Force.

- The e-Hearings Task Force is represented by a member of FOLA, the OBA, the Advocates' Society, and other legal organizations.
- The Task Force was initially responsible for reviewing E-filing options that would work in our Court system.
- Recommendations for e-Filing have been submitted to the Courts and MAG.
- The Task Force has developed a "Best Practices for Remote Hearings" document, complete with checklists. You can access that [here](#).
- Members of the e-Hearings Task Force are also serving on a number of other Task Forces (Civil, Family, Criminal, and Small Claims) to assist with implementation and rollout.

You can view the Task Force Report [here](#) (jump to 00:58:50 - 01:04:42).

If you would like to watch the entire Plenary - you can do that [here](#). And remember to mark your calendars for our Fall 2020 Plenary (location TBD) which will take place from November 11-13, 2020.