

A year in review

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will be ready by early September 2020. The portal will allow members to add-on their professional development hours and activities throughout the year and change their contact information as needed. In preparation of next steps after graduation for students enrolled with the Nunavut Law Program, a student-at-law online application process will be in place.

- With the new website features, it will help reduce the number of hours dedicated to manual administrative entries and follow-ups that can be reallocated to other operational responsibilities. These responsibilities include for example, responding to both membership queries and from the general public, providing information and support for the discipline complaint intake. Minimizing delays is important in particular when it comes to the admission process and discipline process. When I took on this position in 2010, the membership stood at approximately 230 members and in 2019, the membership had grown to approximately 320 members.
- LSN continued to offer support to its members, new lawyers, students-at-law, law students, and members of the public. Our open front door policy remained, allowing anyone in need of information or assistance to navigate the system, to be welcomed by LSN staff and myself. LSN delivered its services in English, Inuktitut and French. LSN's efforts to raise awareness over the years about its mandate and to establish a network of contacts, including with non- legal organizations, has proven to be positive with increased number of phone calls from various communities. As part of our commitment to the Inuit Language Protection Act, we have taken a long overdue step to provide this year's AGM reports and most other documents in Inuktitut. We hope to provide all AGM and other special meeting materials in Inuktitut going forward. To this end, next year's budget will provide for the translation of the current website in Inuktitut.
- In 2019 and beginning of 2020, law students Katerina Lagassé and Romy Leclerc played a key role in supporting the work of various standing Committees and provided much needed support with the preparation of discipline committee public hearings. LSN also

published its first CanLII decision. I encourage our membership to read LSN's standing committees' reports and all other reports, equally important, submitted by members who continued to represent LSN in various capacities: Access to Justice file - Gloria Song, Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) Council Member - Sara Siebert and Legal Services Board of Nunavut LSN representative - Julie Bedford. These reports are posted [here](#).

- In regard to the implementation of LSN's Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) action plan that began last year, we look forward to receiving an update from the Government of Canada in response to our application submitted as part of the call for action in support of the Revitalization of Indigenous laws (CTA 50). Member Paul Okalik represented LSN on the FLSC's own Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action Advisory Committee bringing the Inuit voice and knowledge to the ongoing discussions. I invite you to read the May 13, 2020 FLSC TRC report that speaks to *Recommendations for Responding to the TRC*. The report is available [here](#).
- On the Access to Justice file, a strategic decision had been reported on during the 2017-18 AGM. The strategic vision was to have LSN focus its efforts on access to justice projects that could be funded outside of LSN's operational budget or with minimal operational expenses. The need for public legal education and information (PLEI) on various topics and providing support to navigate a process remains relevant. We were delighted to receive positive news for both of our funding applications to the Government of Canada: *Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Harassment in the Workplace (2019-2024)*; and *Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut: A Research Project & Awareness Campaign (2018-2021)*. The latter project had received a major grant in 2018 from the Law Foundation of Ontario and builds on an important partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. Both projects moved along steadily, and preliminary ground work was mostly completed in 2019 and first quarter of 2020. As a result, the development of PLEI materials and workshops has commenced. You can learn more about these projects [here](#).

- Since 2014, LSN is the only northern jurisdiction who continues to deliver a skills-based bar admission course (Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education – CPLED) in its jurisdiction. The bar course includes in-person modules, delivered in Iqaluit with the assistance of resident members; and online modules where non-resident members have also provided support with assignments and marking. Their contributions are invaluable as it allowed the students-at-law to gain Nunavut-based knowledge and understanding of the practice of law in Nunavut. It is important to recognize that without the support from the Law Society of Manitoba, the original partner in this initiative, the bar course would not be able to run as smoothly as it has. CPLED, as it was delivered for the 2019-20 year, will be replaced with CPLED Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP). As part of LSN’s commitment to looking ahead with the Nunavut Law Program cohort, we welcomed CPLED CEO Dr. Kara Mitchelmore in February 2020. Dr. Mitchelmore met with LSN’s Executive, employers, interested members and law students. Taking steps to make sure the law students’ needs are met once they graduate is a priority for the Executive. In early 2020, the Executive hosted 2021 Articling Roundtable discussions. I very much look forward to assisting with next steps and invite you to read the President’s report arising from these fruitful discussions and Dr. Mitchelmore’s presentation on CPLED PREP. The report is posted [here](#); and the presentation is posted [here](#). Once again, LSN offered the writing of LSAT exams in 2019 and has been a published site for the last three years which reduces the registration fees for applicants.
- In 2019, LSN received a two-year grant from the Nunavut Law Foundation to help cover the cost of delivering Professional Development (PD) events at no cost to our members, students and friends of the LSN. LSN organized more than twenty hours of PD activities, thanks to the contributions and support offered by our members, the Nunavut Branch of The Canadian Bar Association and the Nunavut Law Program. We thank the Executive public representative, Koovian Flanagan, for her role in making possible the World Intellectual Property Organization PD event. LSN established new collaborations to offer a diverse choice of PD events. One example, the *National Conference on Indigenous Criminal Justice Post-Gladue*. Osgoode Law Hall School Professional Development

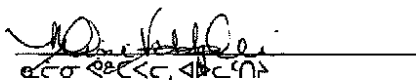
offered access to this webcast to any interested members at a significantly reduced rate. LSN hosted the viewing of the webcast, in Iqaluit, which was open to all members and students. In addition, LSN offered to cover the registration cost of the webcast to any small group of lawyers residing in Nunavut but living outside Iqaluit. When appropriate, PD events were opened, at no cost, to members of the public. And this practice will continue on. LSN is indebted to the Quality of Life Secretariat for allowing the membership and students-at-law to once again benefit from the Indigenous Cultural Competency two- day workshops hosted by the Secretariat. On a final note, LSN acknowledges the tremendous commitment and efforts made by LSN members, Sara Siebert and Sheila MacPherson, Madam Justice Cooper and Molly Naber Sykes, Q.C., in the development and delivery of the September 2019 Intensive Trial Advocacy Program. No doubt the Program was a huge success by providing a high caliber practical and skills-based learning experience that will have welcomed participants from both Nunavut and outside the territory.

- As the CEO, I am committed to offering a workplace environment that gives opportunities for on-the-job training and flexibility all of which contribute to a healthy, positive and respectful environment. I'm thankful for the dedicated staff that is now in place and who play a key role in making our office a welcoming environment. We've also welcomed another local high school student, over the summer period, as part of our commitment to inclusive hiring.

It has been a pleasure to assist the 2019-20 Executive Members. I am thankful for their support throughout the year.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving the Law Society of Nunavut.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nalini Vaddapalli, CEO – Deputy Secretary