



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, March 27, 2020** at 9am via teleconference and conducted the following business:

Introductory Matters

1. **Call to Order and Introductory Remarks** – President Carrie Ricker called the meeting to order. She acknowledged the extraordinary nature of the meeting, which was being held via teleconference in order to adhere to public health directives issued to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia. She acknowledged that while Council was meeting via teleconference, Council members meet and do their work on traditional Mi'kmaq territory and noted that treaties are based on peace and friendship.

Discussion of Big Issue

2. **Budget** – Kate Shewan, Director of Finance and Administration, and Maurice Chiasson QC, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided a detailed description of the budget that was to be brought to Council for approval in April. They described how the economic crisis triggered by COVID-19 would impact the budget as designed. While the original proposed budget would need to be reworked, they stressed that the Society remains in a strong financial position.

Policies/Processes

3. **Multidisciplinary Practices** – Jim Rossiter QC, Second Vice President, summarized a memo from the Code of Professional Conduct Committee requesting approval to permit authorization of multidisciplinary practices in Nova Scotia. A decision on this matter was deferred to a future meeting of Council.
4. **Regulatory Risk Project Update** – Council received a written update by Victoria Rees QC, Director of Professional Responsibility, on the Society's internal risk management work.
5. **Professional Responsibility Monitoring Report** – Council received a written report by Victoria Rees QC on the work of the Society's Professional Responsibility department.
6. **LIANS Report** – Council received a written report by Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, on the work of the Lawyers' Insurance Association of Nova Scotia.
7. **Cultural Competency** – Council received a memo from Tilly Pillay QC, Executive Director, describing a process for achieving cultural competency goals set out in the strategic plan.
8. **NSBS Response to COVID-19** – Tilly Pillay QC, Executive Director, described the measures the Society has taken to limit the spread of COVID-19, and to respond to the needs of the public and the membership. This has included having staff work from home; publishing a detailed FAQ for lawyers and the public on the Society's website; holding all meetings remotely; and liaising with justice partners to resolve shared concerns.



Approvals

- 9. There were no approvals on the agenda**

In Camera

- 10. There was one item held in camera**

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

- 11. Minutes of January 23, 2020 Meeting**

- 12. Approval of the Gender Equity Committee and Credentials Committee workplans**

- 13. Approval of amended Terms of Reference: Racial Equity Committee and Gender Equity Committee**

- 14. Appointments:**

David Hirtle, Nominating Committee

Karen Bennett-Clayton, Supreme Court Liaison Committee

Angela Caseley, Supreme Court Liaison Committee

Raffi Balmanoukian, Law Office Management Standards Committee

Mark Scott QC, NSCA Liaison Committee

Kym Sweeney, Gender Equity Committee

Michelle Kelly as Chair of the Gender Equity Committee

- 15. Committee Resignations:**

Resignation of Ryan Baxter from the Code of Professional Conduct Committee

Resignations of Sheree Conlon QC and Nasha Nijhawan as co-Chairs of the Gender Equity Committee, but will remain members of GEC

- 16. Designated Lawyer Policy**

- 17. Abeyance Policy**



18. Paper Call to the Bar

Items for information

- 19. 2019-2020 Council Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Council Calendar.
- 20. 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar.
- 21. 2019-2020 Activity Plan** – Council received the 2019-2020 Activity Plan
- 22. President's Report** – Council received President Carrie Ricker's report.
- 23. Executive Director Report** – Council received Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC's report.
- 24. Council in the Community** – Council received a memo from Tilly Pillay QC with questions for consideration when planning future Council in the Community meetings.
- 25. 2020-2021 Schedule of Meetings** – Council received the draft schedule for the 2020-2021 schedule of Council and committee meetings.

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