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NUNAVUMI MALIGALIUQTIT
NUNAVUT LAW FOUNDATION
LA FONDATION DU DROIT DU NUNAVUT

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Inception The Nunavut Law Foundation (the “Foundation”) came into being on or about January 12, 2001 upon the transfer of the Nunavut share of capital assets of the Law Foundation of the Northwest Territories.

Authority The Foundation is established by and derives its authority from Part VII of the *Legal Professions Act*, RSNWT 1988, and c. L-2, (the “Act”) as amended for Nunavut pursuant to section 76.05 of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada).

Directors Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, the affairs of the Foundation are governed by a Board of Directors composed of four persons appointed by the Law Society of Nunavut (the “Society”) from among its members and one person who is not a member to be appointed by the Minister. Under the Act, the Directors have the authority to decide all aspects of its governance and are required annually to report on their activities to the Society.

The Directors of the Foundation at December 31, 2024:

Appointed by the Law Society:	Sarah Arngna’naaq	Chair, Yellowknife
	Eva Tache-Green	Director, Iqaluit
	Eamonn Carroll	Director, Edmonton
	Victoria Perrie	Director, Winnipeg
Appointed by the Minister	Ruth Oyukuluk	Director, Arctic Bay
Foundation Administrator	Nalini Vaddapalli	Iqaluit

Auditors The auditor of the Foundation for the 2024 year was EPR Yellowknife Accounting Professional Corporation, Chartered Professional Accountants, Yellowknife, NT.

Contact Persons interested in information about the affairs of the Foundation or about applying for a grant from the Foundation may direct enquiries as follows:

Nunavut Law Foundation
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Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
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MANDATE

The Nunavut Law Foundation was created through the *Consolidation of Legal Professions Act* (the “Act”). Through the Law Society of Nunavut (the “Society”), we collect and manage certain funds from lawyers practicing in Nunavut. We are mandated to advance several law-related objectives, as set out in the Act.

Pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Act, all lawyers who are members of the Law Society are required to maintain an interest-bearing trust account. Any interest earned on the monies held in trust are then supposed to be remitted to the Foundation. Unfortunately, since the Foundation was established, there has been very little interest accruing from trust accounts held in Nunavut. As a necessary alternative, the Society collects a special levy from all members who are not required to maintain a trust account (i.e. government workers). The interest and capital from our fund are used to fulfill our statutory mandate, as set out in section 51(a) of the Act:

- I. Conducting or contributing to research into and recommending reform of law and the administration of justice,
- II. Contributing to the establishment, maintenance and operation of law libraries,
- III. Contributing to the legal education and knowledge of members and of the people of Nunavut and providing programs and facilities for that purpose,
- IV. Awarding bursaries and scholarships for the study of law or related subjects, and
- V. Providing assistance to legal aid programs, restorative justice programs and programs of a similar nature.

In addition, subsections 54(3) and (4) of the Act allow the Nunavut Law Foundation to incur administration costs and director expenses. Those can include professional fees for translation, communication and annual audit; and travel expenses when required for the execution of Foundation duties.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) for the Nunavut Law Foundation (the “Foundation”) is comprised of five individuals. Four Directors are appointed from the membership of the Law Society of Nunavut by the Law Society Executive. One member is appointed from the general public by the Minister of Justice. During the 2024 year, the Board operated at full capacity, with all Director positions filled.

My name is Sarah Arngna’naaq, and I have been a Director with the Nunavut Law Foundation since 2018. I have been the Board’s Chairperson since 2020. During my tenure as Chair, the Board’s focus has been on securing additional funds for the Foundation through enforcement of subsection 57(2) of the *Legal Professions Act*. Our long-term goal is to ensure sustainable financing is available to the Foundation to facilitate fulfillment of our mandate. During the 2024 year, we were able to meet in person for the first time in my six years with the Board, despite great distances between us. During this meeting, we developed a new strategic plan. More information on this is available below.

Lucien Ukaliannuk Awards for Law or Law-Related Studies

Lucien Ukaliannuk was a respected Inuit Elder who passed away on September 29, 2007. Prior to his passing, Mr. Ukaliannuk worked as the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Advisor in the Government of Nunavut Department of Justice in Iqaluit. He was also the Inuit Law Instructor and Mentor to the Akitsiraq Law Students. The Foundation wishes to honour Lucien’s memory with this award for deserving people who undertake studies that further the objects of the Foundation.

In 2024, the Board was pleased to assist a recent graduate of the Nunavut Law Program, Stephanie Tagalik Eccles, with this award. Ms. Tagalik Eccles was called to the bar in Nunavut in 2024 and is now a resident practitioner. Congratulations to her on passing this significant milestone! The Board wishes her well in the transition to practice.

Upinnaqtuq Awards

The Nunavut Law Foundation created the Upinnaqtuq Awards in 2011 to honour Madam Justice Beverley Browne. Justice Browne was first appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in 1990. She was later appointed as the first Senior Judge (the title held prior to Chief Justice) for the Nunavut Court of Justice when Nunavut was created in 1999. The Upinnaqtuq Awards were created to celebrate her commitment to volunteerism in Nunavut’s communities, commitment to social justice, and dedication to working with youth. Justice Browne passed away in March of 2021.

