



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, September 25 2020** at 9:00 AM via videoconference and conducted the following business:

Introductory Matters

1. **Call to Order and Introductory Remarks** – President Jim Rossiter QC called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. He welcomed the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) President, Morgan Cooper, and CEO Jonathan Herman, and on behalf the TRC Working Group Heather MacNeil QC, . He also welcomed Katie Lister, Governance, Policy and Planning Advisor, to her first Council meeting.

Discussion of Big Issue

2. **TRC Working Group** – Heather MacNeil QC provided an overview of the history of the TRC working group and she provided an update on their major activities. Council approved the 2020-2021 Work Plan and Committee member appointments. [Review the 2020-2021 Work Plan.](#)
3. **Equity & Access Office Update** – Angela Simmonds, Manger Equity & Access, provided an update on the equity team's future plans and what they're currently focusing on.
4. **FLSC response to the TRC report** – Morgan Cooper, FLSC President, gave a presentation on the Federation's response to the TRC report. He also thanked the Society for being an engaged jurisdiction and particular members for being involved and supporting the Federation's work.
5. **FLSC TRC Working Group report** - Council approved the adoption of the guiding principles for fostering reconciliation appendix C from the FLSC TRC Calls to Action Advisory Committee's Recommendations for Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
6. **Cultural competence** – Council discussed moving towards a policy decision regarding member cultural competence. The group agreed to draft an engagement plan and finalize a process. This will come to the November Council meeting for discussion and approval.

Policies/Processes

7. **LIANS six-month report** – Lawrence Rubin, LIANS Director of Insurance, highlighted the LIANS six-month report. He also noted that the LIANS Board & LIANS Audit Committee both have vacancies.
8. **Real Estate Professional Standards** – Council approved the introduction of the new Opinion of Title and Certificate of Legal Effect professional standard. Council further approved Plans and Surveys, Trustee's Deeds and Options and Rights of First Refusal



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professional standards & thanked the Real Estate Professional Standards Committee for their work.

9. **Feedback Fee Relief Program** – Further to member feedback, Council confirmed they would not reconsider its decision to offer the Fee Relief Program beyond the designated groups
10. **E. Burke Resignation – Central District Representative** – The Nomination Committee will fill this vacancy through an expression of interest process.
11. **Working Group next steps in response to Laura McCarthy email** – Council discussed recommended next steps.

Consent Agenda – Council approved the following consent agenda matters:

12. **July 24, 2020 meeting minutes**
13. **Committee Resignations:** Michelle Williams, Racial Equity Committee, John Underhill, Family Law Standards Committee, Stephen Robertson, Provincial Court Liaison Committee, Ellen Burke, Council, Finance and Family Law Standards, Susan MacKay, Provincial Court Liaison Committee.
14. **Committee Appointments:** Kelsey Jones, Racial Equity Committee, Marjorie Hickey QC, Chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, Karen Endres, Chair of the Provincial Court Liaison Committee.
15. **Resignation:** Kate Macaulay Jurgens.

Approvals

16. There were no items for approvals on the agenda.

In Camera

17. There were three items held in camera.

Items for information

18. **2020-2021 Council Calendar** – Council received the 2020-2021 Council Calendar.
19. **Executive Director Report** – Council received Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC's report.
20. **President's Report** – Council received President, Jim Rossiter QC's report.
21. **2020-2021 Activity Plan** – Council received the 2020-2021 Activity Plan.



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22. **First Quarter Finance Update** – Council received the Director, Finance and Administration, Kate Shewan's first quarter update.
23. **CPLED – Brandon Hall Group Bronze Award** – Council received notice of the Brandon Hall Group Bronze Award CPLED won in August 2020.

The next meeting of Council is **Friday, November 27 at 9:00 AM** via videoconference.