

JUNE 2025



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT KYLE DEAR

What's New

2025 Mass Call to the Bar

2025 Richard J. Scott Award Recipient

ROBSON HALL Cards of Encouragement I am brand new to the role of President of the Law Society of Manitoba, serving less than a month at the time of the publication of this issue of Communiqué. As many of you know, I have taken office a year early. Merci et félicitations, Monsieur le juge Monnin.

While I cannot predict what will happen during my term, I can only say that I hope my presidency is a bit less eventful than Gerri Wiebe's turned out to be!

We are living in unprecedented times, and I anticipate that we, as a profession, and the Law Society, as the independent regulator of our profession in Manitoba, will be dealing with some significant issues this coming year.

The Law Society's role is to protect the public by regulating the delivery of legal services by a competent, ethical, and independent legal profession, and by advancing access to justice. The independence of the legal profession, and the independence of the judiciary, are fundamental to the rule of law and to democracy. As a profession, we may tend to take this for granted, or perhaps do not give it much thought, but it is essential. The protection of the public requires the protection of the independence of our courts and lawyers.

We, as Manitobans, are very fortunate that the CEO and staff of the Law Society are more than alive to these issues; they are proactive in bringing new concerns to the benchers, are passionate about their work, and are innovative and resourceful in developing plans to implement the strategic goals of the benchers. I am grateful that the Law Society has such experienced, skilled, and dedicated staff.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT contined...

I am also thankful that I can draw upon the strength, wisdom, knowledge, and political savvy of the Law Society's executive. I look forward to working with Gerri Wiebe, K.C. (Past President), Carmen Nedohin, who is beginning the second year of her term as Officer-At-Large, our Vice-President, Ken Mandzuik, K.C., our CEO, Leah Kosokowsky, and our Deputy CEO, Rennie Stonyk. A special thank you in advance to our former Past President, Wayne Onchulenko, who has agreed to provide us with some ongoing assistance, and to the very capable elected, lay and appointed benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba.

I am sure that Leah's CEO Report will have some updates on future initiatives of the Law Society. I will leave that to her, and will conclude by encouraging you to consider these three invitations:

1 If you are at all curious about what the benchers do and if you want to learn more about the work of the Law Society, consider attending a bencher meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Law Society and Bencher Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at the Law Society offices and via videoconference. Please contact Pat Bourbonnais at <u>pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> to receive the videoconference information. We would love to see you there.

2 If you are able, join us at the Call to the Bar Ceremony on June 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., to help welcome Manitoba's new lawyers to this centuries old and honourable profession. It is truly a special day. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Lisa Ehnes by e-mail at <u>lehnes@lawsociety.mb.ca</u>.

When possible, demonstrate the principle of charity in your communications with others. Give others the benefit of the doubt and try to assume that their intentions are good. This job (and the world we live in) can make us cynical. We cannot know what anyone else is going through. A little more kindness and understanding would be good for all of us.

My thoughts are with the people in the Manitoba communities who are experiencing the serious and devastating impact of the wildfires. I hope you receive the support and resources that you need, and that you and your loved ones are safe.







CEO'S REPORT LEAH KOSOKOWSKY

... a Private Member's Bill had been introduced in the legislature to remove trade barriers between provinces. The benchers last met on May 15, 2025 at which time our new executive officers assumed their offices and the benchers bid farewell to Wayne Onchulenko, to whom we owe a significant debt of gratitude. Wayne began volunteering with the Law Society in 1999 and, since that time, he sat on or has chaired nearly every Law Society committee. For the past nine years, Wayne did so in his capacity as a bencher and for the last several years, Wayne sat on the Law Society Executive, with his final year as Past President. His big shoes will be tough to fill.

Wayne's last official act was to present the Nominating Committee's report, in which the committee recommended the composition and chairs of the committees for the 2025-2026 year. The benchers accepted the report without any changes.

Over the preceding months, the Practice and Ethics Committee and the Indigenous Advisory Committee reviewed a consultation report and proposed changes to the Federation of Law Societies' *Model Code of Professional Conduct* that respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 27. The benchers adopted the recommendations of these committees to provide feedback to the Federation of Law Societies that prioritized the need for ongoing and meaningful education for the legal profession over incorporating rules into the Code of Conduct. The intention of the Federation is to consider all of the feedback received from Canada's law societies and to circulate a second proposal for further consideration and feedback.



CEO REPORT contined...

A monitoring report on the work of the Continuing Professional Development Department was received by the benchers. The benchers have recommended that, over the course of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, the Admissions and Education Committee review the current mandatory continuing professional development regime and return to the benchers with any recommendations for change.

