

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO LAW ASSOCIATIONS**  
[the “Corporation”]

**GENERAL MEETING**

May 16, 2025 at 9:30 AM  
Hilton Doubletree Downtown Toronto Hotel, Toronto, ON

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM.

The notice of meeting was circulated on May 7, 2025.

Quorum was confirmed based on registration for the plenary.

**2. Chair’s Remarks**

The meeting was chaired by Jennifer W. Rooke, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, standing in place for Allen Wynperle, Chair.

The minutes were recorded by Ian Hu, Director of Policy and Advocacy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair delivered brief opening remarks.

**3. Amendment of the Agenda**

*That the agenda of the meeting be amended to add the proposed members resolution (appendix “A”)*

Mover: Karen Shedden – Lincoln

Second: Katie Black – CCLA

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

*That the agenda of the meeting is approved, as presented.*

Over: Karen Shedden – Lincoln

Second: Mark Giavedoni – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

**CARRIED**

**5. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

*That the minutes of the annual meeting, dated May 12, 2023 are approved, as presented.*

Mover: Doug Judson – Rainy River  
Second: Ian Kuehl - Renfrew

**CARRIED**

## **6. Approval of the Financial Statements**

*That the Corporation's KPMG 2024 Financial Statements is approved, as presented.*

Mover: Curtis Pineiro, Peterborough  
Second: Josephine Kiang, York

**CARRIED**

*That the Corporation appoints KPMG LLP as the auditors of the Corporation for the 2025 fiscal year and is authorized to conduct a review engagement, instead of an audit, if it is determined that the Corporation is eligible for a review engagement under the Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010.*

Mover: Eric Zinn, Huron  
Second: Jennifer O'Reilly, Leeds Grenville

**CARRIED**

## **Approval of Actions of Directors**

*That the actions of the directors since the last general meeting of the Corporation are approved.*

Mover: Jessica Pugliese, Sudbury  
Second: Laura Dixon, Hamilton

**CARRIED**

## **7.1. Approval of the Proposed Members Resolution**

*That the paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preamble be removed, further to feedback from Peter Reinitzer, Muskoka, and replaced with "Whereas the Phase 2 Consultation paper has not provided sufficient opportunity for meaningful feedback".*

Mover: Douglas Judson, Rainy River  
Second: Katie Black, CCLA

**CARRIED**

*That the Proposed Members Resolution be adopted by the Corporation.*

Mover – Douglas Judson, Rainy River  
Seconders – Katie Black, CCLA

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

## **7. Adjournment**

*That the meeting be adjourned.*

The next general meeting is expected to take place at the spring plenary in May 2025.

Mover: Ian Kuehl – Renfrew  
Seconders: David Nusko - Bruce

**CARRIED**

## APPENDIX "A"

### FEDERATION OF ONTARIO LAW ASSOCIATIONS

#### RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS – MAY 16, 2025

**WHEREAS** the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA) acknowledges that change is needed to improve and modernize Ontario's civil litigation processes in order to improve affordability and access to justice;

**AND WHEREAS** the Attorney General of Ontario has launched a process to reform the *Rules of Civil Procedure*;

**AND WHEREAS** the working group appointed to drive this reform process and recommend changes is Toronto-centric and commercial litigation-focused, and is not representative of the diversity of civil litigation practice or regional needs and concerns;

**AND WHEREAS** the working group's Phase II consultation paper has not provided sufficient opportunity for meaningful feedback;

**AND WHEREAS** the working group has consistently stated that their recommendations are not based on data;

**AND WHEREAS** it is unclear how the working group's Phase II recommendations relate to the Phase I consultation responses from the legal community;

**AND WHEREAS** the membership of FOLA predominantly consists of front-line legal service providers who serve individuals and small businesses in communities across all counties and districts of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** FOLA's membership is deeply concerned that the Phase II recommendations will have serious negative impacts on access to justice and the affordability of legal services for lower and middle-class Ontarians, and small and medium sized businesses;

**AND WHEREAS** the FOLA membership has material concerns that the proposals of the working group will:

- (i) dramatically escalate front-end litigation costs which create barriers to accessing the justice system,
- (ii) undermine the policy goal of promoting settlement,
- (iii) put increased pressure on limited judicial resources by removing the availability of meaningful discovery, and
- (iv) create unique obstacles for personal injury litigants;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the membership of FOLA resolves as follows:

1. We call on the Attorney General of Ontario to change the composition of the working group to make it more representative of the diversity of civil litigation practice, Ontario's regions, including rural practices, and Ontario's official languages;
2. We call on the Attorney General of Ontario to take meaningful steps to improve confidence that the consultation process is legitimately listening to concerns and that feedback is being incorporated from across the civil litigation bar, from all regions of Ontario;
3. We call on the working group to base its recommendations on actual court and practice data as part of a proper policy development process, rather than relying on the anecdotal views of select Toronto-area counsel; and
4. We direct that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Attorney General of Ontario, the presidents of the county and district law associations, the Ontario Bar Association, The Advocates' Society, the Law Society of Ontario and its benchers, and the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association, and that a copy be made publicly available.

Moved by: Douglas Judson, President  
Rainy River District Law Association

Seconded by: Katie Black, President  
County of Carleton Law Association

**CARRIED**