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Law Society of Alberta Responds on TWU Law School Issue

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Back in February we [posted](#) a letter sent by signatories from the University of Calgary and University of Alberta law schools to the Law Society of Alberta concerning the process for approval of Trinity Western University (TWU)'s proposed new law school and the admission of TWU graduates as students at law in Alberta. We asked the Law Society to reconsider its delegation of decision making power to the Federation of Law Societies, or in the alternative, to work together with other Canadian law societies to consider amending the approval criteria to address the issues raised by TWU Law School and its [Community Covenant](#). We received a response from Law Society of Alberta President Kevin Feth QC late last week. The letter:

- explains the rationale for the Law Society's delegation to the Federation, focusing on the importance of national standards, mobility and the public interest,
- suggests the authority for that delegation lies in section 37(3) of the *Legal Profession Act*, [RSA 2000, c L-8](#),
- indicates that the Law Society communicated to the Federation and Canadian law societies in January "that a review of the existing criteria by the Federation is advisable", including the possibility of a non-discrimination provision (though the Law Society takes no position on such a provision at this time),
- reiterates that the consultation on approval criteria should be national in scope, and encourages our group to make submissions if and when the Federation reviews the criteria.

A copy of the Law Society's letter is available [here](#).

With this letter, the Law Society of Alberta has distanced itself from the approaches taken by law societies in [British Columbia](#), [Ontario](#) and [Nova Scotia](#). In these provinces, law societies did not delegate decision making on accreditation to the Federation, and they are all holding public

consultations to inform their decisions. People in Alberta who are concerned about the issues surrounding TWU Law School will have to await a review of the approval criteria by the Federation.

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