Over the weeks preceding the bencher meeting, a Private Member's Bill had been introduced in the legislature to remove trade barriers between provinces. The Bill did not exempt any professions or occupations that had already removed the barriers to mobility within Canada. Accordingly, the Law Society communicated with the Government and the Official Opposition to alert them to the existence of the National Mobility Agreement for Canadian lawyers and to underscore the need to preserve an independent legal profession and, by extension, an independent regulator of the practice of law in Manitoba. On the day of the bencher meeting, the Private Members Bill was defeated and since that time, the Government has introduced legislation that removes trade barriers and which does not apply to the legal profession.

The benchers approved of a proposal to develop an education campaign for the general public regarding the impact of the erosion of the rule of law on the lives of everyday Canadians. We have invited the thirteen other Canadian law societies to join in the campaign to which the responses have been very promising to date.



Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on **Thursday**, **June 26, 2025** at **12:30 p.m**. at the Law Society offices and via videoconference.

All members are invited to attend.

Please contact Pat Bourbonnais at <u>pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> to receive the videoconference information.



Richard J. Scott Award Recipient Karen Busby

Congratulations to Karen Busby who was selected to receive the Richard J. Scott Award for 2025. The award was created in 2013 in honour of Richard J. Scott, former Chief Justice of Manitoba and is awarded annually to an individual who advances the rule of law and contributes to a strong and independent legal profession through advocacy, litigation, teaching, research, writing or mentoring.



Ms Busby is a recent retiree of the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law following 35 years of excellence in teaching and research in the areas of Violence Against Women, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Queer Issues, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Right to Water.

In addition to imparting her vast knowledge to generations of law students, Ms Busby dedicated her career to advocating for human rights and equality in Canada and her works have been cited with approval by Canadian courts at all levels.

Another enduring contribution to the legal community was Ms Busby's work as the editor of the Manitoba Queen's Bench Rules Annotated from 1992 to 2020, the preeminent resource for Manitoba's civil litigators for all civil procedure issues.

The award will be presented to Ms. Busby on Thursday, June 26th at the President's Reception.

More information about the award and past recipients can be found here:

Richard J. Scott Award



Manitoba Law Foundation Grant Funds of \$4.5 million to UM Law to support three new bursaries

Manitobans looking to pursue careers in law at UM will now be able to access a new range of bursaries made possible by grant funds of \$4.5 million from the Manitoba Law Foundation.

Beginning in Autumn 2025, students from diverse backgrounds will have unprecedented access to bursaries that are designed to reduce – and some instances, may eliminate – the financial barriers to accessing legal education.

These bursaries aim to provide students from a variety of backgrounds with critical support to enable them to focus on their studies and their future careers in the legal profession.

"The grant made to the Faculty of Law was intended to support bursaries to reflect the Foundation's deep and ongoing commitment to reconciliation and equity and fostering a legal profession that is representative of the vibrant and diverse communities it serves," said Erin Wilcott, Executive Director of the Manitoba Law Foundation. "They are rooted in our strategic vision of increasing access to justice in the province - particularly in Northern, remote, and rural regions of Manitoba - where legal services remain difficult to access."

Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law at UM, said the bursaries will go a long way to creating more opportunities for students who may be at a disadvantage due to work obligations and other competing priorities. "The Faculty of Law is deeply honoured to receive this transformative grant from the Manitoba Law Foundation, supporting the creation and continuation of three vital bursaries" said Jochelson. "These funds help us work towards removing barriers that have historically made it more difficult for individuals from underrepresented communities to pursue legal education and careers. This is such an amazing opportunity for students, the law school and this province."

Over time, these bursaries will help to build a legal profession that is representative of the diversity of Manitoba. All Manitobans, whether they reside in The Pas, Neepawa or Winnipeg, or anywhere else in Manitoba, will have meaningful access to legal services and justice.

Bursary Details

The Manitoba Law Foundation Truth & Reconciliation Bursary

As part of the Foundation's efforts to advance Reconciliation, as well as Access to Justice in a manner that reflects and includes the values and legal orders of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, this bursary is meant to enhance access to legal education and support the membership and participation of individuals from these communities in Manitoba's practicing bar.

The Manitoba Law Foundation Equity & Transformation Bursary

The Foundation believes the practicing bar should reflect the society it serves. This bursary is intended to increase access to legal education, as well as membership and participation in Manitoba's practicing bar, of Black/racialized individuals or other underrepresented and marginalized groups.

