



The Law Society of  
Upper Canada

Barreau

du Haut-Canada

## Information Sheet

### Pertaining to Accreditation Deadlines

#### ***Background***

The ability for post-secondary institutions (Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and Private Career Colleges) to offer a non-accredited legal services program ends on June 30, 2010. A transition period of approximately 2 years was provided in the Law Society By-Laws to allow institutions sufficient time to review and revise their existing or planned legal services program to make sure that they are compliant with our competencies and program requirements. The transition period also allowed them to continue to offer a non-accredited program while they applied to the Law Society for program accreditation. This Information Sheet sets out the Law Society's internal policies regarding the licensing application and program accreditation deadlines. This information will also be posted on the Law Society's website and provided in response to any telephone or in-person inquiries.

#### ***By-Law Requirements***

Post-secondary institutions are able to submit and obtain accreditation for their legal services program at any time. Any institutions currently offering a legal services program, and who want to ensure that their 2010 graduates are eligible for licensing must obtain accredited status on or before June 30, 2010. **In order for the Law Society's accreditation review team to properly review and assess accreditation applications before this deadline, any institution wishing to have its application reviewed must submit the completed application to the Law Society no later than April 30, 2010.** This interim period is necessary for a thorough review of each application to take place, and to permit the applying institution appropriate time to answer any questions or fill in any gaps in its application prior to the deadline.

#### ***Effect of Accreditation***

If a legal services program is granted accredited status by the Law Society and for the purpose of interpretation of the Law Society's By-Laws, the students who graduate from that legal services program will be considered graduates of an accredited program. For example, if a legal services program is granted accreditation on May 14, 2010, the students who graduate from the program on that day or thereafter (as long as the program is accredited at the time of their graduation), will be considered graduates of an accredited program.

#### ***Students or Graduates of a Non-Accredited Legal Services Program***

For students in non-accredited programs and/or those who have graduated from a non-accredited program within the three years prior to June 30, 2010, they will only be accepted for the Paralegal Licensing Process until June 30, 2010 provided they:

- (a) submit the Paralegal Licensing Process application by December 7, 2009 (or after this date submit a late application prior to June 30, 2010), **and**
- (b) graduate from a legal services program prior to June 30, 2010.

If both conditions are fulfilled, a graduate from the non-accredited program will be permitted to enter the Paralegal Licensing Process for 2010/2011, and will be eligible to write the licensing exam in August 2010, October 2010, or February 2011.

***Post-Deadline Requirements***

Any individual who applies for the Paralegal Licensing Process on or after July 1, 2010, must have graduated from an accredited legal services program.