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LAW SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT
BARREAU DU NUNAVUT



To: Law Society of Nunavut Members

From: Thomas Ahlfors, Chairperson of the Discipline Committee

Re: Report for the 2018 – 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: May 30, 2019

2018 - A transformational year for the Discipline Committee

• I took over as acting chairperson in February of 2018 and was appointed chairperson in December 2018. A number of new members were added to the Discipline Committee and as a result resident lawyers now constitute a majority of its membership.

• The Discipline Committee has also taken a couple of new approaches to dealing with disciplinary matters. While the chairperson still receives and reviews complaints and makes a determination on whether an inquest should be ordered, all disciplinary matters are now investigated by another member of the Discipline Committee to ensure there is a clear distinction between the investigatory role and the decision-making role. Further, the chairperson of the Discipline Committee will now summarily dismiss complaints, without investigation, if the alleged conduct, even if proven true, would not constitute professional misconduct or conduct unbecoming a barrister and solicitor.

 In 2018, five new disciplinary matters were opened for investigation by the Discipline Committee, one of which was referred to an inquiry. A disciplinary matter from 2017 was also referred to inquiry and heard on February 28, 2019, and is pending a decision. Another inquiry from 2015 is still pending. All other disciplinary matter from before 2018 have been closed. • In 2018, the chairperson of the Discipline Committee invoked, for the first time in the history of the Law Society of Nunavut, section 27 of the Legal Profession Act to suspend a lawyer pending inquiry, following criminal charges against a lawyer. The Discipline Committee has also continued a project commenced by the previous chairperson, Kimberly Gilson, to modernize the disciplinary process by reviewing the rules and legislation respecting the disciplinary process.