The Manitoba Law Foundation Northern, Remote & Rural Access to Justice Bursary

The majority of Manitoba's practising bar resides in Winnipeg. With fewer and fewer new lawyers choosing to practice in Northern, remote, and rural Manitoba, this bursary seeks to enhance access to legal education and support membership and participation in Manitoba's practicing bar for individuals committed to advancing access to justice in Northern, remote, and rural Manitoba.

Up to Full Tuition

Eligible students can apply for a bursary to cover up to full tuition costs in any year of study and could benefit from the bursary for up to three years, as long as they achieve and maintain a satisfactory academic average and can demonstrate continued financial need.

Students enrolled at UM Law can complete a preliminary eligibility form for these bursaries, by visiting

https://law.robsonhall.com/bursaryapplication/?

or by scanning the below QR Code.



Prospective students can contact admissions at <u>lawadmissions@umanitoba.ca</u> for more information.

About The Manitoba Law Foundation

The Manitoba Law Foundation is an independent non-profit foundation established in 1986 under *The Law Society Act* and continues today under *The Legal Profession Act* enacted in 2002.

The Foundation receives the interest earned on funds held in lawyer's pooled trust accounts maintained in the banks and credit unions of the province. Under the Act, lawyers are required to direct their financial institutions to pay this interest to the Foundation.

The Foundation's legislative mandate is to distribute these funds through grantmaking to promote and encourage these five objects:

- Legal Education
- Legal Research
- Law Reform
- Legal Aid Services; and
- The Development and Maintenance of Law Libraries

The Foundation also makes annual statutory grants to Legal Aid Manitoba and the Law Society of Manitoba.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit <u>www.ManitobaLawFoundation.org</u> or scan the below QR Code.







June 2, 2025, marks the 10th anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, including Calls 27 and 28, which urged the legal profession to undertake cultural competency training and support reconciliation through education.

At the Law Society of Manitoba, we reflect on the progress made and the responsibilities that remain. We thank the over two thousand Manitoba lawyers who recently completed The Path of Truth and Reconciliation - an important step towards greater Indigenous intercultural awareness.

We're also organizing future Northern Youth Outreach sessions at the University College of the North, where over 700 students will hear from lawyers and judges about the legal profession as a meaningful and accessible career path.

Reconciliation is not a single moment - it's an ongoing journey. We reaffirm our commitment through the means of learning, inclusion, and empowerment.

Learn More



ROBSON HALL - CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2028

Do you remember how daunting the first day of law school was?

Help foster a sense of community and belonging by sharing a few words of encouragement and advice with the incoming Class of 2028.

How it works?

The Law School will print your words of wisdom on note cards to be handed out to each new student at orientation.

To Participate

Simply complete this short form with a message of encouragement or advice you wish you'd received on your first day of law school (100 words or fewer), and indicate how you'd like your card to be signed.



News

Deadline:

To ensure the cards are ready for orientation, please submit your message by July 1, 2025



I'M SORRY, I CAN'T SHARE THAT: Practical Guidance on Client Confidentiality

NOELIA BERNARDO, Practice, Ethics and Equity Advisor

As a lawyer, you're already familiar with the importance of client confidentiality — it's one of the cornerstones of our professional obligations. But it's worth revisiting from time to time, especially when you're faced with real-world situations where the lines can feel blurry.

Whether it's a family member asking questions, the Public Guardian and Trustee making a request, or another lawyer looking for details, it's not always easy to know what you can or can't say. This guidance is meant to help you think through those moments and feel more confident in your response.

Common Situations We Hear About:

- A client's adult child asks about their parent's estate plan.
- A friend raises concerns about a Power of Attorney.
- The Public Guardian and Trustee or an Attorney requests information or documents from a client file.
- Law enforcement or another lawyer requests client information.
- An executor asks for details about a deceased client's will or files.



How to Respond:



📌 Start with a respectful but clear response — confidentiality doesn't end when a client loses capacity or passes away.



* Keep it simple and professional — you don't need to explain your reasoning. In most cases it is enough to say you're not able to assist.

f you receive a court order or formal demand, take the time to review the **Code** of Professional Conduct and relevant case law. If you're still unsure or something about the request doesn't sit right, that's a good time to check in with us.

Example of a Respectful Response: "I'm sorry, but I'm not able to assist with your request for information about this individual."

A Few Things to Keep in Mind:



You should not confirm or deny whether someone is or was a client, unless you have proper consent or legal authority.

Not all requests need a call to the Law Society — many can be handled with a careful review of the Code and your own good judgment.

But if something feels off, or the request seems too broad or inappropriate, you're absolutely encouraged to reach out for guidance.

