



The Advocates' Society La Société des plaideurs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2023

The Advocates' Society Calls Upon Active Members of the Law Society of Alberta to Register for and Vote at the Special Meeting on February 6, 2023

The Advocates' Society, through its Alberta Advisory Committee and Alberta members, is aware that on February 6, 2023, the Law Society of Alberta will hold a Special Meeting to vote on a resolution to repeal Rule 67.4 of the Rules of the Law Society of Alberta. Rule 67.4 provides that the Benchers may prescribe specific continuing professional development requirements ("CPD") for members and that failure to comply with those requirements results in administrative suspension. The resolution is the subject of a petition signed by 50 active members of the Law Society of Alberta that was submitted to the Law Society on January 13, 2023.

The Advocates' Society, and in particular, its Alberta Advisory Committee, is opposed to the resolution. As a regulated profession, the privilege of practising law comes with professional obligations that ensure the protection of the public. These obligations include the completion of mandatory CPD education to ensure legal competency, professional competency and that lawyers are informed about societal issues impacting the justice system. It is crucial for lawyers to be informed about these issues, which affect every area of legal practice, to provide meaningful access to justice and increase public confidence in the administration of justice.

The Advocates' Society also asserts that lawyers across Canada should share in the project of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Reconciliation includes Indigenous cultural competency training for lawyers in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #27.

The Advocates' Society calls upon all active members of the Law Society of Alberta to attend the Special Meeting and to vote on the resolution, so that the views of the Alberta Bar are accurately represented. The deadline for registration for the Special Meeting is Friday, February 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Law Society of Alberta Special Meeting Registration:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iQZjXhLuQG-dNPowwcCF4A

Law Society of Alberta Special Meeting FAQ: <https://documents.lawsociety.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/31090549/Special-Meeting-Law-Society-of-Alberta-FAQ.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

The Advocates' Society Alberta Advisory Committee
c/o Vicki White, Chief Executive Officer
416-597-0243, ext. 103 | vicki@advocates.ca