



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, February 15, 2019** at the Society's offices in Halifax and conducted the following business:

Discussion of Big Issue (Strategic Framework – Legal Services Support)

1. **LSS Update** – Jennifer Pink, LSS Manager, and Rob McCleave, LSS Officer, updated Council on the LSS work and progress over the past few months. Ms. Pink reported that the first “soft launch” of the MSELP Self-Assessment Tool in January provided informative feedback from participants. The next launch will happen in February while staff continue to address feedback from the first iteration. Ms. Pink and Mr. McCleave provided updates the LSS office's collaborative work with the Professional Responsibility and Trust Account offices. Their main priority is fully testing the self-assessment tool before it's sent out.

Policies/Processes

2. **Budget Introduction**– Sean Walker, Contract Director of Finance & Administration, gave a high level 2019-2020 budget introduction. The budget will be brought back to Council in March for debate and preliminary approval before it's approved in April. He reviewed various projected expenses and revenues for the Society, financing for various projects and projected membership fees. Council members discussed particular funding models for various projects.
3. **Introduction to CPLED 2.0** – Jacqueline Mullenger, Director of Education & Credentials, reported that the Society is currently in talks with the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED), based out of Alberta, to replace the Society's current bar admissions course with CPLED's program. She outlined various reasons to consider the move and explained that the current administrator for the Society's bar exam is preparing to retire. Many law societies intend to harmonize bar admission requirements across the country. There was some discussion over the increased costs of the program. The CEO of CPLED will be attending the March Council meeting to give a comprehensive presentation of the new program.
4. **Code of Professional Conduct Committee (CPC) – Policy Recommendation for Multi-Disciplinary Practices (MDPs)** – Society President and Chair of the Code of Professional Conduct Committee, Frank DeMont QC, presented the Committee's research paper to Council. The CPC requested Council's consent to take next steps in their work on MDPs which would include further policy and regulatory analysis. After some discussion, Council directed the CPC to continue their work and research on the subject.

Council & Committees

5. **Meeting of Council and Society Committee Chairs** – Council met with Chairs



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and representatives from the following committees: Credentials, Finance, Family Professional Standards, Real Estate Professional Standards, Criminal Professional Standards, Law Office Management Standards, Professional Responsibility Policies & Procedures, Code of Professional Conduct, Complaints Investigations, Gender Equity, Racial Equity and Governance & Nominating Committees. Each Chair/representative gave an outline of their respective committee's work plan and Council provided feedback and suggestions of other projects and tasks those committees may wish to focus on.

Approvals

6. **2019 Activity Plan** – Since there were further revisions to the Activity Plan, it is deferred to the March Council meeting for approval.
7. **Criminal Standards for Approval: Standard No. 2 – Lawyers' Competence; Standard No. 3 – Defence Obligations Regarding Disclosure** – Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, presented the two Criminal Professional Standards. Council approved the Standards.

In Camera

8. **There was one item held in camera.**

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

9. **Minutes of January 18, 2019 Meeting**
10. **Resignations:** Mr. Arthur Andrew Oskar von Kursell (effective 02/15/2019)
11. **Committees Appointments:** Deanna Frappier – Gender Equity Committee; Matthew Moir – Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation Committee
12. **Committee Resignation:** Jillian Barrington – Credentials Committee
13. **Technology for the Council Election**
14. **Uniform Certificates of Standing**
15. **Criminal Standard for Introduction: Standard No. 4 – Withdrawal of Guilty Plea**

Items for information – Council received the following informational items:

16. **2018-2019 Council Calendar**



17. Executive Director Report

18. Crossing the Border with Electronic Devices

19. December 31, 2018 Summary Financial Reports

20. “The Coming End of Lawyer Control Over Legal Regulation,” Jordan Furlong, *Slaw*

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 15 at 9:00 am at the Society’s Offices in Halifax.**