



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT 2020-2021

TRC Working Group
Committee Mandate and Responsibilities
<p>Mandate:</p> <p>The TRC Working Group advises, monitors and supports Council in the work and governance of the Society on Truth & Reconciliation.</p> <p>The TRC Working Group is established with a mandate to make recommendations to the Council on a response to the Calls to Action. In developing recommendations for consideration by the Council, the TRC Working Group will consider the role of the NSBS in responding to the Calls to Action and the value in supporting any activities the NSBS may undertake.</p>
<p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop recommendations on a response to Calls to Action 27 and 28, as its first priority given their urgency and relevance to the regulation of the legal profession;• Facilitate the exchange of information to the NSBS members about NSBS initiatives related to the Calls to Action and the initiatives of other relevant stakeholders;• Develop annual work plans and priorities for review and support of Council;• Work with other relevant NSBS Committees and the County Bar Associations to develop a strategy as to how the NSBS members should receive cultural competency training and education, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations, as recommended in Call to Action 27;• Consider actions the NSBS can take to support the establishment and incorporation of Indigenous law and languages in the Nova Scotia legal profession, including Mi'kmaw Elder participation and consultation;• Evaluate and consider actions the NSBS can take to support Indigenous lawyers and law students, and work towards having the NSBS membership reflect the Indigenous population of Nova Scotia;• Work with Indigenous communities to access and promote Indigenous laws, legal traditions and knowledge to be shared with the NSBS membership;• Identify challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in accessing justice and appropriate legal counsel, by providing recommendations to relevant stakeholders on remediating the gap in access to legal services;• Engage Indigenous members of the NSBS and Indigenous law students in the work of the TRC Working Group; and• Work in partnership to build relationships with the Schulich School of Law, as the law school works on their activities in relation to Call to Action 28.
<p>Working Group Chair:</p> <p>Angelina Amaral</p>
<p>Sub-committees, if any, and names of Chairs: TBA</p>



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Matters assigned to Committee by Council's Activity Plan	
To advise and support Council in their work and governance of the Society on Truth & Reconciliation.	
Details for each Project or Initiative	
1.	Name of initiative: Research
	Goal and outcome of initiative: To finalize the TRC Action Plan for Council developed from the information gathered throughout the 2019 environmental scan activities. To explore and research identified initiatives and priorities identified in the 2020 TRC Lawyers survey results and First Nations community engagements, and other relevant stakeholders. To explore how to create an L.nu Bar, which would include the regulatory aspects and licensing processes. To explore the development of mandatory cultural competence training by looking at how other jurisdictions that have implemented mandatory culturally competency training for their members. The focus of the research would be to look at best practices, lessons learnt and possible pit fall, and how to motivate lawyers to participate in the training.
	TRC Lead: All Committee members Timeframe for completion: On-going
	Resources required (volunteer, staff):
2.	Name of initiative: Council Education Series
	Goal and Outcome of Initiative: To have up to two speakers a year present to Council.



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	<p>To increase Councils knowledge and understanding by coordinating an educational series for Council. Presentations will build upon previous sessions and the identified needs and priorities for Council. Each session will be followed by a debriefing session.</p> <p>To coordinate a speakers list of Indigenous and non-Indigenous presenters that will identify their areas of knowledge and resource materials, which may be shared with the public, the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia, the courts of Nova Scotia and the NSBS Library.</p>
	<p>TRC Lead: All Committee members</p> <p>Timeframe for completion: On-going.</p>
	<p>Resources required (volunteer, staff):</p> <p>Administrative support. Availability of Council for about half-a-day per session. Presenter costs</p>
3.	<p>Name of initiative:</p> <p>Education and Credentials</p>
	<p>Goal and Outcome of Initiative:</p> <p>Ensure members of the NS Bar are competent when they are representing an Indigenous client, organization or community, by researching and developing guidelines and best practice standards.</p> <p>To work with relevant NSBS Committees that work with standards regarding Family Law, Criminal Law, Wills and Estates, Real Estate, Ethics, Education and Credentials, etc. to begin identifying areas of basic competency development and begin working through what level of cultural and legal competence is needed.</p> <p>To work toward the development of an Indigenous Mentoring Program for Mi'kmaq and Indigenous articling clerks and new lawyers.</p> <p>To identify resources and communications pieces that can be developed to increase our members competency levels and to identify the best way to bring this information to lawyers (mandated, voluntary, mix bag).</p> <p>To engage in a review of the Indigenous content of the Bar course, and effective methods of testing Indigenous content (localized vs CEPLD) and incorporating Indigenous content into the Bar course.</p>
	<p>TRC Lead: Jamie Vacon and Tanisha Blackmore</p>



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	Timeframe for completion: On-going
	Resources required (volunteer, staff): Administrative support. Meeting space and catering for up to 15 people. Travel costs for two (mileage and hotel), location of meetings may vary from Halifax to Sydney.
4.	Name of initiative: Building Relationships
	Goal and outcome of initiative: To engage in partnerships with, and to support, the Schulich School of Law and law Firms in Nova Scotia in various initiatives and activities (such as research and resource development) that involve the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action. To engage the First Nations and Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia in the development of this work through partnerships, hosting gatherings and shared initiatives.
	TRC Lead: Heather McNeill, QC and Victor Carter-Julian Timeframe for completion: On-going
	Resources required (volunteer, staff): Administrative support.
5.	Name of initiative: Revive the Eastern Door Indigenous Bar Association
	Goal and outcome of initiative: To engage the Indigenous Bar of NS in developing a strategic plan for reviving the Eastern Door Indigenous Bar Association. To host a series of discussions to determine the level of interest and a strategic direction for reviving the Eastern Door.
	TRC Lead: Tuma Young Timeframe for completion: On-going
	Resources required (volunteer, staff):



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	<p>Administrative support. Meeting space and catering for appx. 25 people. Larger gathering space for up to 25 Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Lawyers in Nova Scotia.</p>
Additional Comments on Committee's Plans or Progress	