

Nunavut Law Program

As the graduates of the Nunavut Law Program transition to their new roles as students-at-law, the Law Society has implemented the recommendations from the articling program review that we conducted in 2019-20. Students-at-law and their principals can now submit their applications online. We have developed new resources for principals, including an evaluation guide based on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada common entrance standards, and a handbook for principals.

Work is underway on a new and improved bar examination. The new exam will be ready for 2022.

Family Violence Prevention Awareness Campaign

On International Women's Day 2021, the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada launched a public awareness campaign to support Nunavummiut in recognizing the different forms of abuse and where to get help. I was proud to represent the Law Society at this event. This campaign is an important part of the Law Society's access to justice programming, and I encourage everyone to visit the Law Society website for more information and the #break the silence (@Uqaqatigiinniq) social media campaign.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Harassment in the Workplace

The Law Society visited four communities this past year to deliver, with support from our membership, public legal education and information workshops and to also offer pro bono summary advice on the topic of harassment and barriers to employment. A number of plain language resources are already available to assist both employees and employers. This initiative also funded by the Justice Canada will continue until 2024.

Mental Health and Well-Being Survey

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the Canadian Bar Association, and the law societies of Canada have partnered with Dr. Nathalie Cadieux of the Université de Sherbrooke to conduct a national survey into the mental health and well-being of legal professionals in Canada. Legal practitioners are among those professionals most at risk of experiencing wellness issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression. The purpose of the study is to better understand and promote a healthy and sustainable practice of law in Canada.

I've completed the survey and I encourage all members to participate. As lawyers practicing in the north, we face challenges that our colleagues in the south do not. Ours are important voices and it is important that they are heard.

Contributing to our Community

The Law Society continues to support our local community organizations. In December 2020 we donated household goods to furnish the transitional apartments in Iqaluit operated by the Uquutaq Society. Earlier this month, our public representative Koovian Flanagan and I presented a donation for the food bank program at Joamie Iliniarvik School in memory of the late Justice Beverley Browne. We chose this program to honour Justice Browne's dedication to Nunavut's youth.

Acknowledgements

This is my final report to you as President. While it is fair to say that my two years as President did not happen exactly as I had anticipated, I am proud of our accomplishments. When I was first elected, I told you that my focus would be on governance. We have updated our rules and policies and are about to submit a request to the Minister of Justice for a new *Legal Profession Act*. Our commitment to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action continues.

Our Law Society simply could not function without its dedicated staff and volunteers. On behalf of the Executive, I extend sincere thanks to our committee chairs and members, our bar admission course instructors and evaluators, our access to justice and continuing legal education providers, our appointed representatives serving on committees and boards, and to everyone who has volunteered their time for the Law Society during the past year, despite the additional challenges caused by the pandemic.

It has been an honour serving as your President, and I thank you for your support during the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. MacLean

President