

To: Law Society of Nunavut Members

From: Gloria Song, Law Society of Nunavut Representative, Access to Justice File

Re: Report for the 2018 – 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: May 17, 2019

Overview of access to justice activities:

It has been my pleasure to continue to serve as the Law Society of Nunavut's Access to Justice Representative this year. The Law Society of Nunavut (LSN) has been involved in a few interesting access to justice initiatives in the past year:

- We are thrilled to share that the LSN has been awarded a major grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario's access to justice fund for a two-year project in partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. This project will involve researching unmet legal needs of Inuit women dealing with intimate partner violence in Nunavut. The findings of the result will be used to develop key messages for a public awareness campaign to help Nunavummiut recognize domestic abuse and to inform them about their legal options to deal with it. Members of this society have recognized for years the need to better understand the unmet legal needs of Nunavummiut, and it is hoped that this project will help establish that base.
- We are finalizing a new public legal information (PLI) poster targeted for youth about the various legal rights and responsibilities that come with each age. This poster is part of a series of four PLI document (employment, eviction, human rights) that were developed with support from the Law Foundation of Ontario. With this final publication, the materials, currently available in English and Inuktitut, will be shared across the territory. I take this opportunity to thank our members and various organizations that played a key part in helping the LSN bring this phase of the Access to Knowledge Initiative to fruition. The Initiative was launched back in 2015 as part of the LSN's Access to Justice Program adopted at the May 2014 AGM.

- I presented another public legal education workshop on employment rights at the Northern Youth Abroad Next program in Ottawa for northern youth.
- I have continued to represent the LSN at national level meetings on access to justice, including the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Access to Justice Exchange group, and the Annual Summit of the National Action Committee (NAC) on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters. We invite other legal organizations to join the conversation with the LSN at the next NAC Summit.
- A reminder to the membership that the LSN continues to operate an Inuktitut hotline to provide important access to justice help for Inuktitut-speaking Nunavummiut. Members of the public can leave a message in Inuktitut at the toll-free number, and responses in Inuktitut are provided within 3 business days.

Future plans

We look forward to continuing to be involved in strategic access to justice activities as part of the Law Society's public protection mandate. We would be interested in strengthening our collaborations and developing more connections with the various justice players in Nunavut on this topic. Some planned activities for the year include:

- Presenting our access to justice project in partnership with Pauktuutit at the annual Inuit Studies conference this fall.
- Developing a dissemination plan to strategically share the public legal information resources that the Law Society has developed over the years (including the four recent PLI materials).
- Securing additional funding for translation and to offer the current available PLI content in various other means (radio, podcasts, in-person workshops, etc.).

We also continue to encourage members to approach us with requests for support or for public legal information ideas if they are interested in delivering legal rights workshops in any of the communities in Nunavut.