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# Challenges & Opportunities of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act

## Top Three Outcomes of the Governance Review

### 1. Identify Purpose of Act

The purpose of the Canada NFP Corporations Act is to help associations like ours ensure members are empowered with the appropriate rights and that we are accountable to them. The Act also recognizes that NFP organizations come in many different shapes and sizes and so it provides flexibility in how we implement the new regulations.

Our plan to be in compliance with the Act:

- a. Review the Act
- b. Review and revise CASLPAs by-laws and articles
- c. Legal review (to ensure our proposed articles and by-laws are compliant with the Act)
- d. Board of Directors approve changes in principle (April 2013)
- e. Communicate proposed changes to members
- f. Approval by the membership (AGM 2014)
- g. Submit articles and by-laws (articles must be submitted by October 17, 2014; by-laws can be submitted within a year following.)

### 2. Take Advantage of Opportunities

- a. **Renewal** – Renewing and updating our by-laws provides us with an opportunity to bring things up-to-date and also take the time to remind everyone of what by-laws exist for the association
- b. **Clarity and Focus** – This review gives us an opportunity to restate our purpose refine our focus; who do we exist to serve?
- c. **Governance Structure and Process** – This project also gives us the opportunity to consider possible improvements to the rules and processes that govern our association. Clarifying roles, responsibilities and accountability is very beneficial – especially considering that CASLPA is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. At the same time, we can also consider incorporating new by-laws that could help facilitate the day-to-day management of the association.
- d. **Communication** – We have been and will continue to take this opportunity to converse with members about their association, their roles, rights and involvement with us. In the end, this process is all about being the best association we can be for our members.

### 3. Meet the Challenges

- a. **Member Categories** – The Act identifies some fundamental changes that will have an effect on voting rights in the association. Defining and establishing the appropriate membership categories and their associated rights will be an essential component of this process.
- b. **Member Rights and Involvement** – One significant purpose of the Act is to ensure that members have a voice and that directors are accountable to the members. CASLPA has built a culture of asking members for input and acting on their wishes; so we see this process as another opportunity to ingrain our current practice.