

Focused on the future

2015 – 2019 Law Society of Upper Canada Strategic Plan

OUR MANDATE

We govern the legal professions in the public interest by ensuring that the people of Ontario are served by lawyers and paralegals who meet high standards of learning, competence and professional conduct.

We have a duty to protect the public interest, to maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario, and to act in a timely, open and efficient manner.

OUR PLAN

The Law Society did extensive strategic planning and engaged all members of the governing board. We will now focus on five priorities, and several key initiatives to support them, over the next four years.

These priorities build on the accomplishments of the past four years and sharpen our focus on excellence in professional regulation.





Strategic priorities for 2015–2019

Lead as a professional regulator

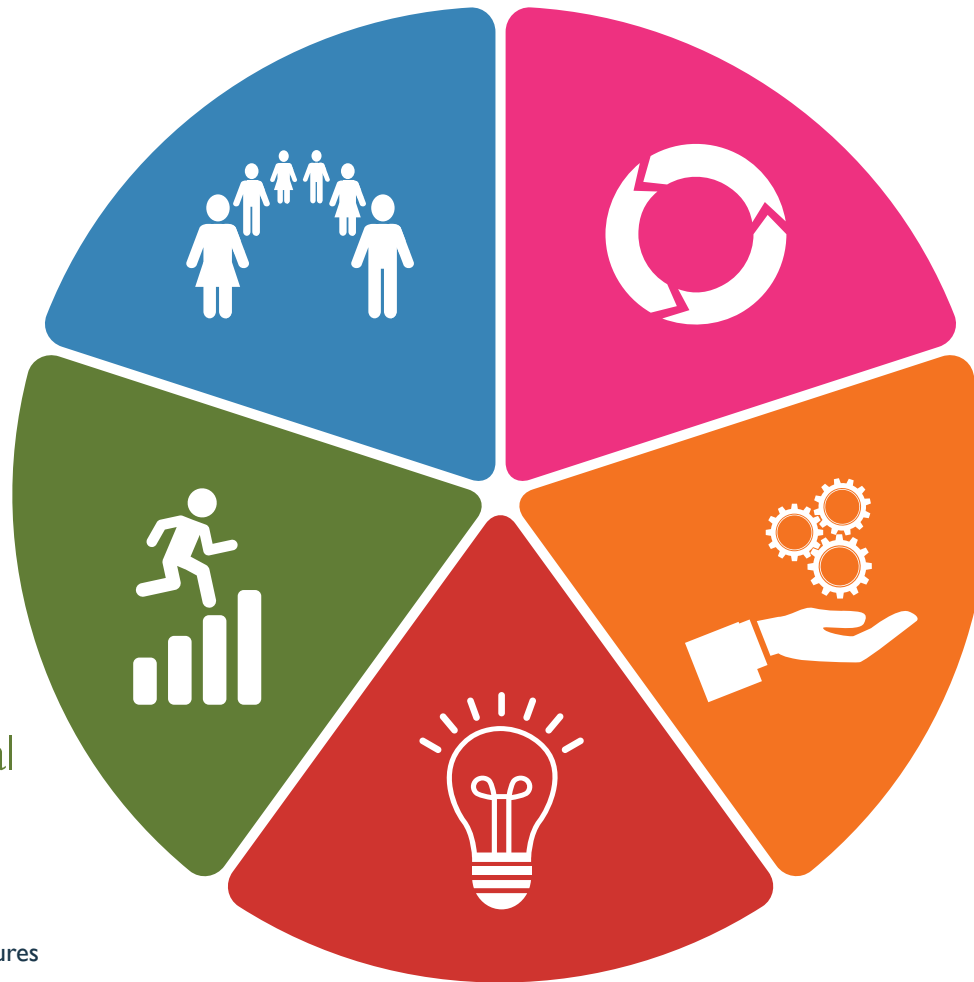
- Enhance regulatory effectiveness to advance protection of the public
- Ensure appropriate considerations for mental health and equity are integrated into regulatory processes

We will review our processes and explore new regulatory approaches while continuing to manage risk. We will examine policies and procedures to ensure equitable treatment for every individual and group we interact with. We will also consider opportunities for additional mental health supports and resources.

Increase organizational effectiveness

- Continue to enhance the public-interest in the policy-making process
- Review governance methods and structures to ensure efficiency and effectiveness
- Enhance measurement and assessment of our services and programs

We will assess our governance structures, policy-making processes and programs and services, focussing on key objectives, costs and effectiveness.



Prioritize life-long competence for lawyers and paralegals

- Evaluate and enhance licensing standards and requirements
- Improve and increase practice supports
- Consider comprehensive mentoring services

We will consider education beyond traditional CPD formats, and work with the professions to develop initiatives that institutionalize mentoring, advisory services and other types of support.

Enhance access to justice across Ontario

- Increase collaboration with access to justice partners and other stakeholders
- Develop and implement a more concrete access to justice action plan

We will extend our efforts to collaborate with justice partners and other stakeholders to identify and implement solutions to access to justice challenges.

Engage stakeholders and the public with responsive communications

- Improve communication with lawyers and paralegals through greater accountability, transparency and collaboration
- Build a better understanding of the Law Society among the public through heightened engagement

We will review our existing practices and consult broadly to strengthen our relationship with lawyers, paralegals, the public and other stakeholders, and build greater awareness of the Law Society.