



To: Law Society of Nunavut Members
From: Legal Ethics and Unauthorized Practice Committee Erinma Abara, Chair, and Gloria Song, Vice-Chair
Re: Report for the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting
Date: June 1, 2022

In keeping with the LSN's mandate to ensure that the people of Nunavut are served by lawyers who meet high standards of competence, learning and professional conduct, the Committee has actively engaged in several agenda items particularly the review and update of the Nunavut Code of Professional Conduct.

Despite the continued challenges brought about the pandemic, the committee has been keen in meeting as regularly as possible to achieving our main goals and delivering this year's agenda items.

## A. CURRENT PROJECTS

## (I) Revision of the Nunavut Code of Conduct

The Nunavut Code of Conduct was initially adopted in 2016. Believing that the Code is a living document that needs to reflect the most recent standards of competency and ethical legal practice, the Committee has committed to regularly updating the Code in keeping with the recommended changes based on the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's (FLSC) Model Code.

With the support of an in-house counsel, the changes made to the Nunavut Code included housekeeping recommendations (i.e. correcting grammatical and typographical errors), and non-contentious substantive recommendations that were based from the FLSC's Model Code and Manitoba's Code of Professional Conduct. (*see attached*)

The Committee also took the opportunity to update the Nunavut Code by using gender-inclusive language. Moving forward, the upcoming contentious and substantive changes to the FLSC's Model Code would be presented to the membership through Professional Development (PD) Events by fall this year. Among the subject matters to be presented are Discrimination and Harassment, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The Committee is also looking forward to organizing the Nunavut Code to make it more accessible to the membership.

## (II) Revising the Mandatory Reading List

The list is part of the admission requirements to be called to the Nunavut Bar through the Territorial Mobility Agreement. The Committee has finalized a more comprehensive and meaningful framework that would allow the applicant to complete a combination of readings that are directly tied to areas of the law of one's practice, fundamentals of Nunavut laws, regulations, and materials that speak to Inuit traditional laws.

After the last AGM, a consultation on the reading list took place where members were invited to share their comments and feedback. (*see attached*) The Committee has determined relevant cultural competency materials that are included in the mandatory reading list.

The Committee is committed to ensure that the reading list is in keeping with the most updated pieces of legislation and has included this endeavor as a recurring agenda item.

## B. COMPLAINTS

The Committee continues to be engaged in investigating referrals and providing recommendations to the LSN Executive, as required. This work remains a priority for the Committee. LSN continues to positively resolve matters regarding unauthorized practice by having a courtesy call or email from the CEO that would result in full memberships, restricted appearance certificates, or the withdrawal of services.