



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, November 25, 2016** at the Society's offices and conducted the following business:

1. **Minutes** – Council approved the October 28, 2016 Council Minutes.
2. **Excellence In Regulation and Governance**
 - a. **Committee Terms of Reference** – Council approved the Terms of Reference for the new Succession Planning Working Group.
 - b. **Amendments to Regulation 3.5, Principals and Supervising Lawyers** – Council approved further amendments to Regulation 3.5 regarding Principals and Supervising Lawyers.
 - c. **Legal Services Regulation - Request for Legislative amendments to the LPA** – Council discussed and approved a third package of proposed amendments to the *Legal Profession Act*. The first two were approved at October's meeting. The third package reflects some of the government's proposals regarding governance of self-regulating professions, as well as a modernization of the statutory language relating to Law Corporations. The Society has now delivered its requests to the provincial government and anticipates they will be considered in the Fall 2017 legislative session.
 - d. **Amendment to Reg. 7.2.1(a) – Designated Members** – Council approved several proposed amendments to regulation 7.2.1(a) and repealed regulation 7.2.2, combining the two regulations in order to simplify record keeping and reporting.
 - e. **2017 Annual Firm Report and Trust Account Report** – Council approved the proposed drafts for a new Annual Firm Report (AFR) and revised Trust Account Report. The Society's goal is to reduce the number of filings by lawyers and to collect relevant information once. Revisions to the Annual Lawyer Report are also pending for Council's future consideration.
3. **Improving the Administration of Justice**
 - a. **Nova Scotia refugee workshop aims to train lawyers in immigration law**: Only 2.9 per cent of practising lawyers in Nova Scotia do some type of immigration law; CBC News, Nov. 4, 2016
 - b. **Filling the Gaps: A workshop on refugee law** (held Nov. 8 at NSBS in partnership with ISANS, Halifax Refugee Clinic, Atlantic Refugee and Immigrant Services and the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (Halifax section).
 - c. **Submission to FLSC Access to Justice Inventory** – Council received an information memo from Jane Willwerth, Officer, Strategy and Engagement, regarding the Society's submission to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's access to justice inventory.
 - d. **Opinion: Access to Justice and Market Failure**, by Malcolm Mercer, Slaw.ca, November 1, 2016
4. **Foundational Activities**
 - a. **National Discipline Standards** – Council approved amendments to the **National Discipline Standards** and the related Implementation Guide, which were approved by the Council of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in June 2016.
 - b. **Financial Update and Statement** – Sean Walker, Director, Finance & Administration, provided financial updates including a forecast for the 2016-2017 fiscal year based on financial results to September 30, 2016.
 - c. **The Profession and the Academy Reconnect about Legal Education**, by Doug Ferguson, Slaw.ca, November 11, 2016

5. Information Items

- a. **2016-2017 Council Calendar and Activity Plan** – Council received the updated 2016-2017 Council Calendar and [Activity Plan](#), November grid.
- b. **Executive Director's Report** – Executive Director Darrel Pink provided an update on operational and staff matters, budget and finance issues, the MSELP pilot project, the Society's request for legislation, and other matters including travels and presentations. He also announced that Lawrence Rubin has been hired as the new Insurance Director; Mr. Rubin will start in January and will participate in the ongoing discussion regarding specifics of the liability claims program.
- c. **President's Report** – President R. Daren Baxter QC, TEP provided a report on his activities since July 21, including a number of meetings, media interviews, conferences and special events.

6. **Council approved the following resignations:** Terry Louise Roane QC, Angele Mina Comeau

7. **Council approved the following appointments:**

- **Professional Standards (Real Estate) Committee:** Sean Rooney
- **Succession Planning Working Group:** Chair, Heidi Foshay-Kimball QC, Gerald Green, Robert Carter, Loretta Manning

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **Friday, January 20, 2017 at 9:00 am** at the Society's offices.