Where to Look: <u>Code of Professional Conduct - Rule 3.3 (Confidentiality)</u>

Want to Talk it Through or Seek Guidance?

If you've reviewed the *Code* and still have questions — or just want to double-check your thinking, contact:





Director of Insurance - Tana Christianson: 204-926-2011 | tchristianson@lawsociety.mb.ca

These situations can come up unexpectedly, and it's not always clear-cut. When in doubt, take a step back, think it through, and know that we're here if you need to talk it out.

Well-Being

Happy Lawyers

PAUSE

🔆 Plan more holidays

life's better when you when you

- * Manage expectations and use boundaries
- Communicate in advance when they will be away and unavailable
- Plan to be away during lulls in work demand

Taking time off

Law(yer) Strong

Less Burnout

To learn about preventing burnout, book a well-being session, view upcoming events, or connect with us:

Visit <u>lawyerstrong-mb.ca</u> Email support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca





PREP IMPORTANT DATES

	Accelerated PREP 2024	Standard PREP 2024
Friday, June 20, 2025 9:00 a.m.	Mass Call to the B RBC Winnipeg Conv	-

	Accelerated PREP 2025	Standard PREP 2025
Participate in six online synchronous workshops	June 2, 2025 to June 20, 2025	June 9, 2025 to August 29, 2025
DEADLINE TO PAY 3 rd Tuition Instalment	June 20, 2025	August 29, 2025
PHASE THREE: Complete assisnments Virtual Law Firm	June 25, 2025 to August 8, 2025	September 12, 2025 to January 23, 2026
DEADLINE TO PAY Final Tuition Instalment	July 28, 2025	January 12, 2026
Complete Oral Capstone Evaluations	August 18, 20025 to August 22, 2025	February 2, 2026 to February 6, 2026
Complete Written Capstone Evaluations	Agust 25, 2025 to August 29, 2025	February 9, 2026 to February 13, 2026

EMPLOYERS

Workplaces are expected to provide no assignments to students enrolled in the Accelerated program between May 26, 2025 and August 29, 2025.

Students enrolled in Standard PREP must be given time to not only attend the six workshops in the summer period but to also prepare the required background work expected for the six workshop sessions. Further, workplaces should not be assigning any duties to students which may prevent a student from completing the required activities in the two week Capstone period in February 2026.

Education

PILOT FALL ACCELERATED PROGRAM

CPLED is also adding, on a pilot basis, a second Accelerated PREP offering operating in the fall of 2025. This will be of benefit to any student not able to obtain their JD or CQ by the deadlines set by CPLED to register for the Accelerated or Standard PREP sessions.

	ACCELLERATED PREP FALL 2025 (PILOT)
Registration Opens	August 5, 2025
Registration Deadline	August 12, 2025

The fall Accelerated Pilot schedule can be found <u>here</u>.

Health and Wellness Resource Library

Resources from the Law Society, Manitoba Blue Cross and other Partner Organizations Digital Wellness Platform from Manitoba Blue Cross

www.wellness.mb.bluecross.ca

From one central location you can now access:

- Counselling support
- Relationship learning program
- Yoga and meditation program
- Sleep assessment
- Budgeting and financial self-directed courses
- And much more

For curated content, tips and resources to help YOU, start by taking a quick 10-minute <u>wellness assessment</u>.



Learn More



Insurance Issues - June 2025

TANA CHRISTIANSON, Director of Insurance

Report Your Claims

The current professional liability insurance policy expires July 1, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. That means that you should report any issues on your files that might possibly, at some point in the future, give rise to an insurance claim against you. You can report by making a call to anyone in the Insurance Department:

Tana Christianson	204-926-2011
Kate Craton	204-926-2012
Will Barnstead	204-926-2013

e-mail: <u>tchristianson@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> e-mail: <u>kcraton@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> e-mail: <u>wbarnstead@lawsociety.mb.ca</u>

Or, you can go to the <u>Member Portal</u> on the Law Society website and fill-in and submit a Claim Report form. If you would like a Claim Report form mailed or emailed to you instead, contact:

Kristin Forbister	204-926-2047
Heather Vanrobaeys	204-926-2036

e-mail: <u>kforbister@lawsociety.mb.ca</u> e-mail: <u>hvanrobaeys@lawsociety.mb.ca</u>

As we remind you every Spring, late reporting can compromise your insurance coverage so **speak now or forever hold your peace.**

Insurance Assessment Due

The annual insurance assessment is due on or before July 2, 2025.

You should have received notice of your insurance assessment by email on May 30, 2025. If you did not, go to the Member Portal where it can be found under Payments - Invoices & Receipts.

