



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut
From: Julie Bedford
Re: 2020 Update from the Law Society of Nunavut representative, Legal Services Board of Nunavut
Date: May 29, 2020

1. Board membership:

The Board is comprised of seven members:

- A representative for the Law Society of Nunavut
- A representative for the Government of Nunavut
- Three regional representatives
- Two members-at-large

In early 2020 we welcomed Shauna Angulalik as the new Board representative for the Kitikmeot region.

There are currently two Board vacancies. We are down a representative for the Kivalliq region as well as a member-at-large.

2. Operations update:

Our most recent Board meeting was held in January. Below is an update on some items of interest:

2.1. HR update

Over the last year, several positions have been filled:

- Cambridge Bay saw the addition of three new staff lawyers, including two civil lawyers and a criminal lawyer.
- Rankin Inlet saw the addition of a family lawyer, a criminal lawyer, and an articling student.
- Iqaluit has had several new additions, including: a civil and administrative lawyer, a family lawyer, a criminal lawyer with appellate experience, a senior criminal lawyer, and an articling student.

On the staff side, LSB is nearly full. There are vacancies for the Director in Cambridge Bay, and the Junior Court Worker position in Iqaluit.

Two new positions were created - a paralegal position in Iqaluit, which has been filled by the previous junior court worker, and an administrative assistant position in Gjoa Haven, which has also been filled.

In addition to the above staff hires, there have also been several new additions to the private panel.

2.2. Intake process

LSB has been streamlining the intake process – the aim is to shorten the wait period for legal aid applications and approvals. New internal policies have been created to better define staff roles. Management has also been heavily invested in bringing on new staff.

2.3. Service interruptions (Ransomware Attack)

In the Fall, LSB was heavily impacted by the GN Ransomware attack. Cambridge Bay was relatively unaffected, as they have been operating on their own network. Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, however, have been operating on the GN network and saw significant interruptions. As of early 2020, parts of the organization were still having trouble accessing the network, and basic functions such as email. LSB was able to get everybody onto the Cambridge Bay network quickly, but it has been a slow process becoming fully functional.

More recently, there have been some interruptions due to Covid-19. As of mid-March, clinics have been closed to the public - lawyers and staff have been encouraged to work remotely. LSB has turned its attention to ensuring the necessary supports are in place to accommodate this change.

3. Board meetings

A fulsome in-person Board meeting was to take place in the Spring, however, due to current circumstances this was not feasible. The finance committee met remotely in April to discuss the 2019 audit approval and the 2019-2020 business case funding requests for the clinics. Board approvals were likewise dealt with remotely.