

Press Release: Nova Scotia Barristers Society announces new CEO

The Nova Scotia Barristers Society (NSBS) today announced and welcomed its new CEO. Cheryl Hodder, QC, an accomplished and respected leader with more than 30 years of legal, governance and executive business experience. Ms Hodder will begin in her new role in mid-September 2022. The Board Council unanimously chose Ms Hodder as a result of a comprehensive national recruitment process.

Ms. Hodder has most recently served as Chief Sustainability and Legal Officer with Canada Post Corporation (CPC), based in Ottawa, and she has been leading a team across a diverse portfolio that is directly relevant to NSBS's mandate. Cheryl's role saw her as executive responsible for Indigenous Reconciliation and with other executives shared responsibility for EDI, as a pillar of Canada Post's ESG strategy. She also provided support to the work of a diverse employee group involved in developing a new anti-racism charter. And, as part of the learning path and process around the organization's accessibility strategy, she has undertaken extensive consultation across the country involving diverse groups with lived experience, and she has had the opportunity to be involved in intensive unconscious bias training.

"We are delighted to welcome Cheryl 'home', where she has served and practiced over many years," says Melanie Petrunia, NSBS President.

"Council is looking forward to working with Cheryl to advance our strategic goals. She is the leader we need to help the Society address the important issues we are facing," says Petrunia, "Cheryl has had a broad engagement in the profession over her diverse career and she is a seasoned governance professional with a distinctive skillset honed over many years of taking on roles that were both challenging and meaningful. Her more recent experiences will be helpful to the current priorities and needs of NSBS."

"I am excited about this opportunity because I want to work collaboratively with NSBS's Council and the membership, and all stakeholders to envision a positive path forward," says Ms. Hodder. "I believe in and support NSBS's role in regulating the legal profession in the public interest, and in a manner that is proactive, inclusive and supportive so that the society's members deliver competent and ethical legal services."

In the months ahead, NSBS's Council will receive and share the outcome of Douglas Ruck, QC's, independent review regarding systemic discrimination, which was commissioned by the Council. An Implementation Task Force has been created to ensure the recommendations that are adopted by the Society are implemented.

Please see attached full profile for Cheryl Hodder as well as the NSBS CEO search profile.

About NSBS: The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS), comprising over 2,000 members, is the collective voice of the legal profession in Nova Scotia and acts in the public interest, providing leadership, value and support to a competent, ethical, inclusive, and engaged legal profession. As the regulatory body for the legal profession, the Society has accountability for accreditation, establishing ethical standards, overseeing professional responsibility, investigating complaints, and setting practice standards. The Society strives to improve the administration of justice in the province and serves the interests of the people of Nova Scotia. It champions the positive impact that the legal profession and lawyers have in all facets of society.

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Media Contact

John MacGillis
NSBS Communications Advisor
902-430-2049
jmacgillis@nsbs.org