



After living in Iqaluit for over 6 years, I still very much enjoy the opportunity to welcome our members – old & new - and showcase our spectacular environment. Meet Brian Gover (far left) and his wife Allison Davis (behind Brian); Sacha Paul, Adil Khan (just arriving to Iqaluit as the newly interim Executive Legal Administrator); and newly called Members Meghan Ross and Angela Austman.

An early September breathtaking view including the remarkable traditional whalebone structure located at the rear end of the Iqaluit cemetery located in Apex.

-Nalini Vaddapalli, CEO

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Another change to the model code for Nunavut lawyers concerns speaking to witnesses once they've taken the stand.

“Traditionally, lawyers have not spoken to witnesses once they're on the stand. The time to speak to them is done. It's the time for the judge to listen to evidence in an unfettered manner,” Paul said.

But the new code proposed for Nunavut lawyers would allow lawyers to speak to their witnesses, so long as the court is made aware of that intention.

The need to speak to witnesses should be rare because they should be well-prepared before beginning their testimony, Paul said.

“But there may be situations where something arises where ethically it's now appropriate to speak to a witness, say on a break from testifying,” he said.

Even if speaking to a witness is ethical, it might not make the court happy, so judges should always be asked, Paul said.

A third proposed change to the model code for LSN members involves in-house lawyers in organizations and governments.

The number of in-house lawyers in Nunavut is bigger than those practicing privately or in criminal law, Paul said.

“So we took the step to add in a clause that speaks to ethical obligations of in-house lawyers in the unusual circumstance that the organization does something illegal,” he said.

Lawyers cannot be party to anything illegal, and the new model code spells out steps in-house lawyers should take if they find themselves in that “unusual circumstance.”

“In only profound circumstances do lawyers have to say, 'I quit.'”

Luckily, the new model code for Nunavut lawyers should be pretty straight-forward for most to follow.

That's because many lawyers who practice in Nunavut practice in other jurisdictions where similar model codes have already been adopted.

And the new model code only has minor changes to the Canadian Bar Association's code already in effect in Nunavut.

Paul said a committee in Nunavut has been drafting a model code for the territory since 2014.

A meeting had been scheduled for November for LSN members to ratify the new code, he added.

“It's important for the public to know that lawyers have to live up to ethical standards. We have to provide proper legal services in a way that protects their interests, privacy and confidentiality.”