

SLR Board and Indigenous Council

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Date: January 12, 2026
Meeting Time: 9:00
Meeting Type: Hybrid
Meeting Location: Law Foundation of BC

Board Members in Attendance:

Bruce LeRose, KC (Chair) Elizabeth Kollias
Johanne Blenkin Scott Simpson
Jeevyn Dhaliwal, KC Sarah Westwood, KC
Regrets: Katrina Harry, KC

Indigenous Council Members in Attendance:

John Borrows Andrea Hilland, KC
Christina J. Cook, KC Regrets: Carly Teillet

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Regrets: John Mayr Adam Whitcombe, KC
Josh Paterson, KC Paul Craven

Participants and Attendees:

Michael Johnston Legal Advisor to the Indigenous Council
Jaxxen Wylie Legal Advisor to the Indigenous Council
Cary Ann Moore Legislative Counsel
Jamie Maclaren KC Legal Advisor to the BC Paralegal Association
Jared Friedman Project Management
Lindsey Ogilvie Project Management
Maddie Holm-Porter Project Support

Observers:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Alan Treleaven	Director, SNPBC	Kerry Simmons KC	ED, CBABC
Avalon Bourne	Staff, LSBC	Kerryn Holt	COO, LSBC
Barbara Buchanan KC	Staff, LSBC	Lesley Small	Senior Director, LSBC
Brook Greenberg, KC	President, LSBC	Michael Lucas KC	Staff, LSBC
Carrie Robinson	Staff, LSBC	Michael Mulhern	Staff, LIF
Claire Marchant	Co-ED, LSBC	Michèle Ross	Bencher, LSBC

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Derek LaCroix KC	Co-ED, LAPBC	Sherry Small	Staff, LSBC
Gigi Chen-Kuo	CEO, LSBC	Su Forbes KC	COO, LIF
Jeanette McPhee	CFO, LSBC	Terry Becker	Okanagan College
Jeff Hoskins, KC	Staff, LSBC	Thomas Spraggs KC	Bencher, LSBC

1.0 Welcome and Acknowledgements

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am.

The Chair welcomed the Board, Indigenous council, and members of the Advisory Committee and delivered a territorial acknowledgement.

2.0 Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting

The December 10, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

3.0 Update from the Project Director

The Cascadia Partners project director delivered a brief update on policy and rule development progress and process, as well as updates on activities of the Communications and Hiring sub-committees.

Policy Paper Reviews

The co-drafters of the policy papers presented a summary of each paper and provided key issues and questions for discussion. The Board chair facilitated the discussion of the key issues amongst Transition Team members. The discussion focused on guidance for policy updates and rules options, not formal approval of recommendations.

4.0 Fees for Legal Services

The Legislative Counsel introduced the policy paper and led the discussion respecting fees for legal services. Several questions were presented for consideration:

- The Indigenous Council emphasized that fee structures and legal fees are a priority issue, noting historical and ongoing concerns about exploitative practices (e.g., overcharging, inadequate representation, barriers to accessing settlement funds, etc.) that disproportionately impact Indigenous clients accessing legal services.
- a. What are your thoughts on the ethical requirements discussed in this paper? Are there any additional ethical requirements not discussed that you would like to see considered when the rules and code of professional conduct are drafted?
 - It was noted that the BC Code of Conduct includes more specific requirements for ethical conduct than the model code and was suggested

that, where appropriate, the higher standards in the BC Code be considered for incorporation into the model code.

- The Transition Team expressed interest in an update on the work completed to-date by Law Society's Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee in this area, as it may provide additional context and help inform the Transition Team's efforts on this topic.
- b. What are your thoughts on specific form and content requirements for agreements for legal services in the rules? Are there any additional form and content requirements not discussed that you would like to see considered when the rules are drafted?
- The Transition Team discussed including a requirement for written retainer agreements in the rules.
 - It was noted that while written agreements may be a best practice, they are overly burdensome in some contexts, particularly for small rural practices, or where urgent legal services are required (e.g., immigration / deportation matters), and could create barriers to accessing legal services.
 - It was also noted that the sample retainer agreements currently available on the LSBC website are helpful resources.
- c. What are your thoughts on the use of a percentage cap on amounts recovered as a limit for remuneration in a CFA?
- The Transition Team discussed the use of a percentage cap on amounts recovered as a limit for remuneration in a CFA.
 - The Transition Team also discussed, for certain classes of CFAs involving vulnerable clients, engaging the registrar at the beginning and on an ongoing basis for oversight of costs and case management, to ensure fairness. It was noted that the role of the registrar is largely established in the Act, and this topic would need to be discussed with the courts to determine feasibility.
- d. What are your thoughts respecting continuing the current percentage caps for personal injury and wrongful death litigation, with a lower amount for those caused by motor vehicle accidents?
- The Transition Team discussed maintaining the current percentage caps for personal injury and wrongful death litigation.
- e. What are your thoughts on establishing a percentage cap limit for other areas of litigation or legal services? Is a new percentage cap limit for that area needed for amalgamation date?

- The Transition Team discussed establishing a cap for other legal services and expressed a need for further consultation to determine where a cap may be beneficial or necessary and what level would be appropriate.
- f. What are your thoughts on additional requirements to the form of a bill in general? What are your thoughts on any additional requirements to the form of a bill when issued under a CFA?
- The Transition Team discussed additional requirements to the form of a bill.

5.0 Rules – Draft Table of Contents

The Legislative Counsel introduced the draft Table of Contents for discussion:

- The Transition Team noted that a summary outlining which rules are required and which are discretionary under the Legal Professions Act would be helpful in supporting rule review.
- The Transition Team expressed support for updating the title of section 6.1.3.1.1. from “Indigenous cultural training course” to “Indigenous intercultural training course.”

6.0 Work Plan – Timeline Options

The Transition Team discussed various timelines for developing the first rules of the single legal regulator:

- The Transition Team acknowledged that the current timeline for developing the rules for a January 1, 2027 amalgamation date is aggressive and does not allow sufficient time for consultation to develop the rules.
- The Transition Team discussed alternatives for extending the amalgamation date to July 1, 2027 (six-month extension) or January 1, 2028 (12-month extension).
- Members emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum throughout the transition while also allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation and engagement to support high-quality rule development.
- The Transition Team agreed to a target amalgamation date of January 1, 2028, but would proceed earlier if feasible.

7.0 In Camera Session