



Federation of  
Law Societies  
of Canada

Fédération des ordres  
professionnels de juristes  
du Canada

# Communiqué

February 27, 2023

## Update on Review of National Requirement

The National Requirement Review Committee (“NRRC”) is engaged in a comprehensive review of the **National Requirement**, the standard that specifies the knowledge and skills graduates of Canadian law school programs and internationally trained graduates and lawyers must acquire in order to be admitted to law society admission programs in the Canadian common law jurisdictions. We are writing to thank the stakeholders who provided preliminary input in response to our outreach last fall and to provide an update on the project. Background information is contained in our first communiqué, **Federation Initiates Review of National Requirement**.

The NRRC’s Terms of Reference call for robust engagement with stakeholders including the law societies and the legal academy. The NRRC is committed to a transparent process that ensures that stakeholders are kept informed about the committee’s work and are provided with opportunities to provide input throughout the review. Information on the review will be made available through periodic newsletters such as this. We will also reach out to stakeholders throughout the review to collect input on specific issues and draft recommendations.

The fall 2022 communiqué posed the following general questions and invited any other feedback stakeholders wished to provide:

- Are there specific issues you would like the committee to consider during its review of the National Requirement?
- Are there skills or knowledge competencies or other requirements that are missing from the National Requirement?
- Are there aspects of the National Requirement that should be revised or eliminated?

We received helpful input from law students, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Association of Law Teachers, individual law professors, the Canadian Association for Legal Ethics, Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education, National Association of Women and the Law and Luke’s Place, Roundtable for the Legal Education Continuum, Law21, the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, the Toronto Lawyers Association, and the Family Lawyers Association. We are in the process of engaging further with the Council of Canadian Law Deans, the Canadian Association of Law Teachers, and Indigenous groups and individuals, including on the issues identified below.

The NRRC is currently focused on a series of priority issues, informed by the input received. Other issues may arise as further consultations take place. The priority issues are:

- 1) mode of study provisions – how much in-person instruction is required
- 2) skills competencies and experiential learning
- 3) how to respond to TRC Calls to Action
- 4) issues related to the assessment of compliance with the National Requirement
- 5) the intersection of the National Requirement and the NCA competency profile

The NRRC also expects to consider ways to encourage innovation in legal education and to respond to the recommendations of the recent **National Study on Wellness in the Legal Profession**.

We will reach out again to stakeholders as the work progresses and will consult on specific proposals as they are developed. In the meantime, we are open to receiving comments and requests for engagement at any time. Please contact Sarah MacKenzie at [smackenzie@flsc.ca](mailto:smackenzie@flsc.ca) with comments or questions.

