The Law Society of Nunavut Executive Members are pleased to announce the 2016 Recipient of the Neil Sharkey Volunteer Award
Shelley L. Miller, Q.C.

Shelley L. Miller, Q.C. is the 2016 recipient of the Neil Sharkey Volunteer Award for her unequivocal commitment, engagement and ongoing contributions to the Law Society of Nunavut (LSN). The announcement was originally made at the LSN’s 2016-17 AGM that took place on May 27, 2017 in Iqaluit.

Ms. Miller was admitted to the LSN in 1999 and is also a member of the Law Societies of Alberta (1978) and Northwest Territories (1986).
Ms. Miller is very much involved in her own community back home in Edmonton. In particular, as a Senator at the University of Alberta where in early 2015, at a Senate Plenary, she queried the involvement of the University’s Senate in promoting student mental health. As a result, and through collaboration with the Dean of Students during which time Ms. Miller was appointed co-chair of the Senate Student Mental Health working group, a Student Mental Health Endowment Fund was created. By the end of 2016, the Endowment Fund stood at $250,000. That working group has now developed into a Senate Committee and its work has been identified as one of the main goals of the newly adopted Senate Strategic Plan. Ms. Miller currently serves as Co-Chair of the Senate Student Mental Health Committee as well as Vice Chair of the Senate.

It comes as no surprise that Ms. Miller has played a key leadership role in her capacity as the volunteer Chairperson for the LSN’s Ethics and Unauthorized Practice Committee since 2013. Ms. Miller not only brought her expertise and knowledge of the law in her role as Chairperson but she has been tremendously generous of her time for the various working groups and as the LSN’s representative on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada’s Model Code Liaison Committee for a number of years. She’s provided guidance and sound judgment to determine the appropriate steps and approach to deal with matters that relate to a member’s conduct and matters of alleged unauthorized practice. As Chair of the many working groups, she continues to bring a leadership that is respectful of diverse opinions to facilitate fruitful debate and discussions in order to reach consensus that considers the unique context of the practice of law in Nunavut.

Overall, Ms. Miller’s ongoing commitment and guidance has made a significant difference for our law society, its membership and members of the public.

On behalf of the Law Society Executive and its members, we are honored to have Ms. Miller as a member of the Nunavut Bar. We are pleased to award her with the Neil Sharkey 2016 Volunteer Award for having demonstrated outstanding dedication, innovation and ongoing involvement with the law society. We thank her for her continued commitment.

Learn more about the Hon. Justice Neil Sharkey Award and past recipients here.