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TIME TO TRANSITION TO THE SOCIETIES ACT

The time for BC Societies to transition to the new BC Societies Act has arrived. The new Act came into force on November 28th. Societies now have a two-year window in which to transition to the new legislation or risk being involuntarily dissolved by the Corporate Registry. Although this sounds like ample time, a Society will not be able to make any corporate filings or effect any corporate alterations prior to transitioning. Thus in most cases, we would advise that a Society transition in the coming months.

As we've written previously, the transitioning process is a fairly straight forward administrative process. The only matter that absolutely needs to be considered prior to transitioning is whether the Society might benefit from becoming a member-funded society. Most societies won't qualify for the member-funded designation, but those that do qualify have the opportunity to escape many of the more onerous provisions of the new legislation. Most importantly, if a Society qualifies for and wants to avail themselves of the member-funded designation, they need to pass a special resolution and amend the Society's Constitution before transitioning.

A Society that otherwise qualifies for the member-funded designation, but transitions without properly claiming the designation, can only later benefit from the designation by securing a court order.

For reference, the previous publications written by Chris Lennon on this same topic can be found here:

[The New British Columbia Societies Act](#)

The New Societies Act Part 2 - What Should Societies Do Now (To Prepare for Transition)

If you have any questions about the member-funded category or transitioning in general, please contact any member of our [Charities and Not-for-Profit team](#), at your convenience.