



Communication to STEP members in Alberta November 10, 2020

RE: Alberta Law Reform Institute Survey

Dear Practitioner,

On behalf of the Chair of STEP Calgary, Ruth Spetz, and the Chair of STEP Edmonton, Chris Turnbull, please find below a link to a survey about the Dower Act compiled by the Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI).

ALRI has identified several issues including the exclusion of Adult Interdependent Partners (common-law partners) and outdated language. The Act has not seen any significant changes since 1948.

ALRI is looking for early input into the project, which will help them identify other issues. At this stage, they are looking to hear from lawyers and other professionals who regularly encounter dower rights in their work, specifically, any practical challenges or complications that arise because of dower rights.

The survey should take no more than 5 - 10 minutes. You can access it here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DowerAct>. The survey will remain open until the end of November.

STEP members are invited to share the survey link with colleagues or other professionals they work with. ALRI would be glad to get responses from real estate agents, mortgage brokers, financial planners, estate and trust managers, trustees-in-bankruptcy, and others.

In addition to the survey, ALRI is also scheduling telephone interviews with practitioners can share their experience and perspectives on the Dower Act. Anyone who is interested in participating can sign up through the survey.

It is anticipated that ALRI will publish a Report for Discussion on the Dower Act in early spring 2021.

Thank you for your participation,

Ruth Spetz
Chair, STEP Calgary

Chris Turnbull
Chair, STEP Edmonton

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 95 countries.

STEP Canada, founded in 1998, has over 3,000 members with branches in the following cities and regions: Atlantic, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and chapters in Okanagan Valley, Saskatchewan, and Southwestern Ontario. STEP is a multi-disciplinary organization with the most experienced and senior practitioners in the field, including: lawyers, accountants, financial planners, insurance advisors and trust professionals. They provide domestic and international advice on trust and estates, including planning, administration and related taxes.

Suite 510, 45 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, ON M2N 5W9
1-877-991-4949
www.step.ca