

## Communiqué

### Exempted Group Integration Licensing Process

The Law Society welcomes inquiries from applicants who wish to become licensed as paralegals under the Exempted Group Integration Licensing Process. However, we are finding that many callers are misinterpreting the eligibility criteria. This communiqué is designed to clarify the requirements for collection agents and members of the:

- Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario;
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute;
- Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals; and
- Appraisal Institute of Canada.

Interested applicants should note that the requirements for the integration process are distinct from the former grandparent opportunity offered in 2007 and are outlined in Law Society [By-Law 4](#), Section 13 (2), (c), (d) and Section 13 (2.1).

These sections stipulate that applicants must:

- be members of their respective organizations – or registered as collectors under the *Collection Agencies Act*;
- have worked in their professions (either as collection agents, HR professionals, professional planners, registered safety professionals or appraisers) on a full-time basis (30 hours per week) for at least three years within the past five years; and
- have provided occasional legal services in conjunction with their occupations.

For example, professional planners who may occasionally appear before the Ontario Municipal Board regarding disputes are eligible to apply, as are HR professionals who occasionally argue Workplace Safety and Insurance Board matters on behalf of their employers.

The Law Society encourages interested applicants to apply before the **September 30, 2011 deadline**. Anyone who is unsure if they qualify should contact the Law Society at 416-947-3315 or 1-800-668-7380, ext. 3315, or submit an application. More information is available [online](#).