



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Gloria Song & Victoria Perrie, Law Society of Nunavut Co-Representatives, Access to Justice File

Re: Report for the 2022 – 2023 Annual General Meeting on the Law Society of Nunavut’s Access to Justice activities

Date: June 7, 2023

It is our pleasure once again to provide an update on the Law Society of Nunavut’s activities on access to justice.¹

1. Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut

In 2022, the Law Society wrapped up its *Family Violence Prevention in Nunavut* project,² a three-year collaboration with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. This project aimed to break the silence on family violence in Nunavut by raising awareness about family violence, especially intimate partner violence, and the legal options available to address this issue, through research and [public legal education resources](#) that included posters, newspaper ads, fact sheets, a social media campaign on Facebook, opinion editorial, podcasts and a video series of interviews with women with lived experience. The [Final Report](#) for the project was shared with the key stakeholders at a meeting and roundtable discussion on March 24th 2022, which resulted in a commitment to continue collaborating and ensure next steps are relevant and meaningful. A follow-up working meeting was held on October 27, 2022, with key stakeholders as well as a meeting with MLAs on October 29, 2022. Through a memo presented at these meetings, the Law Society and Pauktuutit reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to work

¹ Note that we provide these reports in our personal capacities, and any views we express do not necessarily represent the views of our employers.

² Funding for this research project was generously provided by the Law Foundation of Ontario through its Access to Justice Fund, as well as the Department of Justice Canada.

with the stakeholders, including the Government of Nunavut (GN), as well as support efforts to collaboratively find solutions to end the cycle of family violence in Nunavut.

On November 28, 2022, the Law Society of Nunavut partnered with the Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC) to host a virtual continuing professional development seminar on “Decolonizing Access to Legal Information in Situations of Family Violence in Inuit Communities”. This session was well attended, and a recording of the session can be found [here](#).

Given the need for greater coordinated, cross-sector community-based collaboration on this issue for sustainable, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, holistic solutions to address family violence in Nunavut, the Law Society has applied for additional funding to continue work relating to this project.

2. Prevention of Harassment in the Workplace

2023-24 will mark the wrap-up of this four-year Government of Canada (GoC) funded project to address both sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace as well as other forms of gender-based violence by developing [public legal education resources](#) and delivering educational workshops. Although the pandemic had put some in-person community workshops on hold in 2021, activities were fortunately able to resume in 2022. The Law Society worked with lawyers from Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Ottawa) and Raven Law LLP (Ottawa) to deliver a number of workshops to meet the needs of the French-speaking community. The various workshops were aimed at decision-makers, employers, employees and self-employed. In addition, free legal advice sessions were offered to community members-at-large and workshop participants.

The Law Society also launched a collaboration with the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society called “Discrimination in the Workplace – Barriers to Employment” addressing the employer’s duty to accommodate employees at the workplace, as an effort to make all Nunavummiut more aware of their right to work in an environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. This initiative aims to help employers implement more comprehensive policies on the issue by promoting cross-sector collaboration and dissemination of information on the legal framework surrounding the duty to accommodate using public legal education resources available in multiple formats such as posters, pamphlets, social media, podcast/video and workshops.

The Law Society is also working on an initiative to provide support for newcomers and immigrants. In addition to developing a network with organizations and businesses, this initiative will involve developing and displaying posters with information relevant to

newcomers' needs. The Law Society acknowledges the dedication and invested efforts made by the following organizations to bring to fruition the poster: Association des Francophones du Nunavut (AFN), Carrefour Nunavut (Carrefour), Réseau santé en français au Nunavut (RÉSEFAN) and Legal Services Board of Nunavut. It also recognizes the invaluable contribution made by the Government of Nunavut's Iqaluit Airport Management in the placement of the poster in the Iqaluit airport. Through this initiative, a care package for newcomers from the Francophone community is being developed in collaboration with the Association des Francophones and Carrefour. Public legal education resources will also be developed for newcomers.

The Law Society team, in collaboration with Raven Law LLP and then with member Jessica Thompson, conducted workshops respectively in Rankin Inlet and Pond Inlet. In Rankin Inlet, they held a workshop for youth on rights and responsibilities and workplace harassment prevention. The team also delivered workshops for employers and hosted a community event. In Pond Inlet, a lunch and learn workshop was delivered for managers on harassment prevention and accommodation. The team also met with the Community Council. In both communities, free legal advice, as offered through the GoC funds, was made available to community members and organizations.

Learn more by reading the [Pilirigatigiitta Newsletter](#) .

3. National Reporting

Throughout the 2022-2023 term, the Law Society contributed to and maintained a presence at national-level forums on access to justice.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Access to Legal Services Exchange group meets monthly to discuss access to justice nationwide. In January 2023, the Law Society provided a five-page report for the Federation's Access to Legal Services Exchange Inventory. Reported topics include an overview of groups undertaking access to legal services in Nunavut, policies and rules that have been implemented to increase access to legal services, policy which is being monitored and developed, and a general overview of access to justice initiatives.

The National Action Committee on Access to Justice on Civil and Family Matters meets regularly to act on issues of national importance. The Committee also publishes the 2022 Canada Justice Development Goals Report. The Law Society contributed to this report by providing information on our 2022 JDG progress. One aspect of the Report considers action taken on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. The Law Society highlighted territorial developments which coincide with the Calls to Action and the Justice Development Goals. See how Nunavut compares to other provinces and territories by reviewing the report [here](#).

The National Action Committee also hosts a Justice Summit each year. In 2022, both A2J co-chairs attended the Saskatoon Summit, one remotely and one in person. The Summit provided an opportunity for the Law Society to learn what has worked in other jurisdictions, and provide suggestions to other areas based on our own territorial learnings.

In October 2022, both co-chairs attended the national “Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace” Conference hosted by PLEAC in Toronto to bring the Nunavut perspective to this national conversation. The co-chairs reported back to the Law Society and identified interesting national projects for further dialogue and investigation.

5. Engage North Internship

Throughout the 2022-2023 term, the Law Society was engaged in a multi-partner internship program. With the assistance of Legal Aid Nunavut as the financial partner, Mitacs as the granting partner, and the University of Alberta’s Engage North Internship program as the intern program, the co-chairs supervised a PhD student from August 2022- May 2023. The intern performed research and development work for a handbook of resources in Nunavut. The intern is now employed on a short-term contract with the Law Society of Nunavut to assist in completion of the handbook, in addition to other duties.