



FOLA News

Issue 15: January 31, 2025

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The FOLA Newsletter is distributed to FOLA member associations. If you wish to subscribe, please do so at our website here: <https://www.foia.ca/category/newsletter/>

Featured Member Rewards Partners in this Issue:





Important Information

FOLA Chair Sam Misheal elevated to the bench; Vice-Chair Allen Wynperle to take over as Chair

Please join us in [congratulating outgoing Chair Sam Misheal for his elevation to the bench](#). We welcome Vice-Chair Allen Wynperle, stepping up to take the role of Chair of FOLA. Our 2nd Vice Chair Jennifer Simpson Rooke will take the role of 1st Vice Chair. The 2nd Vice Chair is now vacant and the board is working to fill it.

FOLA Lobby Day 2025 Cancelled

Due to the dissolution of the Ontario Parliament, Lobby Day 2025 is now cancelled. We will look to do another one in 2026! In the meantime, candidates are looking for issues to campaign for – now is a good time to meet your local candidates and discuss legal issues facing your community!

FOLA Spring Plenary 2025 – Save the date!

Save the date! The Spring Plenary will take place from **May 14 to May 16** at the Hilton Doubletree in downtown Toronto.

FOLA Fall Plenary 2024 Videos on Youtube

If you missed or would like to see the presentations, they are now posted on Youtube! [Click here](#).

Family Responsibility Office Seeks Panel Lawyers

The Family Responsibility Office (FRO) maintains a panel of private sector counsel to represent the Director of the Family Responsibility Office in enforcement proceedings across the province.

FRO is currently seeking applications from lawyers with experience in family law and litigation to join the provincewide panel. They would appreciate you sharing this opportunity with your network of lawyers as soon as possible and look forward to receiving applications from qualified counsel.

“Ontario’s Family Responsibility Office (FRO) receives all support orders made in Ontario and enforces the amounts owed under the support orders. FRO has legal authority to take enforcement action against those who do not meet their support obligations. The Ministry of the Attorney General is seeking applications from qualified lawyers to join the provincewide panel of lawyers providing legal services on behalf of the Director of FRO. Each year, FRO counsel and the panel of lawyers appear in courts across the province under the Family Responsibility and Support Arrears Enforcement Act, 1996. Successful candidates must demonstrate skills and experience in family law and litigation and participate in mandatory educational seminars.”



To receive an application package including additional information on the overall process of selection please email Shirley Anne Miaco at shirleyanne.miac@ontario.ca. Please note that applications are due by **March 31**.

Recent FOLA Submissions

LSO – Call for Comment: Towards More Effective Governance — Governance & Electoral Reforms at the Law Society of Ontario

We thank you for your comments on this important issue. We heard from you, attended town halls, read surveys, and worked hard to put together a compelling submission reflective of your associations. We submitted our response today **January 31**, [click here to view](#).

LSO – Considering Increased Transparency: Licensee Reporting and Disclosure to the Public

We thank you for providing us with your comments. FOLA provided feedback to the LSO which is [available here](#).

FOLA Meets With Attorney General of Ontario

On **January 20** members of the FOLA executive met with the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey to discuss Bill 227, the Civil Rules Reform, court delay caused by staffing issues. It was a productive meeting and a step toward working better together.

Member Rewards

A reminder that all FOLA members have access to the rewards program here: <https://www.foa.ca/resource/member-rewards/>.

Discounts are available for a number of services and products!



Clio

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As a FOLA member, you're entitled to a 10% discount on Clio products. [Dive into your free trial or claim your discount today](#). Already a Clio user? Great! Secure your discount by emailing affinity.partners@clio.com. Plus Clio will be at the upcoming Plenary so you can connect with the Clio team there.




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Upcoming Events and Law Association News

FOLA promotes law association events and other news. If your organization has upcoming events or related news that would be of interest to our members, please complete the form that can be found [here](#) and submit to both Ian Hu (ian.hu@fola.ca) Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca).

Event details are also listed on the calendar on FOLA's website [here](#).

Canadian Collaborative for Engagement & Conflict Management – Foundational Arbitration Workshops in February

Arbitration, although considered a form of alternative dispute resolution, is an adversarial process based on findings of fact and the legal results arising from those facts. Arbitrators must decide matters in accordance with law and equity. The arbitrator's role is not to help work out a settlement, but to render a decision. The most important skills that an arbitrator must have are the ability to control the process and to decide on the evidence and law presented by the parties. Using a variety of interactive training techniques, you will develop and refine practical skills for arbitrating disputes. Attendees will consider process design, conducting the hearing and writing awards that offer parties closure. This 40-hour workshop approved by the ADR Institute of Ontario towards a professional Chartered Arbitrator designation. Dates and times are **February 4 to 6 and February 11-13** from 12:00 pm to 6:00 PM EST. [Register online here for a 15% discount exclusive to FOLA members.](#)

Osgoode PD - 19th Annual: The Civil Litigator's Survival Guide to Evidence

Evidence can make or break your case! Stay current so you have the tools you need to build a successful litigation strategy with OsgoodePD's 19th annual one-day program. Join a distinguished faculty of leading judges and senior practitioners covering topics such as: hearsay, evidence in motions and applications, techniques for handling experts before and during trial, Tips from the Bench, and more. The online (live) program takes place **January 22**, or register for the **March 26** online replay. Learn more and register [here](#).

Toronto Law Association – Storytelling for Lawyers

This session will take place on Tuesday, **February 25** from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm via Zoom Webinar. We are all story tellers. And the best lawyers master the art. None of it is easy. Whether you're defending a criminal trial, advocating in a family law case, or guiding clients through complex civil litigation, your job is persuasion. Your tool, your only tool, is your words. *Storytelling for Lawyers* will provide you with the tools to turn facts into a persuasive, unforgettable narrative. Join us and learn to elevate your advocacy and storytelling skills to new heights.

[Register here](#)



Toronto Law Association – Estate Law Roundup: 10 Key Issues to Address in 2025

This session will take place on **Wednesday, March 26 from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm** via **Zoom Webinar**. Join us for this year's highly anticipated annual Estate Law program, where we'll review 10 critical topics that are shaping the future of Estate and Trust practice in 2025.

Our expert panel will discuss the latest trends, legal developments, and essential principles that continue to influence estate planning and litigation. Whether you're an experienced practitioner or newer to the field, this program will provide practical insights into the pressing issues facing Estate and Trust professionals.

[Register here](#)

Appointment and Job Opportunities

Judicial vacancies and job opportunities are free to advertise. Please submit your opportunities to FOLA Director of Policy & Advocacy, Ian Hu, at ian.hu@fola.ca



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¹ Current as of September 4, 2024. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility. Speed and signal strength may vary due to traffic, topography, environmental conditions and other factors, like Bell's management of network resources, using methods which include Internet traffic management practices. See bell.ca/ITMP. 9-1-1 government monthly fee in AB.: \$0.95, N.B.: \$0.97, N.L.: \$0.75, N.S.: \$0.43, P.E.I.: \$0.70, Qué.: \$0.52, N.W.T.: \$1.70, SK.: \$2.14. Bell remits required amount to government. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. Subject to change without notice, not combinable with other offers. Existing Bell customers who choose to switch to the Bell Exclusive Partner Program before the end of their contract are required to pay out their device balance and are subject to a \$50 migration fee. **(1)** Beyond max speed, data speeds are up to 512 Kbps. **(2)** Based on Bell in-market prices as of September 4, 2024. Applicable to select phones only. **(3)** Up to 5 friends or family members can be added to the primary subscriber's account. © 2025 Bell Canada. All rights reserved.