

Legal Professions BC

Work Plan – January 2026

Introduction

The *Legal Professions Act* requires that the transitional Indigenous council and the transitional board collaborate in the development of the first rules of Legal Profession BC. In addition, the Act provides in s. 70 that the board must establish a code of professional conduct for licensees.

This draft workplan sets out the required work and the timing necessary to complete the work involved in creating the first rules and the code for public consultation by January 1, 2027.

Goal

The creation of first rules and a code of professional conduct for Legal Professions BC that:

1. Permit the effective and efficient regulation of the legal professions in the public interest.
2. Are consistent with the duties of Legal Professions BC and developed with regard to the following guiding principles:
 - a. facilitating access to legal services;
 - b. supporting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - c. identifying, removing or preventing barriers to the practice of law in British Columbia that have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous persons and other persons belonging to groups that are under-represented in the practice of law;
 - d. regulating the practice of each legal profession in a manner that is transparent, timely, and proportionate to the risk of harm to the public posed by the practice.
3. Provide for regulation of the professions and the standards and programs for the education, training, competence, practice and conduct of applicants, trainees, licensees and law firms that are equivalent, unless a difference is required by the nature or scope of practice of that profession.

Scope of Work in this Document

<p>In-Scope</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and draft the first rules that Legal Professions BC must have in order to regulate by amalgamation date 2. Work with the transitional tribunal chair to ensure compatibility of the first tribunal rules and the first rules 3. Prepare a code of professional conduct to reflect the professional responsibilities of lawyers, notaries and regulated paralegals
<p>Out-Of-Scope</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operational considerations and policies for Legal Professions BC (e.g. communications, staffing, website) 2. Other considerations and approvals of the transitional Indigenous council and the transitional board as required by the <i>Legal Professions Act</i> (e.g. remuneration policy, hiring a transition manager) 3. Rules required for tribunal processes only

Deliverables

1. The first rules approved by amalgamation day; and
2. A code of professional conduct inclusive of lawyers, notaries public and regulated paralegals, approved by amalgamation day.

Milestones

Milestone	Target Date for Completion
Initial draft of policy reports created for every regulatory program or process that will require rules or reference to the code of professional conduct	January 2026
Transitional Indigenous council and transitional board approval of policy reports in principle	January 2026
First rules drafted	December 2026
Code drafted	December 2026
First rules approved by transitional Indigenous council and transitional board	December 2026
Code approved by transitional Indigenous council and transitional board	December 2026

Public consultation process will begin in January, 2027 following approval of first rules and code of professional conduct by the transitional Indigenous council and transitional board.

Subject Areas & Phases

	Estimated time	Completion Date	Status
Phase 1: Consultation	Ongoing		In Progress
1. Review LSBC, SNPBC, PABC rules and bylaws.			
2. Compare new LPA and current SNPBC and LSBC rules and identify rules which do not have corresponding authority in new LPA.	Jan-Feb 2025	Feb 2025	Complete
3. Prepare consultation summaries and questions for: SNPBC, BC Paralegal Association, LSBC departments, and other legal stakeholders.			
4. Schedule consultation sessions with representatives.	Jan-Oct 2025		Complete
5. Review issues brought forward by transitional Indigenous council on barriers in current rules and code of SNPBC and LSBC.	Ongoing		In progress
6. Consult with representatives from above listed groups on regulatory requirements for new rules and code.	Ongoing		In progress
7. Create list of subject areas requiring rules and priority issues.	Jan-Aug 2025	August 2025	Complete
Phase 2: Policy reports	11 months	Jan 2026	Complete / Deferred
8. Develop draft policy reports for each subject area and priority issues.	Mar 2025 – Jan 2026		
9. Consult with representatives on draft policy reports.	Mar 2025 – Jan 2026		
10. Present initial draft policy reports to transitional Indigenous council and transitional board for feedback:	Mar 2025 – Jan 2026		
a. Unauthorized Practice		Mar 2025	Complete
b. Custodianships		Mar 2025	Complete
c. Practice Advice		Mar 2025	Complete
d. Policy (broad)		May 2025	Complete

