



October 20, 2021

We're pleased to announce our newly-formed non-profit society, the **Alberta Legal Coaches & Limited Services Society**, as well as our new state-of-the-art website, AlbertaLegal.org. These initiatives are aimed at increasing Albertans' access to justice in the legal system.

Our new Society is a continuation of the Alberta Limited Legal Services Project led by Rob Harvie QC and JP Boyd QC, which was a 2017 pilot project of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF), following a 2013 study by Professor Julie Macfarlane of the **National Self-Represented Litigants Project**. In that study, financial reasons played a part in why more than 90% of respondents were representing themselves in court, 86% had attempted to access legal services in some form, and almost all of the remainder sadly assumed that they would not be able to access legal guidance. Our Society aims to provide an alternative, so that those who don't qualify for Legal Aid and can't afford a lawyer throughout their dispute can still obtain guidance.

Legal coaching is where a lawyer provides ongoing information about the law and court processes, to enable a person to represent themselves in court, tribunals, or negotiations.

Unbundling, or providing **limited scope services**, is where a client hires a lawyer to complete only specific agreed-upon steps of a dispute or transaction, rather than all steps. For example, drafting court documents.

Lawyers who provide these services are not discount or free lawyers, however the way that limited scope services and legal coaching are typically delivered is intended to significantly reduce the overall legal expense.

www.AlbertaLegal.org

“Our Society aims to educate and promote unbundling and legal coaching to the public. The thought that you either hire a lawyer for every step or don’t have a lawyer at all is outdated. We’re excited to offer this new initiative, as we believe it’ll help many Albertans struggling to access justice. We want to see Albertans make it to the finish line without exhausting their resources. They don’t have to be on their own.”

- Society President Ken Proudman

Our new website focuses on legal education and resources for the public. Our home page is a **Directory** of many lawyers throughout the province who provide limited scope legal services or coaching. The directory is easy to use, so that lawyers and clients can be quickly and easily matched. We don’t charge a service fee for using the directory or any other part of our website. Our website also contains **Resources** about limited services, **Links** to external legal websites organized by area of the law, and a wiki-like **Library** providing basic information about each area of the law. We will also soon be launching an “**Ask a Lawyer**” feature where self-represented litigants can ask lawyers questions. The content is created by volunteer lawyers, and is under construction. We expect these resources to grow significantly over the coming months. Proper legal advice should always be obtained.

Please note the lawyers listed on our website, and the authors of our website’s content, are not our Society’s employees or agents, we’re merely a directory. The terms of representation are negotiated directly between lawyer and client.

We invite you to contact one of our board members by clicking on their name below, so that we can tell you more about our Society.

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