

## **Section Submissions, Statements & Policies**

If a Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) Section wants to make a submission to the government or public body and/or the print and electronic media, on behalf of the MBA, it must be authorized in advance by the Branch Executive Committee. In cases of urgency, where it is not practical to convene a meeting of the Branch Executive Committee, they may be approved by a majority of members of the MBA Executive Committee.

According to the MBA By-Laws, the MBA President or their designate is the only authorized spokesperson for the Association.

Section Chairs may be asked by the media to provide information on court decisions. Section Chairs may provide commentary on court decisions, taking care not to take any policy position on behalf of the MBA or Canadian Bar Association (CBA) and making sure that they are confident that a majority of the MBA Section members would be in support of their public statement.

If there are opposing views either from within one MBA Section or from two or more MBA Sections on legislation and/or law reform initiatives, then all views should be presented to the government or appropriate agency for their consideration. If the government or agency has asked one particular MBA Section to provide feedback on an issue, the Section Chair must inform the Executive Director so that the MBA Executive can determine if the issue might also impact other MBA Sections. If other MBA Sections are impacted, they will also be included in the discussion of the issue.

No submission or public statement, not of a purely Provincial matter, shall be made by the MBA or any officer, committee or Section of the MBA without prior approval of the CBA President.

All federal concerns will be dealt with at the National Section level. Direct communication with Section Chairs will be made by the National Section Chair for input on behalf of the Branch Section. All federal legislative submissions have a distinct communication strategy created with it and so it is best to contact the National Office first.