	Estimated time	Completion Date	Status
e. General Policy – Privilege		Nov 2025	Complete
f. General Policy – Public Disclosure		Oct 2025	Complete
g. Indemnification		Jun 2025	Complete
h. Complaints		May 2025	Complete
i. Investigations		Oct 2025	Complete
j. Discipline		Oct 2025	Complete
a. Discipline – Alternative Resolutions			Deferred. To be discussed in conjunction with draft rules in Apr 2026.
k. Discipline – Practice Reviews		Nov 2025	Complete
l. Licensing and Enrolment – Licensing Committee		Jun 2025	Complete
b. Licensing and Enrolment – Scopes of Practice			Deferred pending finalization of the regulated paralegal scope of practice
m. Licensing and Enrolment – Pathways to Licensure		Oct 2025	Complete
n. Licensing and Enrolment – Business Structures		Nov 2025	Complete
o. Continuing Competence and Education		Oct 2025	Complete
c. Licensing & Enrolment – Mobility			Deferred until draft rules are complete to facilitate discussion with National Federation of Law Societies Canada
p. Trust Accounts		Dec 2025	Complete

	Estimated time	Completion Date	Status
q. Governance – Director Elections		Dec 2025	Complete
r. Governance – Committees & Task Forces		Dec 2025	Complete
s. Governance		Dec 2025	Complete
t. Risk-Based Regulation		Jun 2025	Complete
u. Independence of Licensees		Nov 2025	Complete
v. National Mobility and Interjurisdictional Agreements		Jun 2025	Complete
w. Fees for Legal Services		Jan 2026	Complete

	Estimated time	Completion Date	Status
Phase 3A: Draft rules	12 months	Dec 2026	In Progress
11. Draft rules informed by policy reports and discussion.	Jan-Dec 2026	Dec 2026	In Progress
12. Present draft rules, <i>in parts</i> , for transitional Indigenous council and transitional board feedback.	Mar-Dec 2026	Dec 2026	
Part 3 – Legal Professions BC		Apr 2026	
Part 6 – Professional Conduct, Competence and Discipline		Apr 2026	
Part 9 – Indemnification		Mar 2026	
Part 10 – Custodianships		Mar 2026	
Part 14 – Business Structures		Mar 2026	
Part 15 – Enforcement		Apr 2026	
Part 16 – General		Apr 2026	
Remaining parts to be prioritized and scheduled in May 2026		Jul – Oct 2026	
13. Update draft rules based on feedback from transitional Indigenous Council and transitional board	Mar-Jun 2026	Jun 2026	
Remaining parts to be prioritized and scheduled in May 2026		Dec 2026	

14. Receive transitional Indigenous council and transitional board approval of draft rules.	May-Jun 2026	Jun 2026	
Part 3 – Legal Professions BC		Jun 2026	
Part 6 – Professional Conduct, Competence and Discipline		Jun 2026	
Part 9 – Indemnification		May 2026	
Part 10 – Custodianships		May 2026	
Part 14 – Business Structures		May 2026	
Part 15 – Enforcement		Jun 2026	
Part 16 – General		Jun 2026	
Remaining parts to be prioritized and scheduled in May 2026		Oct - Dec 2026	

	Estimated time	Completion Date	Status
Phase 3B: Code of Professional Conduct	12 months	Dec 2026	In Progress
15. Draft code informed by model code, policy reports and discussion.	Jan-Dec 2026	Dec 2026	In Progress
16. Present draft code, <i>in parts</i> , for transitional Indigenous council and transitional board feedback.	Mar-Dec 2026	Dec 2026	
Introduction		Mar 2026	
1.1 Definitions		Mar 2026	
2.1 Integrity		Mar 2026	
3.1 Competence		Mar 2026	
3.2 Quality of Service		Apr 2026	
3.3 Confidentiality		Apr 2026	
3.4 Conflicts		May & Jun 2026	
Remaining parts to be prioritized and scheduled in May 2026		Jul – Oct 2026	
17. Update draft code based on feedback from transitional Indigenous Council and transitional board	Mar-Jun 2026	Jun 2026	

Remaining parts to be prioritized and scheduled in May 2026		Dec 2026	
18. Receive transitional Indigenous council and transitional board approval of draft code of professional conduct.		Dec 2026	

Once approved by the transitional board and transitional Indigenous council, the draft rules and Code of Professional Conduct will be published for a 6-month public engagement period. Feedback received through this process will be incorporated into the documents, and the revised drafts will be brought back to the transitional board and Indigenous council for final approval prior to the amalgamation date.