



FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

Acting in the public interest by strengthening Canada's system of governance of an independent legal profession, reinforcing public confidence in it and making it a leading example for justice systems around the world.

MISSION

The role of the Federation is to:

- (a) act as a coordinator and facilitator among Members, establishing forums such as conferences, committees and other opportunities for dialogue where representatives of the Members may discuss issues of mutual interest and foster collaborative decision-making;
- (b) promote the development of national standards and encourage the harmonization of Members' rules and procedures;
- (c) act as the agent of all or some Members to undertake initiatives when all Members so agree;
- (d) raise Members' awareness of emerging issues that may warrant their attention, including important legislative or regulatory developments or trends;
- (e) speak on behalf of the Members, when so mandated by Members, in Court proceedings and before parliamentary committees on matters that touch on core values and regulation of the legal profession;
- (f) foster and maintain constructive relationships with key national stakeholders, such as the Canadian Bar Association, the federal Department of Justice, the Supreme Court of Canada and other federal courts, the Indigenous Bar Association and the legal academy, and more generally to provide information and raise awareness about the role, responsibilities and activities of the Federation among the public, governments, and members of the legal profession; and
- (g) participate in international forums for the purposes of: (i) learning about international trends and developments in the area of regulation of the legal profession and sharing

that information with Members; and (ii) providing information and raising awareness about the role, responsibilities and activities of the Federation and the Members, as well as about the Canadian justice and legal system, among organizations having an interest in such matters around the world.

VALUES

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada fulfills its mission in a manner which is:

- (a) Focused on the public interest;
- (b) Responsive and accountable;
- (c) Focused on the need to increase access to legal services;
- (d) Consistent with the highest standards of professionalism, excellence, ethics and good governance; and
- (e) Respectful of Canada's bilingual and bi-juridical nature.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The three **strategic goals** will serve the Federation for the next five years. They describe how we will achieve the Federation's mission consistent with its vision and values. Achievement of the strategic goals will define our future success.

The **objectives** describe what we will do to achieve the strategic goals. The objectives are measurable; we will be able to assess our progress by looking at the results of the steps we have taken. The objectives will be expanded upon in an annual Activity Plan. Progress on the Activity Plan will be reviewed quarterly by the Federation Council.

STRATEGIC GOAL I: INFORMATION SHARING

The Federation is the national information-sharing centre for law societies. We monitor, analyze and share information with our member law societies on important national and international trends and issues. This includes facilitating the sharing of information, resources and expertise among members. As a result, our members have valuable information to assist them in carrying out their functions and making informed decisions.

To deliver on this Strategic Goal we will:

- Provide law societies with comparative statistical data about law societies and the legal profession.
- Share information on law society initiatives and national and international trends and issues.
- Facilitate the exchange of information through the counterpart groups.
- Enhance sharing of discipline and admission information among law societies.
- Organize national forums for exploring issues of strategic importance to law societies.



STRATEGIC GOAL II: COLLABORATION

The Federation is the national collaboration hub for law societies. We act as a coordinator and facilitator for national collaboration efforts, providing support to national programs and projects, and harmonized standards and policies. Collaboration leads to reduced duplication, enhanced efficiency, and greater consistency across law societies.

To deliver on this Strategic Goal we will:

- Support law societies in responding to issues relating to the well-being of members of the legal profession and law society staff.
- Explore initiatives to support law societies' response to emerging legal technologies.
- Demonstrate leadership in addressing access to legal services.
- Develop recommendations for a national good character standard.
- Support law society regulation to mitigate money laundering and terrorist financing risks in the practice of law.
- Foster reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples in Canada by responding meaningfully to the TRC Calls to Action.
- Develop and implement a new competency-based assessment system for internationally trained lawyers.
- Demonstrate leadership on issues related to legal ethics.
- Maintain support for the implementation of national discipline standards.

STRATEGIC GOAL III: ADVOCACY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Federation is the respected national voice of law societies. We engage with national and international stakeholders on issues of mutual interest, and with the consent of our members, we speak out on specific issues of national and international importance involving justice and regulatory matters. Speaking with one voice strengthens our message. Our national profile streamlines two-way communication with external stakeholders.

To deliver on this Strategic Goal we will:

- Engage with the Indigenous Bar Association on issues of common concern.
- Increase engagement with the legal academy.
- Represent the views of the law societies on issues of national importance through advocacy with the federal government.
- Represent the views of the law societies on issues of national importance through interventions in court proceedings.
- Continue engagement with a wide range of national and international stakeholders.

