



NOVA SCOTIA  
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, November 22, 2019** at the Halifax North Memorial Public Library and conducted the following business:

### **Introductory Matters**

1. **Call to Order Introductory Remarks** – President Carrie Ricker called the meeting to order. She explained the dual purpose of the meeting, which was to both conduct Council business and to learn from Nova Scotians with disabilities about their experience accessing legal services.

### **Discussion of Big Issue (Strategic Plan and Activity Plan Year 1)**

2. **Strategic Plan and Activity Plan Year 1** – President Carrie Ricker provided Council with an updated version of the 2019-2020 Activity Plan. She described the process that led to the draft's creation, and explained that Council would be divided into groups to discuss and provide feedback on the plan's different sections. After having time to discuss, Council returned with several suggestions intended to make the plan more specific and measurable. It was agreed that a working group of Council would return an amended draft to Council in January.

### **Policies/Processes**

3. **Multidisciplinary Practices: Communications and Activity Plan** – Victoria Rees, Director of Professional Responsibility, presented a draft Communications and Activity Plan intended for Council's use should they receive questions from the membership as the Society begins exploring the possibility of regulating multidisciplinary practices (MDPs). The plan includes a history of work done to date, a series of key messages, and a schedule for stakeholder engagement. Council members were asked to provide feedback on the plan, and to alter the tone of the key messages to suit their needs.
4. **Annual Firm Report** – Kate Shewan, Director of Finance & Administration, presented the draft 2020 Annual Firm Report. She highlighted the proposed changes in the report's questions about succession planning and file retention. The draft Annual Firm Report was approved by Council.
5. **Annual Lawyer Report Update** – Kate Shewan, Director of Finance & Administration, presented summary results of the 2019 Annual Lawyer Report, highlighting changes in the membership's demographics.

**Following a land acknowledgment, Council Members and attendees participated in the *Opening Doors for Everyone* workshop delivered by Amanda Grinter of reachAbility. They then broke out into small groups over lunch to discuss the Society's work and how the Society can better support Nova Scotians with disabilities in accessing legal services**



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## Approvals

6. **Criminal Standard: Withdrawal of Guilty Plea** – Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Criminal Standards Committee to adopt a new standard to address the circumstances when a party wishes to withdraw a guilty plea and the steps that counsel, acting for that party, must take and the issues to be considered.
7. **GNC recommendation and ToRs to split GNC into two committees** – Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Governance and Nominating Committee that it be split into two committees: The Governance Committee and the Nominating Committee.

## In Camera

8. Three Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation claims were approved in relation to Jason Boudrot, in amounts totaling \$16,558.63.

**Consent Agenda** – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

9. **Minutes of September 27, 2019 Meeting**
10. **Resignations:** Christian Girouard-Leclerc; Leanne Wanda MacMillan (effective January 1, 2020)
11. **PRPPC memo regarding CIC meeting options**
12. **Appointment of Paula Minnikin to the Governance and Nominating Committee**
13. **Appointments to LIANS Board:** Council approved the GNC recommendation that Robyn Elliott be appointed as Chair, Charles Thompson as Vice-Chair and that Sarah Almon and Raffi Balmanoukian be appointed as new members of the LIANS Board.
14. **Appointment of Blair MacKinnon to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation Committee.**

## Items for information

15. **2019-2020 Council Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Council Calendar.
16. **2019-2020 Engagement Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar.
17. **President's Report** – Council received President, Carrie Ricker's report.
18. **Executive Director Report** – Council received Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC's report.



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**19. Financial Update** – Council received a summary of the Society's Financial Statements, for the five months ending September 30, 2019.

**20. Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation Committee Policy on Assessment of Claims** – Council received a new comprehensive policy from the LFCC Committee articulating a framework for the Committee to follow when analyzing a claim made to the Fund.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **Friday, January 24 at 9:00 am at the Society's Offices in Halifax.**