

1 then, Mr. Falconer.

2 MR. FALCONER: Thank you. Through you,
3 Mr. Treasurer, to Ms. Minor. I support the motion.

4 In November 2012 it was me, seconded by
5 Mr. Goldblatt, that brought the motion in respect of
6 the assistance to candidates. One of the biggest
7 challenges for me in what we refer to as the articling
8 debate was the notion that by the creation of this
9 LPP track we were creating virtually second class
10 licensees, individuals who because of the barriers
11 we've all discussed ultimately had to pick a different
12 path and a path that would make them somehow less than
13 attractive compared to the articling individuals.

14 Now, I always thought that concern was a
15 reasonable one, but more important to me was the notion
16 that folks got jobs, got their licenses and we helped
17 them to get beyond those barriers. But what a shame if
18 in trying to help them get beyond the barriers we load
19 more burdens on them, and what troubled me about this
20 exercise was the very individuals that we're trying to
21 help get through, we then load them with greater
22 expenses.

23 Now, it may well be that there are those
24 who think, well, \$5,200 relative to now what are -- if
25 one gets to the extreme in literally \$100,000 or the

1 median in the range of 50 to \$60,000 in fees for law
2 schools, that pales. The truth is these folks are
3 carrying this debt right into this program. In other
4 words, they haven't discharged the previous debt and
5 we're now adding \$5,200 to the mix, patting them on the
6 back and saying we're here to help and this is a really
7 good course. But if somebody doesn't have the money
8 and they are struggling, it's cold comfort that it's a
9 really good course.

10 This is an important development, this
11 course, and I support it wholeheartedly, but I say
12 this, the \$500 isn't enough. While I support the
13 member's contribution, I have certainly advocated
14 actively behind the scenes that a bursary program and
15 other supports be put in place so that we can give
16 actual relief to those who deserve it, based on a means
17 test combined with whether these placements are, in
18 fact, paid placements.

19 I simply encourage Convocation to
20 support this motion, but to continue our journey in
21 making sure that while we are helping people get
22 licenses, we don't actually add to their burdens.
23 Thank you, Mr. Treasurer.

24 TREASURER CONWAY: Thank you, Mr.
25 Falconer. Mr. Sullivan.