



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut
From: Membership and Admissions Committee
Rohan Brown, Chair, and Jessi Casebeer, Vice-Chair
Re: Report for the 2023-2024 Annual General Meeting
Date: June 19, 2024

MAC reviews and provides a recommendation to the Executive on all applications to join the LSN. This includes applications to join as an articulated student-at-law, transfers from other jurisdictions under the Territorial Mobility Agreement, and other types of applications.

A. Membership Statistics

The statistics are compiled annually on March 31 to include the outcomes of the annual membership renewals (resignations, suspensions, change of status, etc.).

On March 31, 2024, MAC had considered 45 regular applications for membership including 22 combined regular/Restricted Appearance Certificate (RAC) applications. The regular membership application numbers decreased by 15% in comparison to last year's numbers. In 2023, MAC did not receive any student-at-law application although the LSN continued to receive regular inquiries from individuals who have completed either their entire or portions of articles elsewhere.

As of March 31, 2024, there were 70 active resident lawyers, including a number of lawyers from the Nunavut Law Program. The average resident bar in the last ten years has been 76 lawyers.

In comparison to the non-resident bar, the figures are as follows: in 2014, there were 192 active non-resident lawyers; ten years later on March 31, 2024, there were 263 active non-resident lawyers. The latter represents an increase of roughly 37% from 2014.

95 lawyers were practicing under a RAC (both new and renewed) whereas at March 31, 2023, 79 RACs had been issued which is an increase of 20.3%. It is important to note that of the 95 RACs,

8 applicants ultimately got called to the Nunavut bar after submitting a combined RAC/ regular membership application.

With the steady flow of applications, MAC amended its application cycle from every three to every two weeks in early 2022 at which time completed applications are submitted for review and recommendations to the Executive Committee. In addition to the application process and approval timeline, the LSN is committed to meeting its standard of service to ensure a fair process for all applicants. You can learn more [here](#).

B. Other Activities and Projects

(I) Streamlining the Application Process

As part of the ongoing action plan and priorities, MAC has continued to work with the LSN and Executive to develop a consistent approach in recognizing articles completed in other jurisdictions and articles proposed to be split between resident and non-resident members. Among the final steps to streamline the online application for all types of applications is the online renewal of Restricted Appearance Certificates (RACs). The online Membership Directory now includes both lawyers practicing under a regular membership or a RAC.

(II) Formalizing and Clarifying Aspects of the Application Process

Over the past year, MAC made various recommendations to formalize and clarify aspects of the application process. The recommendations that have been resolved are below. More recommendations made by MAC will hopefully be resolved in the year ahead.

Assurance and Authorization Form – MAC recommended, and the Executive Committee approved that an applicant not be required to complete the assurance and authorization form provided by some law societies with their certificate of standing. As this form is not routinely provided by all law societies and an applicant has an obligation to disclose in their membership application any relevant information that may not be contained in a certificate of standing, MAC did not see any good reason to require completion of this form in all or some cases.

Level of Detail in Letters of Good Character – MAC decided not to accept one- or two-word responses and require the lawyer or judge providing any such reference to elaborate in writing, to the questions in the letter of good character form regarding the reputation and character of the applicant. Though this causes some delay in processing any membership application containing such a letter of good character, it helps to ensure that only individuals of good character are admitted.

Second Letter of Good Character - MAC recommended that the practice of requiring the second letter of good character to be written by someone other than a colleague from the same law firm or office as the applicant be abolished. This had been an informal 'requirement' without any legal basis, and MAC concluded that there is a weak case for requiring this. Letters of good character

from other lawyers in the same firm or office are likely to be reliable given that a law firm or office would be disinclined to continue employing and incur the expense of Law Society of Nunavut membership for a person not of good character.

The recommendation was approved on June 18, 2024.

Listing of NCA Certification in the Law Degree Section of the Application Form – MAC recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed that an applicant who attended law school outside of Canada and applies for membership with the Law Society of Nunavut as their first Canadian jurisdiction is required to list their National Committee on Accreditation certificate and the date of receipt in the Law Degree section of the application form. This is important to ensure that the eligibility criteria set out in the Nunavut Legal Profession Act are met.

Annual General Meeting
Membership and Admissions Committee
2023 Statistics

Membership year-end January 31, 2024
including outcomes from March 31, 2024, renewals (suspensions & resignations)

Breakdown of members authorized (active) to practice law			
	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Private practice:	10	232	242
Employed: - Government (Federal)	22	9	31
- Government (Prov./Terr.)	15	21	36
- Corporate	0	0	0
- Education	0	0	0
- Community Legal Aid	18	0	18
- Other (Land Claims/Inuit Organizations)	5	1	6
Sub-total	70	263	333
Student-at-law (articling)	0	0	0
Restricted Appearance Certificates	9	86	95
Total	79	349	428¹

¹ This number reflects all members called to the bar as well as students-at-law admitted on or before March 31, 2024.

Provinces/Territories Active – Inactive Members		
Alberta	52	2
British Columbia	36	5
Manitoba	16	1
New Brunswick	0	0
Newfoundland	4	0
Northwest Territories	38	6
Nova Scotia	3	2
Nunavut	72	8
Ontario	94	19
Prince Edward Island	1	0
Québec	8	0
Saskatchewan	4	0
Yukon	4	0
Other	1	1
Total	333	44

Breakdown of members not authorized to practice law			
	Resident	Non-resident	Total
Inactive	8	33	44
Suspensions (current year)	2	4	6
Resignations	6	5	11
Judicial appointment	0	1	1
Deceased	0	1	1
Total	16	47	63

Regular Members Active – Student-at-law	
Years	2023
New Applications	45 ² + 0
Renewals	333
Total	378

Residence Active – Inactive Student-at-law	
Years	2023
Resident	71 + 8
Student	0
Total	79

Membership Applications	
Years	2023
New Applications called to the bar	20
Application Waiting for Approval	9

Waiting to take Oath	
Years	2023
New Applications	16

Restricted Appearance Certificates	
Years	2023
New Applications	58
Renewals	37
Total	95³

² Includes 22 Combined applications

³ 8 Combined Application got called to Bar.