



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, January 24** at the Society Offices and conducted the following business:

Introductory Matters

1. **Call to Order and 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 are based on peace and friendship. She then introduced a new beaded medallion created for the President to wear at official events and functions. Second Vice President Tuma Young explained that he commissioned Jocelyn Marshall of Membertou, niece of Donald Marshall, Jr., to create the medallion.

Discussion of Big Issue (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the TRC Calls to Action)

2. **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Working Group** – Angela Simmonds, Equity & Access Manager, provided an update on behalf of Angelina Amaral, Chair of the TRC Working Group. She delivered preliminary results from the Working Group's survey of practicing lawyers, which showed respondents sought more information and support for solo practitioners and small firms looking to develop a meaningful response to the Calls to Action. Tuma Young, Second Vice President, updated Council on the activities of the Eastern Door Association. Council approved the appointment of Darrell Tracy to the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group as co-chair.
3. **Equity & Access Office Update** – Angela Simmonds, Equity & Access Manager, updated Council on activities her office has undertaken following feedback received during Council in the Community sessions at Millbrook and Cherry Brook. This included meeting with high school and undergraduate students to talk about careers in law, attending the Aboriginal and Indigenous Law Symposium, and delivering a webinar introducing the Equity Lens Toolkit.
4. **November Council meeting debrief** – Council members discussed ways to follow up from the community meeting at the Halifax North Memorial Library.

Policies/Processes

5. **Committee Chair updates** – Council received updates from the Chairs of the following committees: Credentials, Professional Responsibility Policies & Procedures, Code of Professional Conduct, Governance and Nominating, Complaints Investigation, Law Office Management Standards, Criminal Standards, Real Estate Standards, Wills, Powers of Attorney & Personal Directives Standards, Family Standards, Racial Equity, Gender Equity and Finance.

Council approved new workplans for some of these committees. The remaining committee work plans will be approved at the March meeting of Council.



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

6. **Activity Plan** – Carrie Ricker, President, presented the amended 2019-2020 Activity Plan. The plan was approved by Council.
7. **CPLED Update** – Kara Mitchelmore, CEO of CPLED, updated Council on the progress of the PREP course pilot and the outreach CPLED has done with Nova Scotia's legal community.
8. **Legal Services Support Update** – Jen Pink and Rob McCleave, the Society's Legal Services Support team, updated Council on the continued rollout of the self-assessment program and new firm registration. They also introduced the Society's new succession planning toolkit. Council approved a motion to post the toolkit on the Society's website and share with the membership
9. **High Level Overview of Budget** – Kate Shewan, Director of Finance and Administration, provided Council with a preview of the 2020-2021 budget.
10. **Funding for PREP** – Cheryl Canning, Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented their working group's recommendation to subsidize a portion of the cost of the PREP course. Council approved this recommendation. Council also approved transitional regulation 14.3 to accommodate the transition from the existing Bar Admission Program to the PREP course.
11. **Council Communications Plan** – Carrie Ricker, President, introduced the new Council Communications Plan, which Council approved.
12. **LAP Report** – Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, presented statistics describing usage of the Lawyers' Assistance Program. Council discussed possible ways to encourage use of the program.

Approvals

13. **Trust Accounts – Accounting Certificate** – Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Trust Account Regulation Working Group to amend Regulation 4.10.3 Requirements for Opening a Trust Account.
14. **CPCC recommendation re: technology competence standard** – Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Code of Professional Conduct Committee of amendments regarding Technological Competence, and Chapter 3.4 Housekeeping.
15. **Creation of the Solo and Small Firms Working Group** – Council granted approval to the Executive Committee to establish a group that is dedicated to supporting sole practitioners and small firms.
16. **Merger of EAC and CPCC** – Council approved a recommendation to merge the Code of Professional Conduct Committee with the Ethics Advisory Committee.



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

In Camera

17. There were two items held in camera

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

18. Minutes of November 22, 2019 Meeting

19. Regulatory amendments to support splitting GNC into two committees.

20. Amendments to Regulation 4.6 regarding the definition of “sole practitioner”

21. LFCC Policy on Assessment of Claims

22. Real Estate Standard 3.4 Discharge of Mortgages

23. Appointments:

Governance Committee: Bryan Darrell (Chair), Andy Nickerson QC, Jim Rossiter QC, Josh Santimaw, Patrick Young, Michelle Higgins, Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc, Nancy Rubin QC, Paula Minnikin

Nominating Committee: Tuma Young (Chair), Michelle Awad QC, Ann Levangie, Sheree Conlon QC, Alonzo Wright QC, Alisha Brown-Fagan, Phil Star QC, Lauren Scaravelli, Jamie Vacon, Dr. Rod Wilson

Supreme Court Liaison Committee: Bob Carter (Chair), Bryna Hatt, David Hutt

Law Office Management Committee: Anna Manley and John Boddie

Real Estate Standards Committee: lola doucet and Raffi Balmanoukian

24. Resignation of Nancy Rubin QC from the Supreme Court Liaison Committee

25. Resignations: Jennifer Elaine Barnes Standen, Lauren Elizabeth Degabriele, Conor Patrick Doyle, Pamela Kristeen Earle, John H. Cuthbertson QC

Items for information

26. 2019-2020 Council Calendar – Council received the 2019-2020 Council Calendar.

27. 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar – Council received the 2019-2020 Council Calendar.

28. President’s Report – Council received President Carrie Ricker’s report.



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

- 29. Executive Director Report** – Council received Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC's report.
- 30. Standards for introduction** – Council received the following standards for introduction: 2.4 Plans and Surveys, 2.5 Encroachments, 3.9 Trustee's Deeds, 3.10 Estates, 3.17 Options and Rights of First Refusal, 5.1 Zoning and Occupancy Permits
- 31. Report from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada** – Council received Jill Perry's report.
- 32. *Everyone turns to lawyers for #MeToo advice, but the legal community needs its own reckoning*** – Council received this article from the Globe & Mail.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **Friday, March 27 at 9:00 am at the Society's Offices in Halifax.**