

То:	Members of the Law Society of Nunavut
From:	Membership and Admissions Committee Alyssa Holland, Chair, and Lana Walker, Vice-Chair
Re:	Report for the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting
Date:	June 16, 2021

MAC reviews and provides a recommendation to the Executive on all applications to join the LSN. This includes applications to join as an articled student-at-law, transfers from other jurisdictions under the Territorial Mobility Agreement, and other types of applications.

In 2020, MAC considered 28 applications for membership in the LSN. This is the lowest number of applications received by MAC since 2012 and is likely related to the profound pandemic-related disruptions experienced throughout 2020. In contrast, as of June 16, 2021, MAC has already considered 23 applications for membership and 15 student-at-law applications.

As of March 31, 2021, there were 82 active resident lawyers and Canadian Legal Advisors in Nunavut, as well as 1 student-at-law. There is an active non-resident bar of 211 lawyers and Canadian Legal Advisors, and another 38 lawyers holding Restricted Appearance Certificates. Overall, 28% of active members are resident and 72% are non-resident, which marks a slight increase in the ratio of resident to non-resident lawyers last year.

MAC maintains a regular bi-weekly cycle for considering applications for membership. However, we are currently operating on an expedited schedule for student-at-law applications, in light of the significant number of student-at-law applications currently being made by Nunavut Law Program graduates.

In 2020, in addition to its work considering applications for membership, MAC also participated in the Law Society's review of the Nunavut Statute Exam. Members reviewed questions currently found in the exam and identified issues with clarity and suggested questions to be corrected or removed from the exam. This project was one part of the Law Society's larger project of updating and improving the Nunavut Statute Exam, which is still in progress. As part on MAC's ongoing action plan and priorities, MAC will be working with the Law Society to review the admissions process in light of the Federation of Law Societies' National Admission Standards. This is in addition to working with the Law Society and Executive to develop a consistent approach to recognition of articles completed in other jurisdictions and articles proposed to be split between resident and non-resident members, as well as further improvements to the Law Society's internal process for receiving and assessing applications.

2020 required flexibility and good humor from everyone, and MAC was no exception. We would like to acknowledge the hard work of each MAC member throughout the pandemic, and the support of Law Society staff in a very challenging year.