



Letter from President Frank E. DeMont, QC

January 16, 2019

Dear NSBS Member:

As the governing body for the profession, Council approves the Society's Strategic Framework, sets the Society's policies and oversees the regulation of the profession. To do this, the Society requires committed, diverse, and effective leadership on Council.

2019 is a Council election year. If you are interested in leading the Society in how it undertakes its mandate, you should consider running for Council.

Council needs individuals who have experience or are committed to working in such areas as regulation, governance, and access to justice or equity matters, who are strategic thinkers with strong communication skills, who come from diverse backgrounds and areas of practice, who are of unquestionable integrity and respectful of others, and who may have held leadership roles in other organizations (e.g. board member, mentor, volunteer coach, etc.).

The Society has moved into the new era of legal services regulation and has been applying a Proactive, Principled and Proportionate (Triple P) approach to regulation. Council has also committed the Society to enhancing access to legal services and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in the legal profession and justice system.

The Society will continue its commitment to innovation in the delivery of legal services and promotion of equity, all with the intention of regulating the profession in the public interest.

I am urging all lawyers to consider running for Council and taking on one of the most important roles we have to ensure continued self-governance of an independent legal profession. For some it may be a step outside of their comfort zone. I expect that most who have done so have found the work rewarding.

I particularly want to encourage lawyers from equity-seeking communities to consider running as we aim to increase diversity among Council Members to better represent the makeup of our Bar.

Please consider putting your name forward in the upcoming Council elections. Here is some information you should be aware of:

Second Vice-President Election

Before January 31, 2019, the Governance and Nominating Committee will announce its candidate for election to the role of Second Vice-president. There will then be a call for nominations from the membership. Additional nominations can be made until February 15, 2019. If an election is required, it will run concurrently with the District Elections from **March 4 to March 18, 2019**.

District Elections

Ten Council members will be elected across the province – two each in Cape Breton, Central, and Southwestern Districts, and four from the Halifax District. Practising lawyers in each district are eligible to vote for candidates in their own districts.

Nominations for the District Elections are now open and will close on February 15, 2019, with the election taking place from March 4 to March 18, 2019. Lawyers practising in each district may be nominated by submitting a [Nomination Form – District Elections](#).

At Large Election

This election is for three member-at-large positions following completion of the District Elections. Nominations will be open from **March 19 to April 1, 2019**, with the election running from **April 15 to April 22, 2019**. All lawyers and non-practising members are eligible to run and vote for these positions.

Council Meetings for 2019-2020

Most Council committee meetings take place at the Society's Offices in Halifax. All new Council members will also be expected to attend the **Council Orientation** scheduled for June 14, 2019, prior to the Society's 2019 Annual Meeting in Halifax on June 15, 2019. We will also ask that newly elected members join the continuing and outgoing members of Council in developing the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan on May 9 and 10, 2019.

For More Information:

- The [Council Elections](#) page at the Society's website has a full description of the election process, links to nomination forms and other information at <http://nsbs.org/council-election>
- The [Council](#) section of the website includes Council policies, bios for current Council members, Reports to Council, meeting documents and more
- If you have any inquiries about the election process or require assistance, please email elections@nsbs.org. Your message will be returned within two business days.
- I also invite you to contact me directly at frank@demonts.ca or 902-755-9200 if you have any questions.

- Finally, there will be an Election Information session at the Society's Offices on Thursday, February 7, 2019 from 4:30-5:30pm. A call-in number will be provided for those who cannot attend in person. More information to come.

Yours truly,

Frank E. DeMont, QC
President