

ーーレーヘンタク シンジャック シロシン NUNAVUMI MALIGALIUQTIT LAW SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT BARREAU DU NUNAVUT



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut From: Legal Ethics and Unauthorized Practice Committee (LEPC). Nikolai Sittman, Chair, and Tracy Bock, Vice-Chair

Subject: Report for the 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting Date: June 13, 2025

The Law Society of Nunavut ("LSN") is committed to ensuring that Nunavummiut are served by lawyers who meet high standards of competence and professional conduct. The Legal Ethics and Practice Committee ("LEPC") plays a critical role in this mandate by advising on matters of legal ethics, professional responsibility, and the development of the Nunavut Code of Professional Conduct ("Nunavut Code").

In the 2024–2025 reporting period, the LEPC was focused primarily on responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 27, which calls on law societies to ensure that lawyers practice with appropriate Indigenous cultural competency.

National Consultation on Call to Action 27

I. The Nunavut Code and the Model Code of Conduct

The Nunavut Code is a living document that requires high standards of ethical conduct. The LEPC reviews the Nunavut Code annually, recommending updates as needed. As part of this work, the LEPC liaises quarterly with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada ("FLSC").

The FLSC, in order to harmonize the rules of professional conduct across Canada, collaborated with law societies to develop the Model Code of Professional Conduct ("Model Code"). The FLSC regularly reviews Model Code rules and consults with law societies across Canada to ensure that those rules respond to best practices and emerging issues in legal practice and ethics. Law societies, including the LSN, generally adopt amended Model Code rules into their own codes, at times with adjustments that are specific to their jurisdictions. The Nunavut Code largely mirrors the Model Code.





II. The FLSC's Response to the TRC Call to Action 27

The FLSC has examined the Model Code to determine how to better ensure that lawyers have appropriate Indigenous cultural competency, in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 27. After consulting with a wide range of Indigenous groups and members of the legal community, the FLSC released draft amendments to the Model Code in November 2023 and sought feedback from law societies, including the LSN.

III. Consultation Process with the Nunavut Bar

The LEPC worked in close collaboration with the LSN Executive Committee to launch a dedicated consultation process aimed at gathering member input on the FLSC's draft Model Code amendments. The LEPC and LSN Executive developed a two-phase consultation process with the Nunavut Bar. First, the LSN held three virtual information sessions in September and October 2024 on the FLSC's draft amendments and the principles underpinning the proposed changes (recordings are available on the LSN website). Next, three hybrid in-person/virtual consultation sessions were held in the fall of 2024 in Ottawa, Iqaluit, and Yellowknife, respectively. These sessions encouraged dialogue and feedback from members, with an emphasis on how to meaningfully integrate Inuit legal traditions and Inuit cultural competency into the Nunavut Code.

Members were also invited to submit written or verbal feedback by phone or email. The LEPC and LSN will use the insights gathered to inform its response to the FLSC.

IV. Looking Ahead

It is anticipated that the FLSC will revise its Model Code amendments and that a second round of consultations will occur in 2025. The LEPC remains committed to ensuring that the voices of Nunavummiut – and particularly Inuit perspectives—are reflected in the evolution of the Model Code and Nunavut Code.

A separate aspect of the LSN's response to Call to Action 27 also remains a priority agenda item, namely the development of a Nunavut-specific, Inuit-designed and Inuit-led cultural competency training requirement for licensed lawyers seeking Nunavut Bar membership. Members can expect substantive updates on this project over the coming reporting year.