



MINUTES

Benchers

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026

Time: 1:05 pm

Location: Law Society Offices and via Videoconference

Present:

Ken Mandzuik, KC, President	Timothy Kurbis
Sharyne Hamm, Vice-President	Mathieu Lafrenière
Kyle Dear, Past President	Rhea Majewski
Patrick Fortier, Officer-at-Large	Maria Mitousis
Kassy Baker	Carmen Nedohin
Kathrine Basarab	Kirsten Nynych
Gordon Daman	Ayodeji Olunlade
Robert Fleischaker	Ian Scarth
Jason Gisser	Trent Sholdice
Simon Jack	Leah Unruh
Teresa Jaenen	Joshua Weinstein
Tehani Jainarine	Deanna Wilson
Dr. Richard Jochelson	

Guests:

Louis-Martin Beaumont	Sameer Smith
Jonathan Herman	Lynda Troup
Jayden Kyryluk	Gerri Wiebe, KC
Tesia Romaniw	Erin Wilcott

Staff:

Leah Kosokowsky	Jamie Jurczak
Alissa Schacter	Kelly Kintop
Sandra Alleyne	Sharon Kravetsky
William Barnstead	Deirdre O'Reilly
Noelia Bernardo	Sean Rivera

Pat Bourbonnais
Tana Christianson
Eileen Derksen
Linda Fontaine
Joan Holmstrom

Leah Shore
Chloe Tessier
Amy Tung
Betta Wishart

1.0 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND TREATY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Mandzuik, President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Benchers, guests and staff were welcomed to the meeting, including newly appointed benchers Robert Fleischaker and Ayodeji Olunlade. Louis-Martin Beaumont and Jonathan Herman, President and Chief Executive Officer, respectively, of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada were also welcomed to the meeting. Treaty lands 1 through 5 were acknowledged with gratitude.

2.0 BENCHER OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Mandzuik administered the Bencher Oath of Office to all benchers in attendance.

3.0 IN MEMORIAM

Benchers observed a moment of silence for Richard Lewis Cassidy, Robert Douglas Tonn, Michael John Watson, KC, Alvin Murray Zivot, KC and Sidney Green, KC.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of May 14, 2026 Meeting

Benchers considered the minutes of the May 14, 2026 bencher meeting.

4.2 Minutes of May 28, 2026 Special Meeting

Benchers considered the minutes of the May 28, 2026 special benchers meeting.

Motion: That the consent agenda items be approved as presented.

MOVED: Mr. Scarth
Seconded: Ms Wilson
Carried unanimously.

5.0 PRESENTATION TO STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS

5.1 Presentation to Students with the Four Highest Standings in Third Year Law

Congratulations were extended to the following University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law students for having attained the four highest standings in third year law:

Margaret Hypatia Crawford Award for the highest standing in third year law	Jayden Kyryluk
Second highest standing in third year law	Vanessa Smith
Third highest standing in third year law	Tesia Romaniw
Fourth highest standing in third year law	Sameer Smith

Benchers were advised that each award recipient had received the prize money associated with their award.

Mr. Kyryluk, Ms Romaniw and Mr. Smith were excused from the meeting at 1:15 pm.

6.0 GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Beaumont thanked benchers for providing him with the opportunity to meet with them in his role as President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Benchers were advised that as the Federation approaches its 100th anniversary, it has undertaken a comprehensive

governance review to ensure that its structure and operations will continue to meet the needs of its member organizations. Benchers were advised that, at the Federation's fall conference, delegates will receive the consultants' recommendations arising from the governance review and will consider several key issues facing law societies, including resources needed to respond to the growing volume of complaints, threats to the rule of law, and use of artificial intelligence.

Mr. Herman, Chief Executive Officer of the FLSC, noted the importance of recent decisions made by benchers concerning the Ours to Protect campaign and anti-money laundering legislation which have both garnered significant international attention and interest. He also advised that decisions made by benchers have also contributed to the National Committee on Accreditation adopting new assessment practices which will help ensure that internationally trained lawyers possess the qualifications and competencies required to safely practise law in Canada. Mr. Herman also provided an update on the development of CanLII's AI research tool, CanLII Search+, as well as an update on the Federation's constitutional challenge to recent amendments to the *Income Tax Act* which would require lawyers to disclose to the Canada Revenue Agency certain client information protected by solicitor and client privilege.

7.0 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

7.1 President's Report

Benchers received for information Mr. Mandzuik's report dated June 8, 2026. Benchers were reminded that the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is accepting monetary donations for the construction of a permanent location to house the Centre on the campus of the University of Manitoba.