In 2024, the Board was delighted to recognize 14 youth from across Nunavut with this award. You can learn more about the award and past recipients on our [website](#). The 2024 recipients are as follows:

- **Isaiah Manik Brown** – Resolute Bay
- **Judy Kalluk** – Arctic Bay
- **Makayla Kaludjak** – Rankin Inlet
- **Meriva Joan Manebou Ayuk** – Iqaluit
- **Naja Ejetsiak** – Iqaluit
- **Brogen Savard** – Iqaluit
- **Brianna Savard** – Iqaluit
- **Mia Maurice** – Iqaluit
- **Victoria Groves** – Iqaluit
- **Jaimesee Onalik** – Iqaluit*
- **John Kublu** – Iqaluit
- **Janice Oyukuluk** – Iqaluit*
- **Ashely Young** – Iqaluit*
- **Rick Aningaak** – Baker Lake

* Gifts for these recipients were to be purchased in the 2025 year, so these awards are not reflected in our 2024 financial statements.

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts - Update

In 2021, the Board began the process of enforcing subsection 57(2) of the *Legal Profession Act*, which requires private practitioners with trust accounts to remit interest from those accounts to the Nunavut Law Foundation. Unfortunately, since Nunavut was created, this provision has not been enforced. To date, the vast majority of our funds come instead from annual membership levies charged to non-trust-bearing lawyers.

It has taken longer than expected to establish banking relationships necessary to enforce this provision, however progress is being made. The Board signed an agreement with RBC on ‘interest on lawyer trust accounts’ (“IOLTA”) in the 2024 year. We are continuing to take steps to secure agreements with the remaining major banks and are hopeful that this process will be completed in 2025.

General Grant

The Nunavut Law Foundation assisted one project through our general grant in 2024. CanLII is a free online database that makes Canadian court and tribunal decisions as well as laws available to everyone. They have been engaged in upgrading their services in every jurisdiction across Canada to include AI-generated summaries of case law, tribunal

decisions, and statutes. This initiative will assist lawyers and non-lawyers in Nunavut and elsewhere in accessing and making sense of various, often complex, forms of legal writing. The Board found this application to be a meaningful contribution to the legal education of the people of Nunavut and therefore directly in line with our mandate. We awarded just under \$20,000 in support of this important work. You can now find AI-generated summaries of many written legal resources on their website. For example, see the Nunavut *Wildlife Act* [here](#) and tap the AI icon in the lefthand column.

2025-2027 Strategic Plan

Our last strategic plan concluded in 2022. The Board had previously decided to hold off on developing a new plan until we had an idea of what revenues might look like from IOLTA funds. With the delay in that process though, we decided to gather in person and create a short-term strategic plan.

In May 2024, all Board members attended two days of strategic planning in Winnipeg, MB. We decided to meet outside of Nunavut for two reasons. First, our Board is quite spread out. In 2024, our members were spread across all three territories, with a fourth member in Winnipeg. Additionally, roughly half of our Board was invited to attend a meeting in Winnipeg immediately following the strategic planning session. The dates lined up well, so we met there. A one-page summary of the 2025-2027 strategic plan will be available on our website soon.

Cy-Près Award

To assist us in fulfilling our mandate, the BC Law Foundation gave the Nunavut Law Foundation, along with the other two territorial law foundations, a notable gift in 2023. We have a few years to spend the money given and we began that process in 2024. With that said, we are looking for projects to support that are in line with our mandate. Please contact the Foundation if you know of any initiatives that may benefit from our financial assistance.

Nunavut Law Foundation Administration

The Nunavut Law Foundation has benefitted from many years of excellent administrative support from Nalini Vaddapalli, who also wears the hat of CEO for the Law Society of Nunavut. Over the last couple of years, Nalini has been working to shift away from the Foundation's administration. In 2024, the Board hired an additional part-time administrator for the Foundation. A transition period from Nalini to our new administrator

began in the fall of 2024 and should conclude in 2025.

Finances

The Foundation was in a strong financial position throughout the 2024 year. We dispersed our regular awards and were able to award a sizable general grant. Our investments maintained a stable level of income. EPR Yellowknife Accounting was engaged to audit our finances. They returned a clean audit, with no concerns raised for the Foundation.

There was an increase in our administrative and professional costs in 2024. As the organization enters a phase of growth through anticipated IOTLA revenue as well as dispensing the cy-près award, we are taking steps to bolster our administrative capacity. We are also utilizing specialized skills of different consultants as necessary. Overall, 2024 was a positive year for the Nunavut Law Foundation.

Ma'na.
Nakurmiik.
Qujannamiik.
Quana.
Merci.
Thank you.

Sarah Arngna'naaq
Chairperson, Nunavut Law Foundation