



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

**ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2019 AT 8:30 AM
WELDON BUILDING, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Angelina Amaral
Gary Armsworth
Gregory D. Auld QC
Selina Bath
Trevor Bernard
Burglind Blei
Ellen Burke
Dan Campbell QC
Kyle Campbell
Cheryl Canning QC
Melissa Chan
Level Chan
Maurice Chiasson QC
James Clarke
Roberta Clarke QC
Sheree Conlon QC
Julia Cornish QC
Joseph Cuffari
Frank DeMont QC
Gilles Deveau
Ella Dodson
Michael Donovan QC
Brian Downie QC
Kathryn Dumke QC
Nancy Elliott
Jim Enman
Christopher Fowles
Jade Fraser
Deborah Gillis QC
Mary Hamblin
Edwin Harris
Lynn Henry
Martin Herschorn QC
Ashley Hill
Michelle Kelly
Carbo Kwan
Piotr Luczak

Marian Mancini
Louis Matorin
Julien Matte
Candee McCarthy
Robert McCleave
Josie McKinney
Kathleen McManus
Heather McNeill QC
Paul Morris
Jacqueline Mullenger
Patricia Neild
Jill Perry QC
Melanie Petrunia
Tilly Pillay QC
Jennifer Pink
Michael Power QC
Russell Prime
Lester Pyne
Paul Radford QC
Victoria Rees
Carrie Ricker
Ralph Ripley
James Rossiter QC
Lawrence Rubin
Shane Russell
Robyn Schleihauf
Angela Simmonds
Ashley Skerry
Peter Sodero QC
Billy Sparks
Paul Stordy
Roger Strum
Catherine Torraville
Jack Townsend
Paul Valerie
Michelle Ward
Jeff Weatherhead

Bernadine MacAulay
Mary Anne MacDonald
Robert MacKeigan QC
Bill Mahody QC
Jodi D. Mailman
Peter Mancini QC

Barry Whynot
Lisa Wight
Ian Wilenius
Ivo Winter
Patrick Young
Tuma Young

Frank E. DeMont QC welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. He acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Mi'kmaq territory and asked attendees to guide today's decisions and learning with what this acknowledgment stands for – truth, reconciliation, respect, leadership, and our collective commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and in society generally. He also recognized former Presidents of the Society in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 16, 2018

IT WAS MOVED and seconded (Maurice Chiasson QC/Kathryn Dumke QC) that the minutes of the June 16, 2018 Annual Meeting be approved.

The motion was carried.

2. MATTERS FOR ACTION

a. Tabling of Annual Report

Tilly Pillay QC, Executive Director, tabled the Annual Report pursuant to Section 10(2) of the *Legal Profession Act* with copies made available in the room and on the Society's website. She reported that the Society is currently updating its communication platforms and that members can look forward to further changes in the coming months.

b. Presentation of Financial Statements

Kate Shewan, Director of Finance & Administration presented the audited Financial Statements as approved by the Finance Committee on behalf of Council. Maurice Chiasson QC, Chair, Finance Committee was also available to answer questions.

The full Report will be published on the Society's website.

c. Appointment of Auditor

IT WAS MOVED and seconded (Maurice Chiasson QC/Level Chan) that:

IT IS RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 10 (2) (b) of *the Legal Profession Act* that Grant Thornton LLP be appointed auditors for the Society or the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020.

The motion was carried.

3. REPORTING MATTERS

a. Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Robert MacKeigan QC, Chair of the Law Foundation Board, tabled the report of the Law Foundation. He noted that the Annual Report was available at the meeting in addition to online. He described the purpose of the Law Foundation, its financial position, and the allocations made by the Foundation.

b. President's Report – Frank E. Demont QC

President DeMont stated that while it has been a tough and challenging year for the Society, Council and Society staff have met those challenges head on and appropriately responded to them to ensure the protection of the public interest in the practice of law. He explained that his journey at the Society began with former Executive Director, Darrel Pink, and continued under the current leadership of Tilly Pillay QC. It is their hard work that is responsible for the Society's Triple P approach (Principled, Proactive, and Proportionate) to both address these challenges and look ahead to the future.

President DeMont thanked a number of departing Council members for their contributions, and thanked all public representatives involved with the Society for their efforts to serve and protect the public and keep the Society focused on its purpose. He also thanked former Society President Julia Cornish QC as well as incoming-President Carrie Ricker for their support.

He acknowledged that today's meeting marked the end of the Society's three-year strategic plan. He encouraged attendees to read the full Annual Report on the website to see the excellent work of the Society and the province's lawyers. He closed by thanking Society staff, Council, volunteers and the membership.

4. THE YEAR AHEAD – Carrie Ricker

Carrie Ricker opened her remarks in Mi'kmaq, French and English. She explained that it is customary for the incoming President to share their origin story as a lawyer. She stated that her name is Carrie, she identifies as female and uses the pronouns "she/her". She explained that her quick ascension to First Vice-President this year was due to Justice John Bodurtha's elevation to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court Bench.

Ms. Ricker described her upbringing in rural New Brunswick and how she was the first in her family to attend university. She was encouraged to go to law school by her father whose favourite TV show was *LA Law*. To Ms. Ricker's father, being a lawyer meant having an education, being respected, having a voice, and understanding the legal and justice system.

Ms. Ricker went on to relate the harassment and challenges she faced as a young female member of the profession. She stated that for too many lawyers, harassment, discrimination and mental health issues prevent them from fully pursuing their career. She added that the public interest is best served when we have a membership that is diverse and inclusive and as well as engaged and supported by the Society through the regulation of competent and ethical legal services.

Ms. Ricker vowed to create spaces where everyone can feel safe to participate as their whole selves and share their stories and truths; she added that she will listen with humility and without judgment, and to hear, accept and believe stories that are not her own. She stated that she would be supported in these efforts by the members of the incoming Council, by her fellow Society Officers, and by Society staff under the direction of Tilly Pillay QC. While there is some uncomfortable yet important issues to be tackled this year, Ms. Ricker truly believes that the Society has the expertise and leadership to be successful in undertaking this work.

She acknowledged that while the new Strategic Plan is still in the final drafting changes, today's Professional Development session – education on succession planning, technology and cultural competency, to name a few – is evidence of Society's priorities and commitments for the year ahead.

As the business to be transacted was complete, a motion was requested to adjourn the formal part of the Annual Meeting.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded (Carrie Ricker/Patrick Young) that there being no further business the Annual Meeting be adjourned.