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June 15, 2023

Report from Lauren Shadley, President

Greetings members,

I had the honour of serving on the Law Society of Nunavut's Executive since October 2021, and as the President of the Law Society since May 2022.

Today, I wish to highlight some of the significant events that occurred since our last Annual General Meeting. As a general remark, much of the Law Society's activities over the past few years have focused on optimizing its operational and admission structures and procedures, while still engaging in important access-to-justice work. The Law Society's success is attributed to its many team members, volunteers, and membership base. As a continual member of this team, we are particularly delighted that Koovian Flannagan has been reappointed as our public representative for her second three-year term.

Highlights:

1. Review of Nunavut Statutes Examination

As members of a self-regulating profession, we have an important role to play in determining the qualifications and attributes future members of our profession will need. The ultimate objective remains protecting the public. In the fall of 2022, the Law Society created a taskforce on revising the Nunavut Statues Examination, which began its work in early 2023. We are proud to be a jurisdiction that is working collaboratively and meaningfully toward determining how to best regulate our profession while ensuring public protection. The Task Force Report is available on our website; we are proud of the work that has gone into this Report and confident that it provides the incoming Executive with the groundwork needed to move forward.

2. Access to Justice

Since the launch of the Law Society's Access to Justice Program in 2014, the Law Society continues to coordinate projects that bring partners together to fill access-to-justice gaps with invaluable support and contributions from the membership.

- For example:

- Hosted roundtable discussions, and co-hosted events with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada.
- Continued involvement in the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Project in addressing gender-based violence and barriers to employment.
- With a financial contribution from the Nunavut Law Foundation, the Law Society coordinated the *Bridging the Gap Initiative* to assist Nunavummiut in filing Indian Day Schools' claims on behalf of family members (wills or powers of attorney).

3. Language projects and social media presence

We have provided a significant number of tools in all four languages and look forward to sharing the Law Society's Inuit language plan. We have increased our efforts respecting social media and diversifying our existing communication tools, such as the *Talking About Justice in Nunavut* podcast series and recorded Law Society continuing legal education (CLE) events, which are made available on our YouTube channel.

4. National presence

The Law Society continues to be an active participant in Federation of Law Societies of Canada meetings. This past year, we placed particular focus on competency-based assessments and wellness in the legal profession. In the summer of 2022, the Law Society was proud to welcome and meet with the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, to discuss our jurisdiction's successes and concerns.

5. Regulatory initiatives

We have continued ongoing efforts on the statutory reform of the *Legal Profession Act*. The Law Society has also been working towards creating an educational-based audit program for privately practising lawyers in Nunavut. In December of last year, the Law Society welcomed members Sara Siebert and Meghan O'Brien to deliver a CLE on Practice Management - Reminders and Updates.

6. Finances

Once again, in 2022, the Law Society took strategic steps with our investment returns to increase limited reserves in our operational, assurance, and liability funds.

It was a busy 12 months for the Law Society, and I already know there are many exciting projects planned for the forthcoming year. The Law Society could not operate without our dedicated members who volunteer time and effort, and work hard to ensure the Law Society's objectives and duties are met. I would also like to thank our staff at the Law Society of Nunavut: I am continually impressed with the level of professionalism and loyalty they demonstrate.

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase the Law Society's recent work and to have volunteered on your Executive.

Sincerely,

Lauren Shadley