



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

**ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2022 AT 9:00 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gary Armsworthy  
M. Ingrid Brodie –  
Council  
Dianna Burns  
Level Chan  
Maurice Chiasson QC  
Roberta Clarke QC  
Joseph Cuffari  
Bryan Darrell – Council  
Public Representative  
Jeanne Desveaux QC  
Ella Dodson  
Bronwyn Duffy – Council  
Nancy Elliott  
Frank DeMont QC –  
Council  
Nicholas Foran  
Anna Fried  
Emma Halpern  
Martin Herschorn QC  
David Hirtle QC –  
Council  
Cheryl Hodder QC  
Michelle Kelly QC  
Susanne Litke QC  
Douglas Livingstone  
Jennifer MacDonald –  
Council  
Fraser MacFadyen –  
Council

Robert G. (Robbie)  
MacKeigan QC  
Robert Joseph Blaise  
MacLean  
Janice Maloney  
Gary Manthorne  
Morgan Manzer  
Melisa Marsman  
Shannon Mason –  
Council  
Josie McKinney  
Kathleen McManus QC  
Blair Mitchell  
Michelle Morgan-Coole  
Patrick Morris QC  
Donald Murray QC  
Patricia Neild  
Andy Nickerson QC  
Mcfarlane "Marc" Njoh  
Konstantina Northrup  
Oluwabiyi Olafimihan  
Matthew Orrell  
Shawna Paris-Hoyte QC  
Melanie Petrunia – 1st  
Vice President  
Carole Lee Reinhardt –  
Council Public  
Representative  
Kelly Rowlett – Council  
Connie Rusk  
Mark Scott QC – 2nd  
Vice President

Roger Strum  
Kimberley Turner QC  
Jamie Vacon – Council  
Michelle Ward – Council  
Public Representative  
Linda Wood  
Lisa Wright  
Olga Young  
Patrick Young – Council  
Tuma Young QC –  
President – Chair

**Guest/Public:**

Marcus James  
Claudia Mann  
Shehu Mustafa  
The Honourable Pam  
Williams

**Staff:**

Sharon Cox  
Elaine Cumming  
John MacGillis  
Jocelyn MacNeill  
Tammy Manning  
Jackie Mullenger  
Jennifer Pink  
Kate Shewan  
Jane Willwerth  
Rebecca Zhang

Tuma Young QC welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. President Young acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Mi'kmaq the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and thanked the Mi'kmaq peoples for sharing their lands with us in peace

and friendship. He also recognized former Presidents of the Society in attendance and thanked them for their service. He confirmed the meeting had quorum.

## 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 19, 2021

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded (Melanie Petrunia/David Hirtle QC) that the minutes of the June 19, 2021 Annual Meeting be approved.

*The motion was carried.*

## 2. MATTERS FOR ACTION

### a. Tabling of Annual Report

Jackie Mullenger, Acting Executive Director, tabled the Annual Report pursuant to Section 10(2) of the *Legal Profession Act* with copies made available to attendees and the Membership on the Society's [website](#). She noted that the report includes a message from the President and from herself as acting Executive Director, the Society's financial statements, a section on awards and reports, and a highlight of the past year's membership statistics.

She thanked Tuma Young QC for his leadership and acknowledged Council, Committee Members and Staff for all their hard work.

### b. Presentation of Financial Statements

Kate Shewan, Director of Finance & Administration, tabled the audited Financial Statements as approved by the Finance Committee on behalf of Council noting the full Report is published on the Society's [website](#) and presented the highlights. Maurice Chiasson QC, Chair, Finance Committee was also available to answer questions.

### c. Appointment of Auditor

**IT WAS MOVED** and seconded (Maurice Chiasson QC/Andy Nickerson QC) that **IT IS RESOLVED**, pursuant to Section 10 (2) (b) of the *Legal Profession Act* that Grant Thornton LLP be appointed auditors for the Society for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023.

*The motion was carried.*

Mr. Chiasson credited the auditors for their work. He also expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to Society staff for their hard work over the past year.

## 3. REPORTING MATTERS

### a. Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Robert MacKeigan QC, Chair of the Law Foundation Board, tabled the report of the Law Foundation in accordance with the Legal Professional Act. He noted that the full Annual Report including Financial Audited Statement was available [online](#). He described the purpose of the Law Foundation, its financial position, and the allocations made by the Foundation.

## **b. President's Report**

President Tuma Young QC opened his remarks by noting that the Annual Meeting is being held virtually again this year, but he was hopeful that this would be the last time, and that next year's will be held in person. He thanked all of Council for their hard work, and said all the views expressed during meetings were heard and appreciated. He noted that staff have worked without a full time Executive Director for over a year now, and thanked Jackie Mullenger for her hard work as Acting Executive Director. He said he was anticipating the presentation of Mr. Doug Ruck's report and that the Society was looking forward to implementing its findings. He thanked Society staff for their hard work during a difficult year, and thanked the Executive for their support.

Mr. Young introduced Melanie Petrunia, the Society's incoming president, and expressed full confidence in her leadership.

## **4. THE YEAR AHEAD**

Melanie Petrunia opened her remarks by paying tribute to Mr. Young's contributions to the Society and to the broader community, thanked Jackie Mullenger for being the Society's interim leader, and thanked staff for their work amid staffing shortages and other challenges. She noted she was the Society's eighth female president, and first out queer woman president. She then addressed the three most common questions she has heard so far as a member of the Society's Executive: She confirmed that the Society has perpetuated systemic discrimination and that she is looking forward to implementing the recommendations in Mr. Doug Ruck's forthcoming report. She confirmed the Society would continue to pursue its equity, diversity and inclusion work while regulating the profession as it is obligated under the *Legal Profession Act*. Lastly, she confirmed that the Society has been in a degree of turmoil, but said this is to be expected when dealing with the challenging issues inherent in addressing, and dismantling, structures of systemic discrimination.

Ms. Petrunia concluded by thanking Council for its work, and expressing confidence that this Council can meet the challenges of the coming year.

## **5. GUEST PANEL**

### **Keynote Presentation – Innovation: How COVID provided an opportunity to collaboratively work through challenges within the justice system**

*A Panel Discussion with Chief Judge Pam Williams, Claudia Mann, Emma Halpern and Marcus James. Mark Scott, QC as Moderator*

Mark Scott QC, Second Vice President, introduced the panelists and explained that they would discuss how they worked together, across sectors, to address the challenges within the criminal justice system triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The panel discussed how they worked together to reduce the inmate population in Nova Scotia jails; how they worked together to assure people could access meaningful bail; how the provincial courts introduced new technology and processes to provide services virtually; and how the reforms made during the pandemic will continue to impact their

work in the future.

**Tuma Young QC thanked the Guest speakers for their remarks and time.**

**As the business to be transacted was complete, a motion was requested to adjourn the formal part of the Annual Meeting.**

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded (Tuma Young QC/Mark Scott QC) that there being no further business the Annual Meeting be adjourned. *The motion was carried.***

DRAFT