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AGENDA 2022-23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Draft Minutes

Date and time:

Thursday June 15, 2023; 6:00PM ET

Location

Aqsarniit Hotel and Conference Centre Iqaluit, NU Remote and virtual access was provided through Clear Picture

Attendance:

In person - Members and Students-at-Law

- 1. Thomas Ahlfors
- 2. Greg Allen
- 3. Stephanie Boydell
- 4. Clare Cudmore
- 5. Kishra Dawabi-Ahlfors
- 6. Christina Emberley
- 7. Marc-Antoine Guay
- 8. Jennifer Hunt-Poitras
- 9. Jocelyn-Pascal MacLellan
- 10. Curtis Mesher
- 11. Mark Mossey
- 12. Daniel Mount
- 13. Joseph Murdoch-Flowers
- 14. Thilairani Pillay
- 15. Philippe Plourde
- 16. Jessica Shabtai
- 17. Laruen Shadley
- 18. Joanne Smith
- 19. Patrick Smith
- 20. Graham Steele
- 21. James Takkiruq
- 22. Arthur Yuan
- 23. Sarah White

Online - Executive members, Members and Students-at-Law

- 24. Koovian Flanagan
- 25. Angnakuluk Friesen
- 26. Barry McLaren
- 27. Mandy Sammurtok (Rec-Sec Mandy Sammurtok)
- 28. Lanise Hayes
- 29. Chris D'Souza
- 30. Sarah Arngna'naaq
- 31. Cameron Watson
- 32. Ted Hopkins
- 33. Sandhya Chari
- 34. Julie Bedford
- 35. Michelle Kinney
- 36. Trevor Wright
- 37. Chris Buchanan
- 38. Merrilee Rasmussen
- 39. John MacLean
- 40. Paul Falvo
- 41. Priscilla Ferrazzi
- 42. Sandra MacKenzie
- 43. Norman Tarnow
- 44. Joe Ruan
- 45. Gloria Song
- 46. Andrew Morrison
- 47. Bonnie Osborne
- 48. Bruce McRae

Staff and external support

- 49. Brent Baker
- 50. Lisa Bird
- 51. Marie Duchaine-Brunet
- 52. François Fortin
- 53. Nalini Vaddapalli

- 1. Assembly and welcome by Chair Clare Cudmore (in person).
- 2. Approval of agenda. Motion to adopt the agenda. Moved by Thilairani Pillay and seconded by Mark Mossey. Motion Carried.
- **3.** <u>President's report</u> Lauren Shadley (in person)

Including:

- Presentation of the Nunavut Statutes Examination Taskforce Report.
- Update on the Law Society 2021-22 AGM adopted member motion regarding the development of a policy on real and apparent conflicts of interest for members of the Executive Committee; and presentation of the March 2023 adopted Policy.
- Executive election results (acclaimed) with Christina Emberley, Joe Ruan and Joanne
 Smith joining the remaining Executive members.
- Chair: Motion to adopt the President's report. Moved by Gregory Allan and seconded by: Mark Mossey. Motion Carried.

Thomas Ahlfors:

With respect to the Taskforce report and conflict of interest policy: will there be a possibility for the membership to debate or participate in the follow-up on those two projects? What are the next steps?

Lauren Shadley:

For the Taskforce Report all the members are invited to write in their questions – we're going to be meeting with the incoming Executive to talk about the report in a special meeting this upcoming month to explain further steps that are going to be taken with that report. There will be a meeting where the next steps will be explained, and questions will be welcome, and the Executive will answer them.

In terms of the policy for conflict of interest, like all policies the Law Society creates, members have trust in the policies adopted and so it will not be discussed or debated. They will be available and public for members to look at. My understanding is that policies are not meant to be debated because they would slow down the process of having policies in our organization. But again, if any members have any questions, you can direct them to the Law Society.

