



Polar

Barristers

THERE'S A NEW JUDGE IN TOWN



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Saturday, February 8th, 2002, 11am
Where: The Astro Hill Conference Facility, Frobisher Inn, Iqaluit

A light luncheon will be served. All members of the Law Society of Nunavut are welcome. See page 2 for details.

Premier Okalik Speaking on Behalf of the Government of Nunavut

On Friday, September 20th, 2002, at 11:00 AM, the Swearing In Ceremony for the third Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice, Justice Earl Johnson, took place before a crowded courtroom in Iqaluit, with members of the bar from Rankin Inlet in attendance by telephone. In the body of the courtroom were Justice Johnson's mother, wife and his son, along with the Premier of Nunavut, Paul Okalik in his role as Attorney-General, Minister of Justice and a member of the Law Society of Nunavut. Inuit elders, members of the Nunavut Bar, members of the court staff, guests from the Northwest Territories and members of the public also attended.

Madame Justice Browne, Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice presided over the ceremony. Justices Tallis, Kilpatrick and Schuyler were also present on the bench. After some opening remarks, Madame Justice Browne introduced Justice Tallis, a long-time member of the northern judiciary and a judge in front of whom, both Madame Justice Browne and Justice Johnson had appeared as barristers. Justice Tallis spoke of Justice Johnson's contribution to the law in the north and then took Justice Johnson's Oath.

Afterwards, welcoming addresses were made to the new Justice by Premier Okalik for the Government of Nunavut, Richard Meredith, Regional Director of the Federal Department of Justice, on behalf of the Federal Minister of Justice, Susan Cooper, President of the Law Society of Nunavut and Reg Tolton from the NWT, representing all Justice Johnson's friends and colleagues in the NWT, and especially from Don Cooper, the Deputy Minister of Justice of the NWT whose association with Justice Johnson goes back to when they first started university together.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Madame Justice Browne invited all in attendance to a lunch that was served at the Anglican Parish Hall. (by Michael Chandler)

MORE ON THE AGM

There will be some important issues to discuss like proposed amendments to Rules such as 49 that governs restricted appearance certificates. We will post the agenda by mid-January on our website. Remember, you have to be there to have a vote!

NUNAVUT'S BAR ADMISSIONS PROCESS: WE DO HAVE ONE

A number of recent inquiries about our Bar Admissions process have led us to the conclusion that there is a misconception 'out there' that it is not possible to article in Nunavut right now. This is untrue.

If a law student has a principal who is qualified to supervise (i.e., 5 years as a lawyer with two of them being in Nunavut) there is no problem, from the Law Society's perspective, with having an articulated student immediately. Nunavut presently has an arrangement with Alberta to accept Articling Students for Bar Admission Courses and Exams. A student articling here can – as was the case pre-1999 – complete their articles here and take the Bar Admissions Course in Edmonton or Calgary. Nunavut will accept successful completion of the Alberta exams and an additional statute-based examination to meet admissions requirements under the Legal Professions Act.

We are actively exploring long-term planning for bar admissions for Nunavut. We will be writing to all Law Societies in Canada soliciting information about possible partnerships. We have already received expressions of interest from Alberta, British Columbia, and Manitoba and will be assessing the suitability of any responding Law Society over the next months.

(by Kelly Gallagher-Mackay, Admissions)

EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

The posts of Secretary (currently held by Peter Allison) and Vice-President (currently held by Doug Wallace) are up for grabs. Please see the enclosed NOTICE OF ELECTION and NOMINATION TO THE EXECUTIVE form. All nominations must be submitted by January 8th, 2002. A ballot will then be sent to all eligible voters that needs to be returned on Friday, February 7th, 2003, the day before the AGM in order for your vote to count. Confirmed nominees will also be posted on our web site under NEWS AND NOTICES.

NUNAVUT'S CONSOLIDATED STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

The consolidated Statutes and Regulations of the Northwest Territories, as amended, duplicated or enacted for Nunavut as of April 1, 1999, have now been further amended, augmented, and in some cases repealed, by legislation passed in the three years since Division.

Several factors have combined to delay consolidation of statutes and regulations since April 1, 1999: among them, a shortage of trained personnel in Legislation Division of the GN Department of Justice; an increasingly heavy legislative workload; and the need to convert the thousands of pages of Consolidated Statutes and Regulations into a compatible computer format.

Legislation Division is now preparing to undertake the work of converting and consolidating those statutes and regulation that have been amended since April 1, 1999, but this is a lengthy project that the Division does not expect to complete before the end of 2003. The Division is also in the planning stages for its participation in a Statute Revision that was begun by the Legislation Division of the NWT. Nunavut's part of the Revision is expected to be complete in 2004. Once it is complete, Legislation Division intends to publish it online and update it continuously thereafter.

Until the new Consolidation is prepared, users are advised that the state of the law in Nunavut must be determined by reading the Consolidated Statutes and Regulations in conjunction with the annual Statutes of Nunavut and the Regulations as published in the *Nunavut Gazette*. The Statutes of Nunavut and the Gasette are available to the public on the website of the Nunavut Court of Justice, www.nunavutcourtofjustice.ca, and also at the University of Montreal website, www.lex-nu.ca. (by Peter Allison)

SPEAKING OF OUR WEBSITE

Have you checked ours out recently? We have a new 'web master' in Tony Rose and are working to keep this site current with news, notices and links that we think will interest you:

<http://www.lawsociety.nu.ca/>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS