



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, September 27, 2019**, at the Society Offices and conducted the following business:

Introductory Matters

1. **Introductory Remarks** – President Carrie Ricker called the meeting to order. She acknowledged that the Council meeting was taking place on traditional Mi'kmaq territory and noted that treaties were based on peace and friendship. She welcomed Jane Willwerth, the Society's new interim Governance, Policy and Planning Advisor.

Discussion of Big Issue (EDI & TRC)

2. **TRCWG Report** – Angelina Amaral, Chair of the TRCWG, provided Council with an update on the TRCWG's activities over the summer months. Alex Tomer, an Indigenous law student, was hired to be their Community Liaison worker. Their focus was to begin introducing the TRCWG to the legal and Indigenous committees, the environmental scan and gathering information for the TRC Action Plan. Additional community meetings and three education sessions will take place this year.
3. **Equity Lens Toolkit** – Angela Simmonds, Equity and Access Manager, presented her memo on the Concepts of Cultural Competence and Humility for the Legal Profession and provided Council with an overview of the Equity Lens Toolkit expected to be rolled out to the profession in December 2019. Robert Wright, Social Worker and Sociologist, joined Council and spoke about the definition of cultural competence and the language we should be using to ensure a more just and inclusive society.

Policies/Processes

4. **CPLED Proposal** – Jackie Mullenger, Director Education & Credentials, presented two recommendations to Council: 1) that the Society partner with CPLED in the PREP course and move forward with the necessary steps to begin offering the PREP course in September 2020; and 2) that Council appoint a subcommittee of Council members to study the options for financing the PREP course. Council approved motions for both recommendations.
5. **Strategic Goals & Objectives Rollout** – The 2019-2022 Strategic Goals & Objectives and Activity Plan will be the big issue for discussion at the November Council meeting.
6. **Report from GNC on Court Liaison Task Force / Proposed Regulatory Amendments** – The GNC recommended that the Court Liaison Committees remain as committees advisory to the Executive Director without having to follow the requirements of a Council committee and that Council Policy 18 and the regulations relating to committees be amended to give effect to these recommendations. Council approved a motion to accept the recommendations.



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7. **Regulatory Risk Project Plan Update** – Victoria Rees, Director Professional Responsibility, provided Council with an update on the Society's Regulatory Risk Project Plan. A further update will be provided to Council at its January meeting.
8. **LIANS Report to Council** – Lawrence Rubin, Director LIANS, presented the LIANS semi-annual report to Council and noted that a report will be provided to Council in January regarding the Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) user services.
9. **Public Website Redevelopment Project** – Collette Deschenes, Communications Advisor, provided Council with an update on the NSBS website redesign. Website content will continue to be refined over the next few months and a preliminary site will be shared with Council in November.
10. **Communications to Committee Chairs** – Tilly Pillay QC, Executive Director, presented Council with proposed changes to processes and reporting requirements for Council committees. Council agreed that committees would submit their two-year work plans to Council for approval early in their term and then provide an interim update at the end of their first year and a final report at the end of their two-year term. Council also agreed that Committee Chairs would join Council on an annual basis to provide an overview of their work plans and to provide interim updates.

Approvals

11. **Client ID Rules** – Elaine Cumming, Professional Responsibility Counsel, presented a memo recommending that the amendments to Regulations 4.12, 4.13, and 10.2, as drafted by the Federation of Law Societies' Anti-money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Working Group, be approved. Council approved a motion with an effective date of January 1, 2020.
12. **Memo from GNC – Splitting Committee** – Council approved a motion to accept the recommendation of the GNC that the GNC be split into two committees -- a Governance Committee and a Nominations Committee -- and that the GNC sub-committee develop Terms of Reference for each of the two committees.
13. **Trust Account Report – Dual Authorization** – Council approved a motion to amend subregulations 10.6.3 and 10.6.3.1 regarding the requirement for a dual authorization on trust cheques effective January 1, 2020 – a communications strategy will be created to address the rationale for the amendments.

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

14. **Minutes of the July 29, 2019 meeting**
15. **Distinguished Service Award** – revisions to the DSA Administrative Policy and



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Procedure and the DSA Nomination Criteria

- 16. National Discipline Standards** – amendments effective January 1, 2020
- 17. Committees Appointments:** Reappointment of Robert MacKeigan QC as Chair of Board of Law Foundation of Nova Scotia; and Reappointment of Douglas Ruck QC as member of Board -- both for two years from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021; and Appointment of Darryl Tracey to the TRCWG
- 18. Resignations:** Sunil Sharma; Paul Marquis from the LFCCC; Heather McNeill QC from the REC; Theresa Graham from the Professional Standards (Real Estate) Committee; Kym Sweeny from the GEC; and Kathryn Dumke QC from the LOMC

Items for information – Council received the following informational items:

- 19. 2019-2020 Council Calendar**
- 20. 2019 Activity Plan**
- 21. 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar**
- 22. President's Report**
- 23. Executive Director's Report**
- 24. MDP Update**
- 25. Posthumous Calls to the Bar**
- 26. Report and Recommendation from the Utah Work Group on Regulatory Reform**

The next Council meeting is **Friday, November 22, 2019.**