

LAW SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019-2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has also forced changes to our annual general meeting this year. For the first time, we are all meeting by teleconference. We have pared down the agenda to the minimum requirements for an annual general meeting. Once we are able to meet in person again, we will be holding a special meeting where we will consider rule amendments and take time to honour the contributions of our dedicated volunteers.

Working towards a new *Legal Profession Act* and updated Rules

The Law Society is preparing a request to the Minister of Justice to introduce a new *Legal Profession Act*. The Executive continues to consider individual circumstances within the scope of the Act and Rules while recognizing the need for amendments.

A well-rounded analysis of these instruments has been completed with initial support from the past Chair of the Discipline Committee and continued with the help of LSN Members from the Discipline and Legal Ethics and Practice Committees.

The Rules Committee provided the Executive with a thorough review of the Act and Rules and recommended several rule amendments. These amendments are being prepared and will be presented to the membership at a special meeting.

Articling Roundtable and Recommendations

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting I committed to launching a comprehensive review of the articling and admissions process. A report of this review is available with the meeting materials. The Executive is now seeking member feedback on eight recommendations:

1. In every articling plan, each principal must confirm that the student-at-law will be paid a wage that is equal to or greater than the Nunavut minimum wage.
2. All articles must be completed with a Nunavut lawyer (resident or non-resident).
3. Non-resident lawyers must confirm that the majority of the student's work will be on Nunavut matters.
4. Students-at-law may complete up to 8 months of their 12-month articling term outside Nunavut.
5. There is no limit to the number of rotations a student may include in an articling plan.
6. The LSN will encourage employers to conduct their hiring processes during a fixed time period (e.g, October/November 2020).
7. The LSN will prepare a rule amendment abolishing the prohibition on outside employment without approval from the LSN Executive.
8. The LSN will consult with the Nunavut Law Foundation about potential financial support for solo and small practice practitioners seeking to retain articling students.

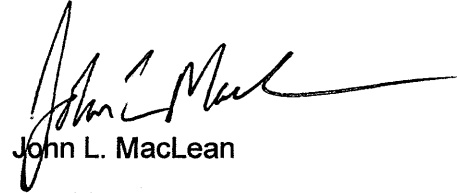
Please submit your feedback to the Chief Executive Officer by July 31. We will use this information to prepare rule amendments.

We are also conducting a comprehensive review of the Nunavut statutes exam and will be developing a transparent policy respecting accommodations during the articling process.

Acknowledgements

Our Law Society simply could not function without its dedicated staff and volunteers. On behalf of the Executive, I extend sincere thanks to our committee chairs and members, our bar admission course instructors and evaluators, our access to justice and continuing legal education providers, our appointed representatives serving on committees and boards, and to everyone who has volunteered their time for the Law Society during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. MacLean", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John L. MacLean
President