



NOVA SCOTIA  
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Council met on **September 26, 2025**, at the Society's offices and conducted the following business:

- **CONSENT AGENDA** - the following items were approved by way of consent agenda:
  - **Minutes June 13, 2025**
  - **Recommendation for Three Public Representative appointments to Council**
    - John McGillis
    - Kehinde Akintola
    - Betty Thomas
  - **Central District Appointment to Council**
    - Spencer Dellapinna
  - **Committee Appointments:**
    - Michelle Kelly, KC - Nominating - Chair
    - Candee McCarthy - Governance - Chair
    - Meghan MacGillivray Case – Governance
  - **Resignations:**
    - **Committee Resignations:**
      - Melanie Petrunia - GEC, ITF and Nominating
      - Natalie Borden - CIC, ITF
      - Michelle Kelly, KC - GEC
      - Candee McCarthy – Nominating
  - **[Law Foundation of Nova Scotia](#) Annual Report 2025**
  - **Education & Credentials Annual Report**
  - **Equity & Access Annual Report**
  - **Equity Committee Workplans**
  - **Two Minute Evaluation Results**



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- **BUSINESS ARISING:**

- **AML Regulations** – In response to a [Financial Action Task Force](#) (FATF) review that saw Canada failing to meet international standards, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada has encouraged provincial law societies to improve their anti-money laundering and terrorist financing procedures.

A motion was put forward to Council to implement a mandatory course for lawyers addressing “Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Canadian Legal Profession.”

**Motion:** “Be it resolved that all lawyers who engage in or give instructions in respect of the receiving, paying or transferring of funds are required to complete the Federation of Law Societies’ online learning program Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Canadian Legal Profession.”

A vote was supported to refine the language of the motion, regarding who will be obligated to take the mandatory course.

**Amended Motion:** “Be it resolved that all lawyers who, in the practice of law, anticipate being retained by a client to provide legal services that engage or give instructions in respect of the receiving, paying or transferring of funds are required to complete the Federation of Law Societies’ online learning program Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Canadian Legal Profession.”

The motion is approved and steps for implementing the course are now being taken.

- **EDIA Presentation: The Importance of Collecting Equity Based Data** – Janna Hines, Ruck Independent Implementation Lead, gave a presentation on the importance of collecting equity-based data to understand and support changing profession demographics, while assuring the public’s access to unique demographic-specific legal support.
- **Ruck Implementation Lead Update** – Janna Hines, Ruck Independent Implementation Lead, presented an update to Council on the Ruck implementation process, including priority recommendations going into 2026.
- **Financial Update** – Kate Shewen, Director of Finance, provided a report to Council on the first quarter of the 2025/26 fiscal year (three months ending July 31, 2025).



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- **LIANS Six-Month Report** – Lawrence Rubin, Director of LIANS, provided a bi-annual (January 1 to June 30, 2025) update to Council.
- **New Insurance Coverage for Practicing Members – Approval** – A motion was put forward to explore Outside Directors and Officers Liability (“ODL”) coverage for all practicing NSBS membership. ODL provides coverage for individuals engaged in community or organizational work outside their place of business or employment.

**Motion:** Authorize LIANS [Lawyers’ Insurance Association of Nova Scotia] to purchase [ODL] coverage on behalf of the Society and its practicing Members provided LIANS’ Board, in its review, concludes that the terms and conditions [...] are reasonable and acceptable to LIANS.”

The motion is approved.

- **Strategic Plan Update** – Moved to next Council session.
- **CEO Report** – Moved to In Camera.
- **IN CAMERA:** Council met In Camera.

The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for **November 28, 2025, at 10 AM, Virtual.**