

Frequently Asked Questions

The Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) is looking to gather input from stakeholders on the interest of a compressed full-time version of the Bar admission program, the Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP). The information collected during this engagement will be analyzed and used to compile a report to the CPLED Board of Directors. The report will also be shared with CPLED participating law societies Board of Directors to inform next steps.

Why do we want to hear from principals, legal recruiters, and new lawyers regarding the Bar admission program?

The Bar admission program has traditionally been completed part-time over nine-months concurrently with the articling term. Due to the unprecedented impacts experienced this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CPLED is considering adding a compressed full-time Bar admission program offering. By adding a full-time offering in addition to the part-time nine-month program, this would allow employers greater flexibility to choose if their student(s) complete the program before their begin articling (as already occurs in British Columbia) or the part-time program concurrently with their articles.

At this stage, we are wanting to gain a better understanding of the level of interest from employers and those recently called to the Bar in offering two versions of the program.

Why do we want to hear from PREP students?

PREP students are working through the program while balancing their articling responsibilities at their firm. We want to hear from them directly to gain a better understanding of their experience and if they would recommend having the option available for future students to select whether to complete their Bar admission program full-time before they begin articling or part-time concurrently with their articles.

Why can't I participate if I was called over three years ago and I am not a principal or legal recruiter?

We are limiting participation to those who have been involved in the Bar admission program within the last three years. This will help us to capture relevant insight from those who recently completed their Bar admission program or those who work with/direct articling students such as principals and legal recruiters.

Why can't I participate if I am a current law student?

We are limiting participation to those who have been involved with the Bar admission program in recent years or those who work directly with articling students. As law students have not yet been involved with the Bar admission program, we are excluding them from this initial engagement.

What will be done with the information collected from these focus groups?

The information collected during this engagement will be analyzed and used to compile a report to the CPLED Board of Directors. The report will also be shared with CPLED participating law societies Board of Directors to inform next steps.

Collecting information about the Bar admission program offerings is just the first step to help us understand the needs of our stakeholders. We will engage with all stakeholder groups throughout the decision process.