COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society Council met Friday, September 19, 2014 at the Society’s offices and conducted the following business:


2. Excellence In Regulation and Governance
   a. Code of Professional Conduct Rule 6.3.5 – Council approved the addition of the word “special” upon recommendation from the Code of Professional Conduct Committee. The rule now reads:

   [1] A lawyer has a special responsibility to respect the requirements of human rights laws in force in Canada, its provinces and territories and, specifically, to honour the obligations enumerated in human rights laws.

   b. An Outcomes Measurement Framework for the Society – Council reviewed a report and recommendations. Approvals are pending further input from the new Director of Finance & Administration, who begins work at the Society on October 14.

   c. Regulation amendments – Council approved several Regulation amendments (see the Council documents on the Council materials page for complete details):
      - Regulation 9.2A – Fitness to Practise
      - Regulation 9.6 and 9.14 – Show Cause
      - Subregulation 9.1.1 and 9.1.3 – Ungovernability

   d. Regulatory Objectives Working Group – Victoria Rees, Director, Professional Responsibility, provided an update on this Working Group’s recent progress.

   e. Entity Regulation Working Group – Tilly Pillay QC, President, provided an update on this Working Group’s recent progress.

3. Improving the Administration of Justice
   a. Access to Justice Activities update – Emma Halpern, Equity Officer, provided an update to Council on a wide range of projects and initiatives underway and in development as part of the Society’s A2J Action Plan. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed that Council will receive an A2J update at each meeting.

   b. Access to Justice Coordinating Committee – Tilly Pillay QC, President, provided an update on her first meeting with the new Access to Justice Coordinating Committee, which is co-chaired by Justice Minister Lena Diab and the Hon. Michael MacDonald, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia.

2. Foundational Activities
   a. Committee Work Plans – Past President J. René Gallant provided an overview of the work plan for the Governance and Nominating Committee. Council reviewed and approved this work plan, and the work plans for the Code of Professional Conduct Committee and the Professional Responsibility Policies & Procedures Committee.
b. **2014 Annual Lawyer Report** – Council reviewed and discussed the results of the 2014 Annual Lawyer Report, following a summary by Darrel Pink, Executive Director.

c. **Federation of Law Societies of Canada** – Darrel Pink, Executive Director, provided an update on the Federation’s upcoming Annual Conference, to be hosted by NSBS in Halifax from October 7 to 10. This year’s theme is “Access to Justice and Legal Services: Developing Practical Strategies.” In partnership with the United Way, the conference will include a poverty sensitization workshop called “Living on the Edge,” and site visits to 11 local organizations to generate specific discussions about the public’s access to justice needs.

d. **Financial Statements** – Council received and reviewed the Society’s Financial Statements to August 31, 2014.

3. **Information Items/Reports**

a. **Annual Activity Plan 2013-2014** – Council received the updated Activity Plan 2014-2015, September grid, which can be accessed [here](#).


c. **Executive Director’s Report** – Executive Director Darrel Pink provided updates on the Society’s regulatory reform and access to justice priorities, consultation efforts ahead, budgetary issues, the search for a new Director of Finance & Administration, and the Trinity Western litigation.

d. **President’s Report** – President Tilly Pillay QC provided an update on her activities since July, including the first meeting of the province’s new Access to Justice Coordinating Committee, meetings with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice, the swearing-in ceremony for the Hon. Justice Cindy Bourgeois, the law school orientation for new students at the Schulich School of Law, a meeting with LISNS to discuss access to justice projects, and more.

e. **Regulatory Reform Survey Report** – Council received a report on the member survey and evaluation following three events in June that promoted innovation in the delivery of legal services. These included “Regulation and Innovation in Legal Practice,” a workshop delivered by consultant Jordan Furlong on June 13, as well as Mr. Furlong’s keynote address at the 2014 NSBS Annual Meeting and an educational workshop titled “Innovating in Your Practice,” both on June 14.


4. **In Camera Discussion** – Council held an *in camera* discussion for a briefing on the Trinity Western University litigation, scheduled for December 16 to 19 at Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

5. **Council approved the following resignations**: Mark Alexander Mills and Robert William Wheatley
6. Council approved the following appointments:

- Governance and Nominating Committee: Ken Nason, Public Representative
- Professional Responsibility Policies & Procedures Committee: Loretta Manning

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2014 at 9:00 am, at the Society’s offices.