

To: Law Society of Nunavut Members

From: Truth and Reconciliation Committee; Committee Members in 2018: Joseph Murdoch-

Flowers (Co-Chair), Paul Okalik (Co-Chair), Jessi Casebeer

Re: Report for the 2018 – 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: May 28, 2019

A. OVERVIEW: TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION STANDING COMMITTEE

As reported in 2017, the Truth and Reconciliation Standing Committee ("Committee") was formed in June 2017 to respond to the Report of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Specifically, the Committee was created to advise the LSN Executive on the work the LSN can undertake to respond to the report and notably, to the Call to Action 27:

27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal—Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Since 2017, the Committee has met seven times. The Committee's work has focused on finalizing its action plan. It has also started the implementation phase with support from the LSN Executive.

B. OVERVIEW: COMMITTEE'S ACTION PLAN

The Committee's Action Plan is composed of the following four themes:

1. Indigenous Cultural Competency (ICC) Professional Development

LSN Members continued to benefit from the ICC workshop offered by the Quality of Life Secretariat (GN). This opportunity, at no cost to the LSN and its Members, was made possible by former Quality of Life Secretariat ADM Karen Kabloona.

The LSN has taken steps to begin the work of developing its own ICC training with the assistance from Pirurvik Center based in Iqaluit.

The training will include an on-line component to make this training accessible to all of its membership.

2. Speaker Series including Elders Storytelling

The Committee has put forward names of potential guest speakers including Elders in recognition of the importance of oral tradition.

The LSN will now be organizing the speaker series and continue to inform the Members of the Committee to ensure the events are planned and delivered in a manner that is aligned with the Committee's vision.

3. Amending the mandatory reading list

The Committee has provided a list of recommended readings that should be included as part for the mandatory reading list when lawyers apply to be called to the LSN. The Ethics and Unauthorized Practice (UPA) Committee had completed a first review phase of the current mandatory reading list. The LSN will bring these recommendations to the EUP Committee in 2019.

In addition, the Committee has suggested supplemental readings that would focus on Inuit history and Inuit culture. These suggested readings could be considered as part of the accompanying materials related to the Indigenous Cultural Competency training project (Pirurvik Center).

4. Lucien Ukaliannuk Transcript translation project

The 200 page original transcript, shared by Co-Chair Paul Okalik, has been translated from Inuktitut to English as a joint project between the LSN and the Nunavut Artic College (NAC).

The next phase will be undertaken by NAC to edit the translated document leading to a publication in the future. In the meantime, with recommendations made by the Committee, the LSN is now planning a unique learning opportunity event, based on an excerpt from the transcript, with Louis Tarpardjuk of Igloolik for fall 2019.

5. Inuktitut language training

Developing Inuktitut language skills is an important part of recognizing the cultural component when practising in Nunavut. Accordingly, the LSN will evaluate the feasibility and cost recovery scheme to develop an online module with the Pirurvik Center.

The current compulsory professional development (PD) policy already recognizes language training as a PD activity. It hopes to be able to offer an online learning opportunity to all of its membership in the future.

6. Funding

In order to deliver on these important initiatives, the LSN will be submitting a proposal to the Nunavut Law Foundation in 2019 to assist with the overall costs.

7. National Engagement(s)

Further, Co-Chair, Pauk Okalik, continued to participate nationally as the LSN representation on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's TRC Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nalini Vaddapalli LSN Deputy Secretary