



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Articling and Bar Admissions Working Group

Subject: Report for the 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting

Date: June 9, 2025

Working Group Officers 2024-2025:

- Abdallah Butt
- Kenneth Chatarpaul
- Steven Cooper
- Nuka Olsen-Hakongak
- Mandy Sammurtok¹
- Jessica Shabtai

A. Mandate of the Working Group:

The mandate of the Articling and Bar Admissions Working Group is that the mandate of the Articling and Bar Admissions Committee ("Committee"), which is to support the ongoing review, oversight and support of the overall articling and bar admissions process in Nunavut.

A Working Group was formed instead of a Committee due to challenges meeting the Committee's composition requirements, despite an initial call for volunteers for the Committee in January 2024, another round for the standing committees later in 2024. The challenge remained after the call for the 2025 standing committees.²

Through the mandate of the Committee, the Working Group is further tasked with oversight of the overall articling and bar admissions process in Nunavut to ensure students-at-law admitted as such are best positioned to succeed in becoming a practicing lawyer in the Territory.

Like the Committee, the Working Group also reports annually at the AGM and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee ("Executive") about articles of clerkship, the bar admission course, bar admission examination and any special examinations as required under subsections 8(b), 8 (c), 16(1) and 18(2) of the *Legal Profession Act* (LPA).

¹ Mandy Sammurtok joined the ABA Working Group in April 2025.

² Composition and quorum calls for the Committee to be composed of five members: three lawyers, with a least one of whom is resident in Nunavut, who have engaged in the practice of law in Nunavut for not less than five years and at least two of whom have acted as a principal for a student-at-law in Nunavut; and two lawyers who are resident in Nunavut, who have engaged in the practice of law for less than five years.





B. Key Activities

I. Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED)

The Working Group received an update from LSN member Lana Walker¹ on the remedial plan for students-at-law who did not successfully complete CPLED's Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) but completed their articles.

Developed in response to Recommendation #3 of the final report of the *Taskforce on the revision of the Nunavut Statutes Examination*, the plan offers an alternative path to bar admission. The plan involves tailored make-up work and assignments overseen by LSN members, designed to be aligned with the LSN's commitment to a fair and defensible bar admission process.

To date, four students-at-law have successfully completed the Remedial Plan, fulfilling the bar admission course requirement under section 18(2)(b) of the *Legal Profession Act*. Work is ongoing to continue to improve the experience of students-at-law who are participating in PREP, by providing Nunavut-based support and opportunities for collaboration with LSN members and peers

II. Student-at-Law Experience Survey Report

To ensure the Working Group's efforts were informed by the experiences of current and former students-at-law, the group began its work with briefings on the preliminary findings from the *Student-at-Law Experience Survey*, which was first circulated in December 2023. Members were also given the opportunity to review the Executive Summary of the survey report in advance of its finalization and broader distribution to the membership and the public.

III. Finalization of the Request for Feedback

Working Group members provided feedback on the Executive Summary of the final report of the *Request for Feedback: Nunavut Statutes Examination as a Special Examination* – a survey circulated by the LSN Executive to the membership before making a final decision on the Nunavut Statutes Examination and determining whether a special examination was required under the *Legal Profession Act*. While preliminary findings were shared at a Special Meeting in February 2024, the final report was completed by the Working Group in May 2025, together with the LSN Executive.²

¹ Lana Walker managed the remedial plan process and later took on the role of manager for the students-at-law portfolio.

² The Report will be made available online on around June 23, 2025 to coincide with the Law Society of Nunavut AGM.





IV. LSN Website

Working Group members drafted revised LSN website content to better reflect and bring to light the unique experiences of students-at-law and articling principals in the Territory. These updates will be completed in fall 2025.

V. Articling Plan

The Working Group began reviewing the LSN Articling Plan with a goal to reflect the unique realities of articling in Nunavut but paused further work pending a summer student's review of other jurisdictions' articling plans and evaluation tools and process. Alignment with ongoing LSN efforts to improve administrative processes was also a contributing factor in the decision to pause the work until late 2025.

C. Ongoing and Future Work

With support from LSN staff and other resources, and through consultations as needed, the Working Group's action items for the coming year include:

- Finalizing updates to the "Student-at-Law" section of the LSN website to reflect and bring to light the unique aspects of articling in the Territory
- Making improvements to the Articling Plan and student-at-law evaluation process including a web-based format
- Reviewing LSN accommodations and supports to better promote student wellbeing
- Providing input to CPLED to ensure PREP is responsive to Nunavut's context
- Considering feedback from the CPLED Remedial Plan led by Lana Walker
- Circulating a survey to Articling Principals
- Completing the Articling Handbook, with a focus on transitioning from a static PDF to a more accessible and easily updated web-based format
- Identifying professional development tools for Articling Principals

D. Acknowledgements

The Working Group expresses its appreciation to all those who contributed to this year's work. The commitment of the Working Group members, all of whom serve on a volunteer basis, continues to strengthen and enhance the articling and bar admissions process for future members of the Nunavut Bar.

Respectfully submitted,
Articling and Bar Admissions Working Group
Law Society of Nunavut