



To: Law Society of Nunavut Members

From: Julie Bedford, LSN Representative on the Nunavut Legal Services Board

Re: Report for the 2018 - 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: May 17, 2019

I was first appointed to the Legal Services Board of Directors, as a representative of the Law Society of Nunavut, in June 2018. The Board is comprised of seven members:

- a representative for the Law Society of Nunavut
- a representative for the Government of Nunavut
- three regional representatives
- two members-at-large

The Board recently convened for a meeting in Iqaluit on May 10th and 11th, 2019. This was the first Board meeting since my appointment. The delay was in part on account of scheduling, but also to allow for a period of adjustment for the new CEO, Benson Cowan, who came onboard in January.

The meeting was fruitful, with a number of substantive matters having been discussed. Worth highlighting are the organizational priorities that were considered and approved:

- 1. Improve Service to the Clients
 - Increase understanding of client journey
 - Implement faster solutions and less bureaucracy
 - Develop better and more respectful communication and feedback
- 2. Increase Community Based Access to Justice and Public Legal Education Efforts
 - Establish an access to justice co-ordinator and increase the number of court workers
 - Invest in improved training for court workers
 - Broaden scope of work for court workers
- 3. Ensure High Quality Legal Services
 - Recruit qualified staff and panel lawyers

- Implement performance assessments, evaluations and cultural training for staff lawyers and panel lawyers
- Update compensation for LSB staff and for panel lawyers
- 4. Advocate for Changes and Improvement in the Justice System
 - Increase appellate work
 - Identify and report issues with PPSC, RCMP, and GN justice institutions
 - Support innovative and Nunavut-centric law reform efforts
- 5. Implement Inuit Employment Plan
 - Increase number of court workers
 - Provide articling and other employment opportunities for Law Program students
 - Identify succession strategies for key management positions
- 6. Maintain Effective and Transparent Financial Oversight and Accountability
 - Establish formal funding agreement and MOU with GN
 - Ensure clear and consistent reporting to the Board, GN and public
 - Develop five-year strategic plan with the Board.

On the human resources front, LSB has some vacancies that they are actively in the process of filling. Recruitment efforts have seen some recent success, and we can expect to see some new lawyers coming onboard in the near future. Going forward, LSB intends to be more aggressive in filling both administrative and staff lawyer vacancies.

With respect to next steps, the Board intends to have at least three in-person meetings through-out the year. We are aiming to have our next meeting in the Fall, with Rankin Inlet as the likely venue. Three committees were established at the Board meeting:

- financial committee
- panel management and appeals committee
- executive committee

Any urgent matters that require attention in the interim will be discussed by the relevant committees.