ᒪᓕᒐᓕᕆᔨᒌᑦ ᑲᑐᔾᔨᖃᑎᒌᖕᒋᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ
NUNAVUMI MALIGALIUQTIT
LAW SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT
BARREAU DU NUNAVUT

To: Law Society of Nunavut Members

From: Alison Crowe, President

Re: Report for the 2018 – 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: May 29, 2019

It has been a privilege and honour to serve as the Law Society President over the last two years.

We have seen significant activity in many of LSN's areas of responsibility, including enhanced opportunities for made-in-Nunavut continuing legal education, amendments to the legislation, continuing involvement with the Federation of Law Societies and enhanced scrutiny of the discipline process.

LSN is likely unique in Canada in that the majority of its members live outside the jurisdiction and the resident members are largely employed by government agencies and NGO's. The resident private bar in Nunavut remains very small, currently fewer than 10 lawyers. One challenge faced by LSN has been to address private practice issues, including the proper management of trust funds, in a bar in which the great majority of the resident members do not work with those issues.

My aim as President has been to promote a balance between building a resident legal community and recognizing that many legal services are sufficiently specialized that it is more feasible that they be delivered by non-resident specialist counsel. Having said that, it is nonetheless incumbent upon LSN to maintain standards of practice and competency within the practicing bar, whether resident in Nunavut. A significant component of that is the need for counsel to understand that Nunavut, the homeland of the Inuit, is a unique community and environment in which counsel must be open to learning and adaptation.

Because the LSN does not participate in the temporary practice provisions in the national mobility agreement, both the Executive and the Unauthorized Practice Committee have monitored allegations of unauthorized practice by counsel outside Nunavut, in which counsel deliver legal services for compensation on Nunavut matters and counsel involved have been advised of the need to acquire either Restricted Appearance Certificates or apply for membership in Nunavut.

The next few years will bring a newly graduated law class in Nunavut. I am confident that I speak for the membership at large in offering an advance welcome to our new colleagues. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and talents you will bring to both the practice of law and other endeavours.

I thank the LSN CEO, Nalini Vaddapalli, Executive Administrator, Adel De Belen, Administrative Assistant, Linda Graham, and law student, Katerina Lagassé, for their continued assistance and support over my term. To the members of the LSN executive and my fellow LSN members, I wish every success in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Alison Crowe