

and subject area experts. For example, we hosted workshops on employment law, housing law, police encounters, gender-based violence, and name changes and gender markers. These were primarily facilitated by educational power-point presentations and supporting material. They also allowed for community engagement in the form of question/answer sessions, and other information sharing. This also included a “wills clinic” where counsel conducted an information session on wills and then prepared wills for specific community members who engaged with the program. Additionally, in Baker Lake, the team was able to put on a scripted mini-mock criminal trial for students at the middle school.

Third, the LSN and partners engaged in one-on-one stakeholder discussions with members of community organizations. This enabled two-way informational exchanges on a variety of subjects – including providing organizations information on the role of the LSN in Nunavut, providing organizations information on our legal education/information resources, including what programs we offer, and the programs being offered during the visit; it also allowed for information gathering from organizations, for example, what role the LSN might play in assisting them in pursuing their individual mandates.

Initial reporting is currently being provided to the LSN on the community visits. Team members provided some of the following as initial feedback:

- Mock trials as a mechanism for community justice education should be simplified and condensed due to time restrictions.
- Name changes and gender marker participants were interested in both LGBTQ+ issues and general name changes due to misspellings and inconsistencies. There is a demand for further resources to assist with identity documents.
- It would be helpful to have a primer on what a Will is and what a Power of Attorney is and provide specific links to the GN resources/templates on this. It may also be helpful to link users to the LSN referral list so they can secure counsel to assist in this practice area. There was a strong demand for the wills service in both communities. A pamphlet on wills may be of assistance to direct people to resources and lawyers. A law clerk to assist with drafting would also be helpful.

II. FAMILY ABUSE INTERVENTION ACT-FAMILY

The Family Abuse Support Program Toolkit and Training Project was created through a collaboration between Community Justice Division, the Government of Nunavut Department of Justice and the Law Society of Nunavut. The aim of the project is to simplify the processes of Emergency Protection Orders, Community Intervention Orders and other support processes (like Peace Bonds) by developing easy-to-use resources. It consists of 4 phases. Phase 1 has been completed.

A Phase 1 report was finalized at the end of March 2024. The aim of Phase 1 was to create a Toolkit outline based on the results of review and analysis of the resources currently used by Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs), Community Justice Specialists (CJSs), and Community Justice Managers (CJMs). Phase 1 also included a draft of a Phase 2 action plan. Depending on the outcome of funding requests, parties would move on to Phase 2.

At Phase 2, parties will begin to develop content for the Toolkit, and initiate training programs for CJOWs, CJSs, and CJMs. Funding has been secured, and parties are now moving on to Phase 2. The initial team meeting took place in May 2024 and Phase 2 will continue until March 31, 2025.

Phases 3 and 4 will focus on Toolkit implementation and training and are also funding dependent.

III. PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

In 2024, a four-year project with the Government of Canada wrapped up, which focused on workplace harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace. The project included developing public legal education resources and delivering educational workshops. The 2022-2023 LSN Access to Justice Report provided an in-depth review of the work undertaken as part of this project.

The project culminated in a legal education session in Ottawa, in conjunction with BLG and Raven Law in early 2024, which focused on workplace obligations of both employees and employers in Nunavut and Ontario. The session was translated simultaneously in Inuktitut. It was provided using the video conferencing platform WebEx. The presenters reviewed relevant legislation, fact scenarios, and policy guidelines, which are available to employees and employers to help inform and guide them on these issues.

IV. NATIONAL REPORTING AND COLLABORATION

The LSN continues to collaborate with national organizations on A2J projects.

The National Action Committee on Access to Justice continues to meet regularly to discuss different approaches to access to justice issues across the country. Currently the NAC is identifying potential dates and events as part of a “Listening Tour” that will be attended by the Chair of the Action Committee, Justice Karakatsanis. These include attending at existing access to justice initiatives in different jurisdictions, such as Ontario’s “A2J Week” at the Law Society of Ontario in late October or a similar A2J focused event in Nunavut. The NAC also regularly shares information between members on A2J initiatives being undertaken in each jurisdiction so that members can collaborate where appropriate. For example, there was discussion at the last NAC meeting about a Northern collaborative on A2J, with potential participation from organizations serving Northern Quebec and Labrador, as well as the Territories, because of the similar A2J issues faced by clients in those areas, such as access to legal counsel and courts in remote areas.

A potential opportunity for the LSN would be to organize an A2J event or invite Justice Karakatsanis to an existing planned event as part of the listening tour. This is dependent on logistics, scheduling, and interest.

The idea of the “Listening Tour” looks to be an effort to continue the work initiated by previous chairs of the NAC to take and collect information on the status of the NAC’s justice development goals in different communities; and to support a continued commitment to achieving those goals at a national level. The tour is in the initial planning phase with likely events rolling through the fall of 2024 and into the New Year. This may also be a good opportunity to collaborate with other northern communities to jointly communicate the unique access to justice needs of the north.

The LSN also continues to engage with the Access to Legal Service Exchange Group – in collaboration with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Like the National Action Committee, the Exchange Group shares information about regional A2J projects. Often each meeting a province or territory will share and update with the group on current A2J initiatives and members discuss potential opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. I understand the Federation will be providing its own update to LSN.