Philippe Plourde:

Regarding the Taskforce Report and meeting, what kind of timeline are we looking at? I am asking that because it is a very time-sensitive matter for a number of individuals who are impacted by the potential change that will be coming. Are we talking weeks, months, years?

Lauren Shadley:

Certainly not years. I do think, and I also want to recognize how quickly not only the Law Society but also the Taskforce worked on this Report. They did get through a tremendous amount of information. These things do take some time to digest and confirm the next steps. But I know that the upcoming Executive wants to deal with this by the end of the summer. I can't make a promise on their behalf that it will be done by then. But I do think that this is something that would take at least a few months.

Philippe Plourde:

Follow-up question: any chance that the Law Society considers alternatives for the people who are impacted in the meanwhile until this is resolved? For example, if someone can't complete the current requirements. Is there a way that the Law Society would consider any alternatives in their rules?

Lauren Shadley:

We have a Law Society that is dedicated to engaging with its members. They would be willing to have open and frank discussions regarding the conclusions and moving forward. I would suggest writing to the Law Society so it can be further looked into.

Nalini Vaddapalli:

In terms of requirements, if you're talking about the Nunavut Statutes Examination per say, that is on hold until further notice. If a Student-at-Law would like to complete a different bar admission course, I think that is also up for consideration. There is a lot of openness about how to meet requirements; this can also be brought to the Executive's attention.

4. In memoriam- Tribute to Law Society Executive member Marsha Gay by former Law Society President, Sandhya Chari (virtual).

I have been asked this evening to speak to honour the life and volunteerism of the late Marsha Rose-Anne Gay, a fellow lawyer and member of this bar.

While I actually joined the LSN Executive when there was an opening from Marsha's departure south, I knew her only personally from our shared and overlapping time in Iqaluit and on.

Marsha was admitted to the Nunavut bar in 2015 and practiced in Nunavut for four years until she returned home with her son Mathias, to Toronto (where she had lived 25 years). She had been a practicing lawyer since 2002.

When moving to Iqaluit, Marsha continued to be a dedicated volunteer. She brought passion and commitment to the profession and to her community, including as the Law Society representative on the Legal Services Board of Nunavut Member of the Executive Committee from 2016 until she returned to Toronto, Spring 2018

She also volunteered at the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre, where I recall her serving meals with her son.

Upon her return to Toronto and as Marsha requested in recognition of her time volunteering, the Law Society of Nunavut made a donation to Embrace Life Council.

In Toronto, she reprised or continued to be an active volunteer on government-wide charitable campaigns at work, her coop board, and as a community mediator.

When I had the privilege of attending her celebration of life in Toronto last September, I was struck by the diversity of those in attendance. In age, background, paths in life. I found that

classmates of mine from McGill law had had her as a colleague early on in their careers and they were shaped by both her kindness to them and her mentoring.

At the time of Marsha's passing in lieu of flowers, people were invited to instead make donations in her memory to Sistering, a multi-service agency serving the community for 40 years, for at-risk, socially isolated women and trans people in Toronto who are homeless or precariously housed.

In honour of Marsha's life and her volunteerism, the Law society of Nunavut will be making a donation to Kamatsiagtuq Helpline.

Among other things, Marsha and I spoke often about the law, the profession, and the importance of self-regulation and a profession. We shared conversations about how being a lawyer was not a right, but a weighty privilege that comes with responsibilities—to society, to the public we serve, and to each other. Much like Spider-man, we had jested. I think she thought we all had superpowers.

Thank you for your time and the Law Society for creating a moment to recognize Marsha.

5. Treasurer's Report – Graham Steele (in person)

a) Presentation of the Law Society's audited 2022 Financial Statements

Norman Tarnow:

Question relates to the GICs and how much cash was in the GICs?

Graham Steele:

There was 330 000,00\$ from the Assurance Fund and 300 000,00\$ from the General (Operational) Fund.

The total was 630 000,00\$ currently earning with 4.1% interest so that makes 2400\$ a month.

