



NOVA SCOTIA
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met **Friday, April 24, 2020** at 9:00 AM via videoconference 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 circumstances that require it to be held via Zoom videoconferencing. She acknowledged that even though the meeting was being held virtually, it was still being held in Mi'kma'ki and that the treaties of peace and friendship enshrine a relationship of sharing and mutual respect. She also noted that the meeting was being held on a National Day of Mourning and offered condolences on behalf of the Society to all those affected by the tragic events of the past weekend. Lastly, she welcomed Andrew Taillon, the Society's new Director of Professional Responsibility.

Discussion of Big Issue

2. **Budget and LIANS Levy** – Council approved the Society's budget and LIANS levy. Kate Shewan, Director of Finance and Administration, and Maurice Chiasson QC, Chair of the Finance Committee, described the budget revision process that occurred as a result of the pandemic. They reviewed how COVID-19 has impacted the assumptions that drove the design of the original budget, and explained how it had been amended to reduce the newly projected shortfall. They described how the Society's cash reserves would be used to stabilize the budget over three years in the hopes of avoiding large fluctuations in fees. Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, noted that the LIANS levy will increase this year due to the increased costs of running the insurance program.

Policies/Processes

3. **Annual Lawyer Report** – Carrie Ricker explained the process for updating the Annual Lawyer Report (ALR) questionnaire and presented examples of proposed changes. It was explained that staff are identifying opportunities to educate members about regulatory changes and identify opportunities to provide support.
4. **Succession Planning Standard** – Council received a draft of this proposed new standard, which will be distributed to the membership for comment.
5. **Amendments to articling requirements** – Council approved a series of amendments to allow students to begin the PREP course before they have secured articles. This will allow clerks who are unable to begin articles due to COVID-19 to use that time to complete PREP.
6. **NSBS Response to COVID-19** – Council received an update on the work that each staff department is doing in response to COVID-19. In addition to the re-



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budgeting process discussed earlier, this has included making adjustments to bar admissions, writing regulatory amendments; supporting members who have a wide range of COVID-19-related questions; managing new complaints and investigations; updating the website with information on a daily basis; and adjusting to delivering services remotely. Additionally, the Society has worked with the courts and the Department of Justice to identify ways to work together to solve problems related to the pandemic.

Approvals

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

In Camera

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

Consent Agenda – The following Consent Agenda matters were approved:

- 9. Minutes of March 27, 2020 Meeting**
- 10. Resignation of Liz Wozniak as chair of the Complaints Investigation Committee**
- 11. Appointment of Mark Scott QC, as Chair, and Janice Beaton QC, as Vice-Chair, of the Complaints Investigation Committee**

Items for information

- 12. 2019-2020 Council Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Council Calendar
- 13. 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar** – Council received the 2019-2020 Engagement Calendar
- 14. 2019-2020 Activity Plan** – Council received the 2019-2020 Activity Plan
- 15. Executive Director Report** – Council received Executive Director, Tilly Pillay QC's report
- 16. Equity & Access Monitoring Report** – Council received the Equity & Access Office's annual monitoring report

Council's next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, May 22 at 9:00 am.**