

MANITOBA BAR ASSOCIATION NON-MEMBER POLICY

By way of background, a resolution was passed by Council in April 1994 which provided:

‘BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Bar Association provide member services and allow participation, in section activity to Manitoba Bar Association members only, provided that, in some instances, services may be extended to non-members according to a policy to be developed by the executive, subject to the approval of the members of Council.’

The impetus behind the development of this policy is a long standing feeling amongst many MBA members that non-members of the Association were enjoying many of the benefits without contributing to the cost of running the organization. An effort has been made to address this concern, while maintaining, in certain circumstances, the benefit of including the maximum number of participants in MBA activities and programs.

The policy recognizes four general areas where exceptions are warranted to a general “members only” rule. These are when the inclusion of non-members in a service or activity:

1. might generate interest in joining the Bar Association to potential new members;
2. would facilitate communication within the Bar and profession generally;
3. would be to the benefit of the Bar and profession as a whole;
4. would broaden the base of attendees from both a participation and revenue perspective.

The policy is intended to cover all of the activities organized under the umbrella of the Manitoba Bar Association. Here are some examples of the effect of the policy:

- Non-MBA members will be welcome to attend one Section Meeting as a non-member. Thereafter they will be encouraged to join the MBA and participate in all of its activities, including section activities. Otherwise, attendance at and participation in section activities will be restricted to members only.
- MBA services such as organizing or participating in Law Day, serving on the lawyers Assistance Committee, and the Provincial Court and Queen’s Bench liaison committees will be restricted to CBA members only, with some ‘grandparent’ provisions for lawyers currently sitting on committees who are non-members.
- Headnotes & Footnotes, as well as the subscription service for circulation of weekly, criminal and family decisions will be provided to members only.
- Activities organized both by sections and by the MBA generally will feature a two-tier price, one for members and one for non-members. In some circumstances the non-member price will be 10% to 50% higher than the member price. In other circumstances, including those which the MBA identifies as being of primary benefit to the attendee, the second tier price will be 50% to 200% higher than the member price.
- The MBA will prefer its own members when inviting lawyers to speak or present at CLE programs, panels, etc.