7.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Benchers received for information Ms Kosokowsky's report dated June 9, 2026. Benchers were advised that on June 15, 2026 the Ours to Protect Campaign Steering Committee had met with Navigator to receive a research report on the recent survey of 1,500 Canadian youth between the ages of 12 and 20 regarding their knowledge and interest in the rule of law. On June 23, 2026 Navigator will host a virtual summit on the rule of law, at which time the research report will be shared and information collected from summit participants about their approaches, experiences and challenges to educating youth. Following the conclusion

of the summit, Navigator anticipates it will be in a position to finalize its proposal for educating Canada's youth on the rule of law.

Benchers requested an update on the status of discussions with representatives of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on the Law Society's proposed contribution to its capital campaign. Benchers were advised that while the NCTR would welcome a donation earmarked for education purposes, its first priority is to secure the remaining capital needed to begin construction of the building which will include dedicated spaces to deliver in-person and virtual education activities. If funding is earmarked specifically for educational programming, benchers should expect that program content would be curated in a manner that would allow it to be used to educate a broad audience rather than targeted specifically to the legal profession. It was confirmed that a contribution could be made in the form of a lump sum payment or spread out over a period of years.

Benchers directed that the executive further explore with the NCTR how the Society might make a donation specifically earmarked for educational purposes and preferably as a contribution towards programming. Benchers also requested that the executive confirm with the Manitoba Law Foundation that it would be appropriate for the Society to use a portion of the statutory grant monies received from the Foundation for both the construction of education spaces and educational programming.

7.3 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Activities Update – June 2026

Benchers received for information the Strategic Plan Activities Update dated June 11, 2026. Ms Schacter advised that it is anticipated that in the fall the President's Special Committee on Access to Justice will be asked to review the Society's Regulatory Sandbox Pilot Program and provide recommendations regarding the future of this initiative. Benchers were reminded that the program, which was approved by benchers in 2022 as a five-year pilot, was created to improve public access to legal advice and assistance by allowing individuals, businesses and organizations who are not lawyers to provide certain services in areas of the law where there are unmet legal needs.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8.1 Insurance Levy 2026-2027

Bencherers received for information a memorandum prepared by Ms Kosokowsky and Ms Christianson, dated June 9, 2026, which reported on the setting of the insurance levy for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 at \$1,800 per practising member.

8.2 FLSC Council Report – June 2026

Bencherers received for information Ms Troup's report, dated June 9, 2026, which provided a detailed report on the Federation Council meeting which was held in Ottawa on June 8, 2026.

9.0 MONITORING REPORTS

9.1 Health and Well-Being

Bencherers considered a monitoring report, dated June 10, 2026, which reported on operations and initiatives delivered by the Law Society to support the health and well-being of its members. Bencherers were advised that the staff will be reaching out to Blue Cross regarding the noted two-year decline in utilization of services to explore whether any underlying trends can be identified which could be addressed by the Society.

10.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Indigenous Advisory Committee

Ms Wishart provided an oral report on the meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee held on June 4, 2026. At this meeting the committee (i) considered and made recommendations at the request of the Practice and Ethics Committee regarding proposed amendments to the Federation Model Code of Professional Conduct relating to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #27; (ii) discussed the drafting of an article to be published in the August issue of *Communiqué* which will report on the positive feedback received from members on their participation in The Path; (iii) considered how it will fill

future vacancies on the committee as several committee members near their five-year term limit; and (iv) discussed the acknowledgement received from the family of the late Honourable Murray Sinclair regarding the Society's request for permission to establish a memorial award in his honor.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Bencher were reminded that their next meeting is scheduled to take place on September 10, 2026 in Clear Lake. The day will include a morning session on governance and bencher orientation, followed by the regular bencher meeting in the afternoon.

Bencher took a break at 2:35 pm. With the exception of Ms Troup, all guests were excused from the balance of the meeting at this time. Mr. Mandzuik reconvened the meeting at 2:45 pm.

12.0 IN CAMERA

Motion: That the meeting proceed *in camera*.

MOVED: Mr. Scarth
Seconded: Mr. Gisser
Carried unanimously.

Bencher discussed one matter with staff and Ms Troup present. At the conclusion of that discussion, all staff and Ms Troup were excused from the meeting. Ms Wiebe then joined the meeting to discuss a second matter *in camera*.

Motion: That the meeting proceed out of camera.

MOVED: Mr. Lafrenière
Seconded: Mr. Fortier
Carried unanimously.

13.0 FOR INFORMATION

Benchers considered the materials provided for information.

There being no further business, Mr. Mandzuik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm.

MOVED: Ms Basarab