



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

Public Representatives on Council

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society invites interested members of the public to submit an application to be a Public Representative of its governing body. Two vacancies will be filled in May 2009. The Barristers' Society encourages applications from members of the province's diverse ethnic and cultural communities. Those with business experience are also urged to apply.

Council's responsibility is to serve the public interest by regulation of the legal profession. Public Representatives bring the public perspective to the Society's governance of the legal profession. They have full voting rights on Council and sit on several Society Committees. Service on Council involves approximately three days per month. Appointments are for a two-year renewable term.

Applicants should describe their background, interests and experience, and indicate their reasons for wishing to serve on Council (position description and *Council Policy 19, Public Representatives on Council* follow). Please direct applications to: Darrel Pink, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, 1101-1645 Granville Street, Halifax, NS B3J 1X3 email: dpink@nsbs.org by March 9, 2009.

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society is the regulating body for the legal profession, whose purpose is to uphold and protect the public interest in the practice of law.

Public Representative - Position Description

Purpose:

This position description is to complement Council Policy 19, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of Public Representatives. Public Representatives provide a positive and effective mechanism for the Society to demonstrate transparency, independence and accountability. They ensure that the public perspective is represented in the decision-making of Council and often provide a particular expertise. They reflect the diverse population Nova Scotia, including its various racial and cultural communities, rural and urban locations, male and female and a variety of age groups

Responsibilities and Activities:

It is expected that the Public Representatives will:

- Ensure Council and committees are made aware of aspects of issues being discussed that are of most interest to the public;
- Assist in keeping discussions focused to ensure that the public interest is always reflected;
- Pose difficult questions, question assumptions and test arguments from a non-lawyer's perspective;
- Ensure that the obvious is not overlooked;

- Ensure the concerns of the most vulnerable members of the public are addressed;
- Ensure that policies and decisions are communicated in clear and plain language that can be understood by the public;
- Fully participate in Council and committee activities to which they are assigned;
- Bring a general understanding of the regulation of professional groups and the protection of the public interest;
- Have a broad understanding of the legal system;
- Have an understanding of procedural fairness;
- Have analytical and decision making skills.
- Prepare an annual report for publication

Attributes

- Objective
- Reliable
- Perceptive
- Attentive listener
- Not easily intimidated
- Trustworthy
- Non-judgmental
- Articulate
- Discrete
- Courteous

Core Competencies

It is desirable that all public representatives have competencies in the following areas:

- Accountability;
- Sound judgment;
- Integrity;
- Credibility
- Independent thinking,
- Respect the confidentiality
- Analytical and decision-making skills
- An understanding of procedural fairness
- An understanding of the role of self regulating professions to protect the public interest
- A commitment to team work

Council Policy 19, Public Representatives on Council

<http://www.nsbs.org/documents/general/CouncilPolicies.pdf#page=30>