

WHEREAS the Law Society of Nunavut was created as a consequence of the creation of Nunavut and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the membership of the Law Society of Nunavut is composed, in the majority, of individuals not resident in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the resident membership of the Law Society of Nunavut, with few exceptions, experiences transience not seen in the Law Societies of provinces;

AND WHEREAS the population of Nunavut is more than 80% Inuit and Inuit are an aboriginal people under the Constitution of Canada, with a right to self determination under International Declarations and Conventions to which Canada is a party, and which Canada has recognized including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

AND WHEREAS the number of Inuit members of the profession is slowly increasing and Nunavut Arctic College and the University of Saskatchewan have undertaken together, commencing in September 2017, the professional training of 25 potential new members of the bar over a period of 4 years;

THEREFORE be it resolved THAT:

1. The Law Society and its members commit to the objective that of the individuals providing legal services in Nunavut and to Nunavut institutions and Nunavummiut generally will a majority will be Inuit and that the profession will seek to be representative of the population it serves within 10 years from the date of this resolution, and
2. The Law Society executive or a committee created by it for that purpose shall develop and publish a plan to effect this goal and make it available for the next AGM;
3. Coroners, justices of the peace, individuals in adjudicative roles and the judiciary in Nunavut should be representative of the population served and ideally should be largely composed of Inuit within 10 years of the passage of this resolution, and the Law Society and its nominees serving on relevant committees shall be cognizant of this goal in representing the Law Society;
4. It is the professional obligation of each Member of the Nunavut Law Society to support and advance the careers of Inuit Law Students and upcoming Inuit lawyers.

MOVED: Anne Crawford

SECONDED: Joey Murdoch-Flowers

EXTRACTS FROM THE MODEL CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

A special ethical responsibility comes with membership in the legal profession.

Self-regulatory powers have been granted to the legal profession on the understanding that the profession will exercise those powers in the public interest