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The Association of Law Foundations of Canada Meets in Winnipeg

In previous issues, *The Scrivener* has featured various Directors of The Notary Foundation of BC. I thought it would be of interest to tell you about the events of the recent Annual Meeting of the Association of Canadian Law Foundations (ACLF), held in Winnipeg this August.

Ours is the only Notary Foundation within the Association. The ACLF consists of the Law Foundations of each of the 10 provinces plus the Territories. These foundations have similar aims. Consequently, an annual meeting to share ideas is of utmost importance.

The annual meeting is also an opportunity for me as Chair of The Notary Foundation of British Columbia to become acquainted with the chairs of similar organizations and to get to know how the other foundations operate.

The CEOs of the foundations met all day on the Saturday in formal sessions to deal with day-to-day administration matters, share problems and solutions, and determine issues that needed to be addressed the following day with the chairs.

On that weekend, I had the opportunity to wander the streets of Winnipeg, a city I found attractive. It used to have a decaying industrial section along

the Assiniboine and Red Rivers—similar to Vancouver's False Creek area in the '60s. Some 10 years ago, the CPR moved their railyard out of Winnipeg and ceded 80 acres to the city.

A plebiscite determined the citizens wanted this property turned into public space of some kind. After visiting Granville Island, City of Winnipeg officials decided to pattern their development along similar lines. The result is a stunning waterfront park area with old warehouse buildings transformed into various interesting venues: a market square, children's theatre, performing arts centre, and a native culture square acknowledging the large Métis heritage of the area. Their Dragon Boat races were held the weekend we were there, so the whole waterfront was busy, busy, busy.

We also visited the Law Library at the University of Manitoba. They have recently dedicated an expanded library that includes several new state-of-the-art lecture halls. Networked computer plug-ins at each desk are fully interactive with the lecturer, who has all the available tools, including point-and-touch screens.

Classes are also interactive. Several remote locations permit lecturers to be off-site yet in full communication with the classroom. This impressive setup was made available largely through Grants from the Manitoba Law Foundation.

Next morning, the Directors discussed bank negotiations for higher returns on funds held in trust; successful strategies

where disclosed and regional differences came to light. This information is invaluable in assisting us to negotiate with each bank.

We heard from each individual foundation Chair about the manner in which the respective foundations are administered and their disposition of funds. It was a surprise to learn how varied the legislation is governing the foundations in the various jurisdictions. For example, our Notary Foundation is bound by our legislation to contribute 50 percent of our revenue to Legal Services of British Columbia and 10 percent to a discretionary "Grants fund." Some foundations are bound to contribute 90 percent to legal services; others are almost totally discretionary.

A large part of the meeting was devoted to the development of processes and criteria for determining who will receive Grants and the methods used for tracking the benefits received by Grant recipients and for ensuring that funds are used appropriately.

It is of interest to note that our Notary Foundation in BC is similar in revenue flow to the Law Foundations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, whose income is exceeded only by the Law Foundations of Ontario, Alberta, and BC. Subject to Latin law, the province of Quebec does not participate in these meetings.

It is gratifying to know that our Notary Foundation of BC is fully respected around the table. Our CEO Wayne Braid adds a lot of good input to these annual meetings. ▲

