

## **Response to LSNU Discussion Paper: Trinity Western University**

I recommend that the Law Society of Nunavut take the following action:

**Decline to approve TWU as an approved law school, pursuant to section 18(1)(c) of the *Legal Profession Act*.**

My reasons are the same as those adopted by the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, both of which I am also a member.

In addition, I think that the Law Society should also seriously consider the mission statement of TWU, quoted below, as an additional reason for declining approval.

### **The mission of Trinity Western University:**

*"As an arm of the Church, to develop godly Christian leaders: positive, goal-oriented university graduates with thoroughly Christian minds; growing disciples of Christ who glorify God through fulfilling the Great Commission, serving God and people in the various marketplaces of life."*

TWU professes to be an arm of the church and explicitly states its mission is to develop graduates who will fulfil the "Great Commission". This is a public policy concern. The Great Commission of Christianity is the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples that they spread his teachings to all the nations of the world. It has become a tenet in Christian theology emphasizing ministry, missionary work, evangelism, and baptism.

A university whose goal is to create lawyers whose highest purpose is to convert others to evangelical Christianity creates a concern that its graduates will pursue goals potentially in conflict with the administration of justice. This could conflict with the goals of admission to the practice of law as stated in the Model Code of Professional Conduct in Commentary #2 to rule 5.6-1:

"Admission to and continuance in the practice of law implies, on the part of a lawyer, a basic commitment to the concept of equal justice for all within an open, ordered and impartial system. "

Respectfully submitted by  
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