Exemption Forms Due

Those lawyers who are exempt from insurance must complete and submit their exemption forms before July 2, 2025.

<u>The 2025-2026 Exemption form</u> is available on the website under Forms - For Lawyers, Invoices & Receipts.

Excess Insurance

If your practice and firm face potential exposure to claims over and above the \$1million per claim limit, you should consider purchasing excess insurance to cover you for that extra risk. Excess insurance applications for the new policy year are available now.

For more information, see <u>CLIA Excess</u>.

Questions?As always, if you have questions or concerns about your insuranceConcerns?coverage, please feel free to contact anyone in the Insurance Department.





The next regular meeting of the benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on:

💼 Thursday, June 26, 2025

• The Law Society offices and via videoconference

(L) 1:00 p.m.

Members of the Law Society are encouraged to attend and participate in the deliberations of the governing body.

If you wish to attend a meeting via videoconference, contact Pat Bourbonnais at <u>pbourbonnais@lawsociety.mb.ca</u>.

Dates for the next meetings are as follows:

- September 4, 2025 (Clear Lake)
- October 30, 2025
- December 11, 2025
- February 5, 2026
- March 19, 2026
 May 14, 2026
- June 18, 2026
- June 18, 2026

Agenda and meeting minutes are published on the website <u>here</u>.

IN MEMORIAM

James Edward Gordon Fielder, who passed away on March 25, 2025 at the age of 70. Mr. Fielder received his call to the Bar on June 25, 1981. He practised as a partner with Tupper & Adams for 35 years. After leaving private practice in 2017, Mr. Fielder served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Lynn Lake for two years and then for the Municipality of Russell-Binscarth up to the date of his death.



MEMBERSHIP Changes

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Practising to Non-Practising:

April 28, 2025	Breanne C. James
May 1, 2025	Barry J.F. Walker
May 1, 2025	Jerilee L.A. Ryle
May 3, 2025	Noah R. Curle
May 5, 2025	Abdihamid M. Mao
May 10, 2025	Leif R.L. Jensen
Nat 16, 2025	Antonio F. Barraza-Luna
May 17, 2025	Douglas R. Brown
May 23, 2025	Mohinderpal S. Claire
May 26, 2025	Rebecca S.W. Bae
May 30, 2025	Samuel Pau

Non-Practising to Practising:

April 28, 2025
May 1, 2025
May 5, 2025
May 7, 2025
May 12, 2025

Darcy L. MacPherson Natalie A.M. Copps T. Adam Masiowski Walter M. Krawec Faye A. Brandson Karlie A. Stewin Brandon C. Gray Carla J. Dewar

New Admissions:

Stefani Cuberovic
Meagan A. Berlin
Brandon C. Gray
Salma El-Khodari
Michael A. Valenti
Courtney L. Knox
Colin Standish
Holly A. Bellefontaine
Arieana O. Daniels

May 14, 2025 May 21, 2025 Obaro H. Efetobore Jeremy R. Horbul Channelle M. Lajoie Samantha M.Y. Leitold Oluwatosin A. Oyebanji Shilpa K. Patel Melina S. Venuto Richard B. Mbokani Katrina A. Friesen

Member Forms Available Here



Notices



This year's assessment is due **Tuesday**, **July 2**, **2025** and can be paid in one or two instalments.

Check your email! Your invoice is in the <u>Member Portal</u>! Take the Next Step Connect with

Law(yer) Strong

All contacts are confidential

204-2

204-201-1764

support@lawyerstrong-mb.ca





CPD Education Centre





Favourite show on
summer hiatus?Why not use the extra sunlight
to do some reading?Check out our latest and greatest
CPD on Demand titles.Check out our free collection
of written resources.Find CoursesFind Resources

IMPORTANT DATES At a Glance

JUNE 10 BENCHER BY-ELECTION VOTING CLOSES AT 5:00 P.M.

JUNE 11 ELECTION RESULTS DETERMINED

> JUNE 20 CALL TO THE BAR RBC Convention Centre 9:00 a.m.

JUNE 26 ANNUAL MEETING 12:30 p.m. AND BENCHER MEETING 1:00 p.m.

JULY 2

PAYMENT DUE: 2025-2026 Insurance Payment

FILING DEADLINE:

2025-2026 Insurance Exemption Application



PRESIDENT Kyle Dear

VICE PRESIDENT Ken Mandzuik, KC

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Leah Kosokowsky

DEPUTY CEO Rennie Stonyk

Mailing Address

200 - 260 St. Mary Ave Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0M6 - MAP

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

lawsociety.mb.ca

in