



CPLLED YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

We help people become competent lawyers

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Thompson'.

DON THOMPSON, KC
Board Chair

During the 2021/2022 year, CPLED once again demonstrated our commitment to excellence, resilience, and the talent of our people. This year was a period of significant growth for CPLED.

Our primary offering is the Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP), the Bar admission program for articling students in Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. During the pandemic, we transitioned the course so that it was all online. This year we offered three online intakes of PREP. In addition to the traditional nine-month part-time program, typically taken by articling students, CPLED piloted a new full-time Accelerated PREP. To deliver a best-in-class program, CPLED conducted an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and accessibility review of PREP.

We also launched a new course designed for Internationally Trained Lawyers (ITLs), the Legal Research and Writing (LRW) course. The LRW course meets the new National Committee on Accreditation's (NCA) policy that NCA applicants must satisfy legal research and writing requirements to earn a Certificate stating they have the equivalent of a Canadian common law degree.

For the second year, our business, employees, and stakeholders faced significant disruption at work and home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain committed to delivering our legal education programs regardless of environmental circumstances.

We said farewell to Board Director Tom Schonhoffer, KC, in June 2022. Tom chaired the Audit and Finance Committee, where he led the oversight of CPLED's financial health. His service and guidance over the years have been invaluable, and we thank him for all of his work.

We welcomed Dr. Mark T. Morpurgo as a Board Director in June 2022. Mark is a fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants (FCPA, FCMA), and he received his Doctorate in Business Administration from Athabasca University in 2015. Mark brings his expertise in professional competency development to the organization.

I could not be more proud of our team's accomplishments this last year. CPLED is a strong organization – consistently growing and evolving. The team is dedicated to CPLED's strategic priorities and has kept stakeholders' needs at the forefront.

As we look forward to the future, we reflect on the momentum we have created this past year. We remain focused on our core business and strategic objectives.



TOM SCHONHOFFER, KC



DR. MARK T. MORPURGO

NAVIGATING THROUGH A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

As the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic pressed on, CPLED continued to operate remotely, delivering programs online and allowing students to continue their pursuit of a legal career without delay.



DELIVERING AND UPDATING THE PRACTICE READINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

There were 730 students registered in Summer 2021 PREP, and 697 students challenged the March 2022 Capstone (PREP's final assessment) with 33 students deferring the Capstone to a later date. Of the 697 students, 96% successfully passed their Capstone and completed PREP. The Winter 2021 PREP intake welcomed a further 167 students.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Review

CPLED plays an essential role in training new lawyers in Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. CPLED remains committed to guiding these young lawyers in fairness and equity principles by developing cultural understanding and humility. CPLED contracted an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) expert to review PREP and provide recommendations to adopt best practices. They completed the review in early 2022, and the PREP team made program content and delivery changes shortly afterward.

Ongoing education in EDI is integral at all levels of the legal community. CPLED will continue its work in this area with further changes as we learn more about EDI issues.

Accessibility Enhancements

CPLED conducted audits and worked closely with vendors over the last year to evaluate our education programs and systems for accessibility. CPLED's website and Bar admission program was reviewed by Accessibility Consultants, who assessed our systems and documents for readability and offered advice and suggestions for best practices. The audits identified areas for improvement, and the team worked diligently to implement recommendations, striving for full accessibility of all programs and systems. CPLED is committed to its accessibility efforts with ongoing work to create an accessible learning environment.

PILOTING AND LAUNCHING ACCELERATED PREP

CPLED created Accelerated PREP to act on student feedback about the challenges they experienced balancing the Bar admission program with articles. Accelerated PREP is a full-time, online 14-week compressed version of PREP. Students complete Accelerated PREP before they begin their articling term, allowing them to focus solely on the program.

We piloted Accelerated PREP during the summer of 2021 to a small group of 60 students in Alberta. Firms reported that students who participated in the pilot arrived prepared and confident on the first day of their articles.

After the successful pilot, CPLED offered a soft launch of Accelerated PREP in all four jurisdictions during the summer of 2022. There were 120 students registered in the program.

Offering Accelerated PREP and the nine-month PREP allows students and their firms to select the program delivery style that best suits their needs.





INTRODUCING THE LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING (LRW) COURSE

In support of Internationally Trained Lawyers (ITLs), CPLED partnered with the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) to create and launch the Legal Research and Writing (LRW) course. The course was designed to help ITL students learn how to write and conduct research for the Canadian legal system as they prepare for practice in Canada. The LRW course launched on January 2022, and CPLED delivered three offerings of the LRW course to 124 students worldwide from January to June.

The online course is eight weeks long and consists of two modules and four assignments. Students receive valuable feedback from trained Assessors (practising lawyers with a minimum of five years of experience).

BUILDING TOGETHER

CPLED has several strategic initiatives underway. Our success will come from our people, who operate with care, dedication, and passion. CPLED relentlessly focuses on its core business and is committed to its stakeholders.

2021-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

The CPLED 2021-2023 Strategic Plan sets the organization's vision for long-term growth to meet the needs of its stakeholders. Over the last year, CPLED has taken steps to work towards achieving these strategic objectives:

1. Quality growth – Promote collaboration to build and deliver new programs.
2. Best-in-class Bar admission program – Evolve to meet the needs of law societies and students.
3. Operational excellence – Have the right processes and systems in place.
4. Governance system – Align our governance system to the business model.





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Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 Lands