



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Society's Council met on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in person and via videoconference and conducted the following business:

Policies and Processes

- **Gender Equity Committee Report: Recommendations** — Michelle Kelly, co-chair of the Gender Equity Committee, brought forward recommendations arising out of the Committee's survey and subsequent report on gender-based discrimination and harassment. Council unanimously adopted the Committee's recommendations.
- **Rural Practice Working Group Report**—Jennifer Pink, Director of Education and Credentials, presented the Rural Practice Working Group's recommendations and proposed action plan. These recommendations stem from a membership engagement campaign focused on rural practitioners at the Western Counties Bar, Amherst, Kentville, Antigonish/New Glasgow, Port Hawkesbury/Guysborough, and Sydney. Council discussed and unanimously approved the recommendations.
- **FLSC Federal Lawyers Exemption**—Jennifer Pink, Director of Education and Credentials, presented a motion for Council to adopt the Federation of Law Societies' Memorandum of Understanding which addresses the mobility of federal government lawyers. The intention was to create a consistent, national, approach to how law societies manage the mobility of federal government lawyers. Council unanimously approved this motion.
- **Request for Insurance Exemption**—Jennifer Pink, Director of Education and Credentials, presented to Council a request for an insurance exemption from a member of the Alberta Bar who is living in Nova Scotia and intends to exclusively work for an Alberta-based company upon his call to the Nova Scotia Bar. Council unanimously approved the request on the condition that an indemnity be signed by the employer and that the online lawyer directory indicates that this member is not permitted to represent any clients outside of his employer.

- **Change to Principals Regulation**—Jennifer Pink, Director of Education and Credentials, presented a motion to Council request to amend Regulations 3.5.3 and 3.5.29. These amendments would allow, at the Executive Director’s discretion, for a prospective Principal to be exempt from the five-year practice requirement and for the limit of articulated clerks per Principal be raised from one to two. Council unanimously approved the motion.
- **Strategic Planning Process update**— Cheryl Hodder KC, Chief Executive Officer, updated council on the recent developments in the Strategic Planning Process. Cheryl Hodder KC and Melanie Petrunia have begun engaging directly with members across the province and Council has been advised that a research firm has been retained to begin surveying, interviewing, and facilitating focus groups to engage with members and stakeholders. Further to this, Council has been advised that Society Staff are preparing an environmental scan to assist in facilitating discussions about pressing issues in the legal profession both domestically and internationally.
- **DEC Concern Regarding Courthouse Accessibility**— Cheryl Hodder KC, Chief Executive Officer, updated Council that the concerns raised by the Disability Equity Committee and members of our bar regarding the accessibility of the Halifax Courthouse have been actioned. A letter has been sent to the Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Public Works and several other stakeholders. Further to this, the Society has opened a productive dialogue with representatives from the province to ensure this issue is urgently addressed.

In Camera: Three items were discussed in-camera.

Consent Agenda—Council approved the following consent agenda matters:

- Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2023, Council Meeting
- **Committee Appointments:**
 - Sheree Conlon, Vice Chair, Complaints Investigation Committee
 - Angela Simmonds, Professional Standards (Law Office Management) Committee
- **Resignations:**
 - Mr. Gary H. Levine
 - Mr. John Phillip Maskine
 - Dr. Marilyn Preus