



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, May 17, 2019** at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook, Nova Scotia and conducted the following business:

Introductory Matters

1. **Introductory Remarks** – Following the singing of the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” by Shontaya Williams, President Frank DeMont QC called the meeting to order. He acknowledged that the Council meeting was taking place on traditional Mi'kmaq territory and also recognized the historical significance of the land for the Black and African Nova Scotian community. He referenced the *Land Titles Clarification Act* and the need for the *Act* to be instituted to grant certificates of title to residents of the Black and African Nova Scotian community to retain the lands they have occupied for the last twenty years.

Discussion of Big Issue (Legal Services Support and Equity & Access Updates)

2. **LSS Update** – Jackie Mullenger, Director of Education & Credentials, and Jennifer Pink, Legal Services Support Manager, updated Council on the LSS team's work and progress over the past few months. They highlighted the team's completion of the MSELP Self-Assessment Tool “soft launch,” as well as their ongoing registrations of new law firms and supporting lawyers with succession planning resources and mentorship programs.
3. **Update from the Equity & Access Office** – Angela Simmonds, Equity & Access Manager, updated Council on the Equity & Access Office's work. She highlighted the Office's efforts to provide law firms with cultural competence and equity lens training and reported on the ongoing activities of the Truth & Reconciliation Working Group. Jane Willwerth, Strategy & Engagement Officer, presented the Office's ongoing project to create an equity lens toolkit which will be ready to launch in the summer. Finally, El Jones, former Halifax poet laureate and member of the Society's Racial Equity Committee, provided an overview of the committee's project, “Access to Justice: A Prisoner's Handbook,” a collaborative effort with inmates at the Burnside Correctional Facility, which provides basic information about legal and court processes.

Policies/Processes

4. **Amendments to Part 11 of the Regulations regarding the Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation** – Bill Mahody QC, Chair of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation Committee, provided an outline of the recommended amendments with respect to the threshold of the monetary limit of claims that the Committee can approve before it would need to be brought to Council for approval. Discussion ensued on whether the recommended changes are supported by enough historical background from the committee. It was agreed that the matter would return to Council for approval in July once more information has been



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provided.

5. **Draft Lawyer Report** – Kate Shewan, Director of Finance & Administration, presented the Draft 2019 Annual Lawyer Report. She highlighted the proposed changes in the report's language and categories of identification. With the exception of one amendment regarding the gender identity section, the drafted Annual Lawyer Report was approved by Council.
6. **Client ID Rules** – President Frank DeMont QC presented the memo recommending that the Society adopt the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Model Rules for client identification and verification and limits on cash transactions for use in Nova Scotia. The proposed rules will return to Council in July for approval.
7. **High Level Overview of the Next Strategic Plan** – President Frank DeMont QC presented the highlights of the 2019-2022 NSBS Strategic Planning Session that occurred on May 9 and 10. The finalized plan will be brought to Council for approval in June.
8. **Committee Changeover** – Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC, advised that a shift will take place in committee members as a result of a new Council beginning in June. Continuing and incoming Council members were asked to express interest for the committees they wish to be a part of during the next term.

Approvals

9. **Appointment of Council Member from the Southwestern District** – Due to the vacancy left in the Southwestern Council District after the closure of the Council District Elections, the Governance & Nominating Committee was tasked with providing Council with a recommendation to fill the position. Following a vetting and interview process, the GNC recommended that Andy Nickerson QC of Yarmouth be appointed to fill the vacancy in the District. The recommendation was approved by Council.
10. **Appointment of Public Representative to Council** – As current Public Representative Mike Baker will reach the end of his Council term limit in June 2019, the Governance & Nominating Committee was tasked with filling the position. Following a rigorous recruitment and vetting process, the GNC recommended that Bryan Darrel of Halifax be appointed a Public Representative of Council effective June 15, 2019. Council approved the appointment.

In Camera

11. Claims were approved in relation to Jason Boudrot, in the amounts of \$19,655.23; \$116,593.31 and \$8,050.



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Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

12. Minutes of March 15, 2019 Meeting

13. Minutes of April 26, 2019 Meeting

14. Committees Appointments: Tim Matthews QC (Chair), Tanya Butler, Jeanne Desveaux, Erin O'Brien Edmonds QC, Trinda Ernst QC, Lawrence Graham QC, Shannon Ingraham-Christie, Jessica Lyle, Benjamin Carver and Mary Jane Saunders – Wills, Power of Attorney and Personal Directives Standards Committee; Dr. Ian Reid (Public Rep.) – Hearing Committee

Items for information – Council received the following informational items:

15. 2018-2019 Council Calendar

16. 2019 Activity Plan

17. Executive Director Report

18. President's Report

19. PR Monitoring Report

20. FLSC Report

21. [Grey Areas – “Clayton Report: The Wolf Finally Arrives”](#)

Following the meeting, Council Members and attendees broke out into small groups over lunch to discuss the Society's work and how the Society can better support members of the African Nova Scotian Community

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **Saturday, June 15, 2019 following the Annual Meeting at the Schulich School of Law.**