



The Manitoba Law Foundation

Board Member

Chairperson

Honourable Victor (Vic) Toews ^

Vice-Chair

Irene Merie ^

Members

Ian Scarth ^

Laurelle Harris^

Melanie Beaudry (bil.) ^

- (1) Appointed by The Law Society of Manitoba
- (2) Appointed by the President of the Manitoba Branch, Canadian Bar Association
- (3) Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba (ex officio)
- ^ Government Appointment

Mandate:

The Manitoba Law Foundation is established under *The Legal Profession Act*. Under s. 88 of the *Act*, the Foundation has a specific statutory mandate which is to encourage and promote: legal education; law research; legal aid services; law reform; and the development and maintenance of law libraries.

Authority:

[*The Legal Profession Act*](#)

Responsibilities:

The Foundation distributes grants for programs and projects within its mandate, using interest from lawyers' pooled trust accounts. The *Act* requires two statutory grants to be provided by the Foundation – one to Legal Aid Manitoba and the other to the Law Society of Manitoba, the amounts of which are determined by formula contained in the legislation. The *Act* further gives the Foundation the power to receive applications for and make decisions on other grants, consistent with its purpose, that the Foundation's Board in its discretion considers advisable.

Membership:

Ten (10) Board members appointed by the following bodies:

- a) Five (including the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson) appointed by the Minister of Justice;

- b) Three appointed by the Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba;
- c) One appointed by the president of the Canadian Bar Association, Manitoba Branch; and
- d) The Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba, or a member of the Faculty appointed by the Dean.

Length of Terms:

Under the provisions of Subsection 93(1) of *The Legal Profession Act*, terms of appointment may range from not less than 2 to not more than 4 years, and Directors may be re-appointed. Directors whose terms have expired continue to hold office until a successor is appointed.

Desirable Expertise:

Experience in the field of law or justice as well as a good knowledge of and/or relationship with the legal profession are desirable. There is no formal requirement to be a member of the legal profession; however, potential board members should ideally have a legal background and/or an understanding of community justice issues, as well as some knowledge of the administration and operation of boards of not for profit organizations. Some understanding of fiscal management and financial statements would also be an asset.

Board members:

- Must be able to communicate verbally and have the willingness to participate in group discussion;
- Should have active listening skills;
- Must be able to read and analyze grant applications and other written material, and be willing to discuss the merits of grant applications in a respectful way during the course of a Board meeting;
- Must be able to adhere to a high degree of confidentiality; and
- Must have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

Time commitment:

Meetings are held a minimum of four times a year in June, September, December and March; some additional meetings may occur as required. Meetings are usually held on a Thursday, beginning at 4:30 p.m., and are generally 2 to 3 hours in duration. Materials are sent prior to the meeting for Board members' review, which may include minutes of prior meetings, financial statements and information, briefing memos and grant applications. It is anticipated that Board members will read and review all information prior to a meeting.

The Chairperson works closely with the Foundation's Executive Director, and should anticipate an average time commitment of approximately 8-10 hours per month, including email, telephone and in-person communications. The Chairperson is expected to accompany the Executive Director to the annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Law Foundations, which is held in a different Canadian city each year (usually in the autumn) and is two days in duration.

Meetings:

Frequency: Minimum of four times a year; additional meetings may occur as required

Location: Winnipeg at the Foundation's offices, 300-207 Donald Street

Duration: Generally 2 – 3 hours

Remuneration:

Chairperson: \$7,500/yearly (plus travel expenses for out of town travel as required)

Directors: \$150/meeting (plus travel expenses as required for out of town appointees)