Norman Tarnow:

Thank you that answers my question.

Motion to adopt the Law Society of Nunavut 2022 Financial Statements. Moved by Norman Tarnow and seconded by Lauren Shadley. Motion Carried.

1 abstention is noted (virtual vote).

b) Appointment of auditor for 2023

Thomas Ahlfors:

Last year or the year before there was sort of a competitive process to find a new auditor and I just wanted to know how often does the Law Society go through a similar process in order to get the best market rate?

Graham Steele:

The real issue has to be with the cost of the competitive process is much more than the actual cost of the audit. There's a limit to how much the Law Society wants to put it out.

Nalini Vaddapalli:

Last RFP was completed four years ago.

Graham Steele:

In my view we should suggest to the very least to appoint the same auditor, they're doing a good job and they are on it. Perhaps a year from now, so after five years with the same firm we can talk about putting it out to a competitive process again to make sure that we are getting the most competitive price.

Another thing is there are not many firms here in town that could do it. It is also helpful to keep the work in the North so there is a limited number of people who could do it.

But thank you for the suggestion, we will take note that it is something we might want to think about in the near future.

Motion to appoint EPR Yellowknife Accounting Professional Corporation as the Law Society of Nunavut auditor for the 2023 fiscal year. Moved by Graham Steele and seconded by Thilairani Pillay. Motion Carried,

- 1. Standing Committees' Chair Reports
 - a) <u>Discipline</u> Delivered by Nalini Vaddapalli (in-person)
 - b) Legal Ethics and Practice Delivered by Nalini Vaddapalli (in-person).
- 2. Nunavut Lawyers Assistance Program Delivered by John MacLean (virtual)
- 3. 2022 Neil Sharkey Volunteer Award Recipient Announced by Nalini Vaddapalli Gloria Song, a member of the Nunavut bar since 2011, is awarded the Neil Sharkey Volunteer Award for her long-standing commitment and years of contributions to the Law Society of Nunavut. You can learn more about Gloria's access to justice work here.
 While Gloria is an accomplished professional, she is equally committed to supporting the efforts of the Law Society to advance its mandate of regulating in the public interest. Her contributions have had a positive impact for both the profession and the communities. From the outset of her Nunavut call, Gloria was and remains involved in the Legal Ethics and Practice Committee (LEPC) and the Access to Justice Program.

You can learn more about this year's recipient here.

- **4.** Chair of the Nunavut Law Foundation Sarah Arngna'naaq (virtual)
 - a) Annual report including overview of 2022 financial statements

Motion to adopt the Nunavut Law Foundation's 2022 Annual Report and 2022 Financial Statements. Moved by John Maclean and seconded by Mandy Sammurtok. Motion Carried.

1 abstention is noted (virtual vote).

b) Appointment of auditor for 2023

Motion to appoint EPR Yellowknife Accounting Professional Corporation as the Nunavut Law Foundation auditor for the 2023 fiscal year. Moved by Merrilee Rassmussen and seconded by Joseph Murdoch-Flowers. Motion Carried,

- 5. Other business Chair confirms no other business.
- **6.** Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the 2022 Law Society of Nunavut AGM. Moved by Murdoch-Flowers and seconded by John MacLean. Motion Carried,

Consent Agenda

- 7. Law Society Chief Executive Officer Report Nalini Vaddapalli
- 8. Access to Justice, Law Society Representatives Report Victoria Perrie and Gloria Song
- **9.** Federation of Law Societies of Canada, Council Report Sara Siebert and Mark Mossey

- 10. Nunavut Legal Services Board, Law Society Representative Report Julie Bedford
- 11. Other Standing Committees' Chair Reports
 - a) Membership and Admissions Committee Rohan Brown
 - Annual Membership Statistics
 - **b**) Rules Committee Thomas Ahlfors
- **12.** Approval of <u>2021-22 AGM Minutes.</u>