



Federation of
Law Societies
of Canada

Fédération des ordres
professionnels de juristes
du Canada

National Committee on Accreditation

Competency Profile

April 17, 2025



The prospective entrant to a provincial or territorial bar admission program who holds a CQ is able to...

DOMAIN 1. SUBSTANTIVE LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

1.1 Describe the foundational principles of the Canadian legal system as they relate to:

- a. Key principles of common law and equity, such as precedent and stare decisis
- b. Canadian Legislative and regulatory system
- c. Canadian judicial system including judicial and non-judicial dispute resolution systems
- d. The process of statutory construction and analysis
- e. Sources and juridical nature of law including the Constitution of Canada, legislation, court decisions, the Civil Code of Quebec, international law, and Indigenous legal traditions
- f. Ethics

1.2 Apply knowledge of the following foundational principles of the Canadian legal system to specific fact patterns:

- a. Key principles of common law and equity, such as precedent and stare decisis
- b. Canadian Legislative and regulatory system
- c. Canadian judicial system including judicial and non-judicial dispute resolution systems
- d. The process of statutory construction and analysis
- e. Sources and juridical nature of law including the Constitution of Canada, legislation, court decisions, the Civil Code of Quebec, international law, and Indigenous legal traditions
- f. Ethics

1.3 Describe the foundational principles of the Canadian legal system as they relate to:

- a. Canadian Constitutional law, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, federalism and the distribution of legislative powers
- b. Canadian Criminal Law and basic procedure
- c. Indigenous legal theories and methodologies including sources and authorities of Indigenous law
- d. Canadian Administrative Law and related processes
- e. Contracts
- f. Torts
- g. Property law

1.4 Apply knowledge of the following foundational principles of the Canadian legal system to specific fact patterns:

- a. Canadian Constitutional law, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, federalism and the distribution of legislative powers
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- d. Canadian Administrative Law and related processes
- e. Contracts
- f. Torts
- g. Property law

DOMAIN 2. LEGAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The applicant must have demonstrated an understanding of the ethical dimensions of the practice of law in Canada and an ability to identify and address ethical dilemmas in a legal context, which includes:

2.1 Knowledge of:

- a. the relevant legislation, regulations, rules of professional conduct and common or case law and general principles of ethics and professionalism applying to the practice of law in Canada, including.
 - i. The ability to explain the fiduciary nature of the lawyer-client relationship
 - ii. The ability to describe essential elements of the lawyer-client relationship like the duty of confidentiality, solicitor-client privilege and conflicts of interest
 - iii. Explain the importance of professionalism and acting with civility and integrity and the consequences of unethical conduct
 - iv. Describe the role and appropriate use of delegation and supervision in legal practice
 - v. Recognize the importance of mental and physical health and well-being in the practice of law
- b. the nature and scope of a lawyer's duties including to clients, the courts, other legal professionals, law societies, and the public.
- c. the nature and scope of a lawyer's duties to Indigenous peoples and persons of Canada as part of ongoing efforts to foster truth and reconciliation;
- d. the range of legal responses to unethical conduct and professional incompetence; and
- e. the different models concerning the roles of lawyers, the legal profession, and the legal system, including their role in the securing access to justice.

2.2 Skills to:

- a. identify and make informed and reasoned decisions about ethical problems in practice; and
- b. identify and engage in critical thinking about ethical issues in legal practice.

DOMAIN 3. PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, ATTRIBUTES AND BEHAVIOURS

- a. Describe, in a general way, the work of a solicitor, barrister, and in-house counsel
- b. Identify steps required to complete tasks and set work timelines according to deadlines and available resources
- c. Describe appropriate behaviours, including adherence to professional behaviour, comportsment, and human rights
- d. Describe behaviours that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in the practice of law
- e. Describe the duties relating to discrimination and harassment pertaining to colleagues, employees, clients or other persons, including the unique challenges experienced by Indigenous peoples

DOMAIN 4. INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

- a. Demonstrate self-reflection, including awareness of implicit and unconscious bias and personal values
- b. Recognize how cultural differences may impact interactions between individuals from diverse cultural groups.
- c. Explain concepts of cultural competence, human rights and anti-racism
- d. Describe the distinction between Indigenous law versus aboriginal law in Canada
- e. The applicant must have demonstrated an understanding of the context and history of all forms of colonialism in Canada,
- f. The history and legacy of residential schools,
- g. The United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
- h. Aboriginal-Crown relations,
- i. Concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius,
- j. Explain the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, including the legacy of residential schools, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations

DOMAIN 5. COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- a. Use oral and written French or English language appropriately and effectively for professional purposes
- b. Select appropriate method and medium of communication for intended audiences and legal contexts, including virtual platforms
- c. Identify the purpose of a proposed communication
- d. Use Canadian legal terminology accurately
- e. Identify the intended audience of the proposed communication
- f. Use language suitable to the purpose of the communication and the intended audience
- g. Express concepts with precision, clarity, logic, and brevity

DOMAIN 6. CANADIAN LEGAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION GATHERING

- a. Distill relevant facts
- b. Identify the legal issues for a given fact pattern
- c. Understand the impact of precedent in legal research
- d. Develop a research plan that includes a list of resources, key words, and a list of issues
- e. Select appropriate primary and secondary sources for legal research
- f. Research and summarize applicable statutes, regulations, case law and procedures for a typical legal problem
- g. Apply reasoning and argument to a legal issue, based on case analysis and statutory interpretation using a structured approach in order to reach a conclusion
- h. Clearly and accurately document research process and findings, including correctly citing sources

DOMAIN 7. LEGAL WRITING AND DRAFTING

- a. Use appropriate and logical organizational structure in all written work
- b. Describe relevant legal concepts and legal theories accurately in a way the intended audience can easily understand
- c. Apply persuasive or informative writing style as appropriate to context and purpose of communication
- d. Identify basic types and elements of common Canadian litigation and solicitor documents
- e. Draft basic Canadian legal documents in consideration of the parties, forum, and a given set of facts

DOMAIN 8. ADVOCACY THROUGH LITIGATION

- a. Describe and distinguish between litigation and dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, arbitration, or mediation
- b. Describe, in a general way, the process by which various matters go through the court system
- c. Describe the role that information gathering, case analysis and planning play in litigation
- d. Describe the role that lawyers, judges, witnesses, legal research or experts play in litigation
- e. Describe the importance of preparing clients and witnesses to participate in litigation
- f. Explain the purpose of direct examination, cross-examination, and re-examination in litigation
- g. Identify types and forms of evidence to be used in litigation
- h. Present an organized argument or submission in a litigation scenario

DOMAIN 9. NEGOTIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a. Identify the importance that negotiation plays in the conduct of a legal matter
- b. Identify strategies and techniques for negotiation that are relevant to a legal matter
- c. Identify strategies and techniques for dispute resolution that are relevant to a legal matter
- d. Identify when mediation may be appropriate to resolve a legal dispute
- e. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of available dispute resolution options and remedies
- f. Explain the importance of documenting the resolution of issues