

PEEL LAW ASSOCIATION BECOMING A DIRECTOR

This document is intended to give prospective directors a clear understanding of the responsibilities and time required to be an effective director.

Please review this document carefully.

There are eleven Directors of the Peel Law Association.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Member of the Association in good standing (subject to the nine-year limit set out below) may run as a candidate to be a Director. The candidate must meet the statutory criteria, which includes not being bankrupt.

TERM

Directors normally serve a term of three years (but they could be elected to fill a shorter term that may be open). A Director can only be on the Board for a maximum of nine years in a row. They can run again, once they are off the Board for a year.

THE ELECTION

Every year at the Annual General Meeting, the following vacancies must be filled:

- Directors who have finished their term; and
- Directors who have resigned or who are otherwise unable to finish their term.

Some Directors may run for re-election (if they have not reached the maximum years).

Candidates - and those nominating them - must be PLA members who have paid their membership fees for the current year and are in good standing with the LSO.

Candidates may be nominated:

- In advance, by delivering a completed Nomination and Acceptance Form, at least by 12 noon the day before the AGM; or
- from the floor at the AGM.

At the AGM, the candidates are expected to speak regarding their qualifications, for up to five minutes.

Successful candidates become Directors, effective at the end of the AGM.

Orientation of new Directors is conducted by the Executive Officer, before the first meeting of the Board post AGM.

COMMITMENT

Directors are key to the governance and operation of the Association. In addition to the role of a typical board of a not-for-profit corporation, the Directors organize social events and CPDs, with the help of staff.

At the minimum:

1. A Director is expected to:
 - (a) attend Board meetings - about 10-11 per year for about 2 hours each;
 - i. prepare for Board meetings - about 30 minutes per meeting;
 - (b) attend the strategic planning meeting (1 or 2) - a full day (normal business hours);
 - (c) participate in Committee meetings - about 6 per year for about 1 hour each; and
 - i. prepare for Committee meetings - about 15-30 minutes eachfor an estimated commitment of at least 50 hours per year.
2. In addition, a Director is expected to:
 - (a) attend the Annual General Meeting and Judges' Night Dinner, once a year;
 - (b) attend as many PLA events as possible;
 - (c) participate in one or more of such activities:
 - i. preparing / presenting at a CPD program;
 - ii. organizing a social event;
 - iii. writing articles for *Peel Briefs*;
 - iv. serving on Task Forces or External Committees.
3. Participation in special projects and/or serving on the Executive involves the further commitment of time.

Note that Directors failing to fully participate in three or more Board Meetings in a year may be removed by the Board.

If you have any questions, please contact either:

- Joanne Lagoudis, PLA President - jlagoudis@kmbllaw.com or
- Jo-Ann McQuillan, Executive Officer (eo@plalawyers.ca)