

To: The Law Society of Nunavut Membership

Date: January 24, 2025

Re: Including Notary and Commissioner Services in the LSN's A2J Program

In response to the recent tragic loss that members of the Iqaluit community have gone through with the fire at Noble House on January 8, 2025, the Law Society of Nunavut (LSN) was contacted to discuss how the membership could assist, free of charge, with Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public services as part of disaster response (both now and going forward).

Re-building one's life after a fire often requires services from a Notary Public. For example, replacing a passport requires a sworn statement as does accessing relocation benefits for an individual choosing to leave the Territory. Additionally, most insurance companies require proof of loss claims to be notarized.

In order for members, who are in the normal course of their employment exempted from liability insurance coverage, to gain access to liability insurance coverage through LSN's insurer, the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Assurance (CLIA), a resolution must be adopted at a membership meeting to include a new pro bono service under the LSN's Access to Justice (A2J) Program.

Since December 4, 2014, all non-insured members under the LSN's group insurance contract are covered for the purposes of work performed pro bono under the A2J Program. This was done by way of amendment to the *Rules of the Law Society of Nunavut* by adding subsection 93(5.1) after subsection 93(5) which was originally adopted at the 2014-2015 Annual General Meeting:

93. (5.1) Despite subsection (4), members who are not otherwise entitled to indemnification under the group contract referred to in that subsection are entitled to indemnification under the group contract for approved pro bono legal services rendered through the Access to Justice Program as adopted by the Society at its Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

- Read the adopted Rules amendment
- Read the original resolution

The issue for consideration by LSN's membership during the February 3, 2025 Special Meeting is whether to adopt a resolution to include pro bono Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public services in the LSN's A2J Program, thereby extending insurance coverage to lawyers performing services in accordance with this initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nalini Vaddapalli, CEO – Deputy Secretary