



eNews – June 23, 2026

STEP Canada Public Policy Committee

RE: Wada Estate (Re), 2026 ABKB 309 – Access to Digital Assets

STEP members may be interested in the recent decision of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta in [Wada Estate \(Re\), 2026 ABKB 309](#), which addresses a growing issue in estate administration: access to digital assets. The court confirmed that a grant of administration (particularly one with a digital assets endorsement) is itself a court order, and criticized Apple Canada Inc.'s insistence on a further "duplicative" order as unnecessary, signalling potential cost consequences for uncooperative technology providers.

Aaron Bickman, KC, TEP and Shannon James, TEP sat down with Gregory J. Kaladeen (counsel for the estate administrators in this case) to discuss the practical implications of the decision for practitioners and families navigating digital estates. The decision is expected to become a useful tool when dealing with service providers that resist recognizing fiduciary authority, and underscores the importance of proactive planning and drafting around digital assets in wills and incapacity documents. [The decision and the full interview are available here.](#)

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Public Policy Committee
STEP Canada

About STEP: The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners is the leading international organization for trust and estates professionals. Headquartered in London, England, it has more than 22,000 members worldwide in over 100 countries.

STEP Canada, founded in 1998, has over 4,000 members with branches in the following cities and regions: Atlantic, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver, with chapters in Okanagan Valley, Southwestern Ontario and Vancouver Island. STEP is a multidisciplinary organization with the most experienced and senior practitioners in the field, including lawyers, accountants, financial planners, insurance advisors, trust professionals and wealth managers. They provide domestic and international advice on trust and estates, including planning, administration, and related taxes.

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STEP Canada
45 Sheppard Avenue East
Suite 510
Toronto, ON M2N 5W9 - Canada
Telephone: 416-491-4949