



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Discussion of Big Issue (Budget)

1. **Budget Presentation** – Sean Walker, Contract Director of Finance & Administration, presented the 2019-2020 Budget to Council. He reviewed the Society's various projected expenses and revenues, financing for priority projects and projected membership fees. There was lengthy discussion over the particulars of some of the projected expenses for the year. Council ultimately agreed that they were comfortable with the proposed Budget and it will be brought back for final approval with the LIANS Levy in April.
2. **Officers Honorarium Policy** – Tilly Pillay QC, Executive Director, gave an overview of the Finance Committee's work on updating Council Policy 15 – Honorariums for Society Officers and Public Representatives. They recommend that Council allow travel stipends to Officers who live outside of HRM in addition to the Officer Honorarium. The revised policy was approved by Council.

Policies/Processes

3. **TRC Working Group – Update, Terms of Reference Approval and Work Plan Introduction** – Angelina Amaral, Chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Working Group, presented the Group's Terms of Reference and draft work plan. She highlighted some of the draft work plan initiatives including the revival of the Eastern Door Initiative, creating a decolonization education series and working with the Education & Credentials department to incorporate cultural competence training in the bar admissions course. There were questions and suggestions from Council members on ways to further engage both Council and the membership in the group's work.
4. **CPLED Presentation** – Dr. Kara Mitchelmore, CEO of the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED), presented the Centre's new bar admissions program to Council. She gave an overview of the program's four-part structure, which includes both online modules and exercises as well as in-person workshops and sessions. Council is currently considering whether they will adopt CPLED's program for the Society's bar admission course.
5. **Professional Responsibility Policies and Procedures – Policy Recommendation regarding Remuneration of Hearing Panels** – President Frank DeMont QC presented the PRPPC's policy recommendation to Council on implementing increased remuneration for Panelists in Hearings that go beyond ten days. The policy recommendation was approved by Council.
6. **LIANS Report to Council** – Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, presented the



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LIANS Report to Council. He reviewed the department's various activities and the number of claims that were submitted, opened and closed over the past year.

7. **Equity & Access Monitoring Report** – Angela Simmonds, Equity & Access Manager, presented the Equity & Access Monitoring Report to Council. She highlighted the work on embedding an equity lens at the Society and providing cultural competency training to lawyers. Ms. Simmonds also reported on the office's collaborative work with the Professional Responsibility department, particularly related to complaints that involve equity issues.
8. **Strategic Planning Session – Update** – President Frank DeMont QC provided an update on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee's work. The committee is currently conducting environmental scans and gathering information from stakeholders in preparation for Council's strategic planning session on May 9-10. He also introduced Council to Andy Norton, Director of Business Technology at the Law Society of Alberta, who will facilitate the strategic planning session.

Approvals

9. **2019 Activity Plan** – President DeMont presented the updated 2019 Activity Plan and the plan was approved by Council.
10. **Southwestern District Council Vacancy** – The Governance & Nominating Committee (GNC) recommends that Council adopt an appointments process to fill the Council vacancy in the Southwestern District. Such a process is pursuant to Regulation 2.3.5 and would give the GNC the authority to put out a call for expressions of interest, vet and perhaps interview applicants, and make a recommendation to Council for appointment. Following some discussion, the GNC's recommendation was approved by Council.

Education

11. **Regulatory Risk & Outcomes Measurement Workshop** – Council and the Senior Management Team were led in a workshop on regulatory risk and outcomes measurement by Victoria Rees (Director of Professional Responsibility), Andy Norton (Law Society of Alberta) and Jane Willwerth (Strategy and Engagement Officer).

In Camera

12. **There were two items held in camera.**

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

13. **Minutes of February 15, 2019 Meeting**
14. **Resignations:** Ms. Meaghan Claire Mahadeo (effective 03/15/2019)



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15. Committees Appointments: Karen Endres and Karen Quigley – Advisory Committee on Provincial Judicial Appointments

16. 2019-2020 Committee Work Plans

17. Approval of Real Estate Practice Working Group

18. Amendments to Terms of Reference: Real Estate Standards, Criminal Standards and Family Law Standards Committees

Items for information – Council received the following informational items:

19. 2018-2019 Council Calendar

20. Executive Director Report

21. President's Report

22. Restorative Approaches – Update

23. January 31, 2019 Summary Financial Reports

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **Friday, April 26 at 9:00 am at the Society's offices in Halifax.**