



Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Policy

A. Purpose

The purpose of mandatory continuing legal education (CLE) is to ensure that members of the Law Society of Nunavut meet and maintain high standards of competency by undertaking legal education throughout their careers.

B. Requirements

The Law Society of Nunavut CLE program requires that **all practising members** complete **12 hours** of legal education annually. At least **1 hour** must be devoted to **professional responsibility & ethics** and **1 hour** devoted to **cultural competency**. The Law Society is committed to providing access to training sessions for those mandatory hours.

C. Exemptions

- (a) Members who complete the bar admission program and are admitted to the Society are not required to report any CLE activities in respect to the year of admission.
- (b) Lawyers who have previously been or are Members of a law society in another jurisdiction must complete 1 hour of eligible CLE for each full or partial calendar month in the practice of law from the time of their call to the LSN until the end of that calendar year.
- (c) Members with inactive status do not have to complete CLE activities, but Members who change their status to active must complete 1 hour of eligible CLE for each full or partial calendar month in the practice of law from the effective date of their change of status.
 - Members are responsible for ensuring that their hours of eligible CLE reflect the requirements regarding professional responsibility & ethics as well as cultural competency.
- (d) Members who were on leave or unable to practise because of illness or nor any other reason acceptable to the Executive are exempt for the period during the illness or leave.

- Members are responsible for ensuring that their hours of eligible CLE reflect the requirements regarding professional responsibility & ethics as well as cultural competency.
- (e) Members who are subject to *comparable* CLE requirements in another jurisdiction are not required to undertake additional CLE activity, as long as they have 1 hour devoted to professional responsibility & ethics and one hour devoted to cultural competency.

D. Eligible CLE Activities

Eligible CLE activities are those activities that are recognized by the Executive. The Executive is authorized to recognize activities that contain significant substantive or practical content, with the primary objective of protection of the public by increasing the lawyer's professional competence, in relation to any of the following topics:

- (a) client care and relations
- (b) cultural competency
- (c) language training;
- (d) member wellness;
- (e) professional responsibility and ethics;
- (f) practice and standards management
- (g) substantive legal or procedural issues;
- (h) any other topics approved by the Executive.

The Executive is not authorized to recognize activities relating to the following:

- (a) activities designed for or targeted at clients;
- (b) topics relating to law firm marketing or profit maximization; or
- (c) activities prepared and delivered in the ordinary and usual course of practice.

E. Recognized CLE Activities

CLE hours approved by another Law Society, the Canadian Bar Association, a law firm, a legal department, a government agency or department, or a practice group of any of those entities can also be applied to the Law Society of Nunavut CLE requirements.

Recognized CLE Activities – See **Appendix A** on p. 5 for more information on the activities:

Recognized CLE Activities	Ratio Hour of Activity: Eligible CLE Hour	Maximum Hours of Activity
Unrestricted Self Study	1:1	2 hours of activity
Restricted Self Study	1:1	6 hours of activity
Group Study	1:1	6 hours of activity
Nunavut Official Language Training	1:1	3 hours of activity
Educational Training	1:1	6 hours of activity
Pro Bono (LSN Access to Justice Program)	1:1	3 hours of activity
Invited Speaker – Law-Related Event	1:2	2 hours of activity
Moot Court (Coaching or Judging)	1:2	2 hours of activity
Teaching a Course on a volunteer or part-time basis (not as part of full time or regular employment)	1:2	2 hours of activity

The purpose of setting limits and maximum hours of activity is to ensure the members have a balanced approach to completing their CLE requirements.

F. Reporting Requirements

Self-reporting through the online member account due by January 31 of each calendar year.

Members will be required to provide the following information in the designated CLE section:

- Course name/activity description
- Identifying information (e.g. format – name of course provider, study group organizer, etc.)

- Role (attendee, author, mentor, presenter, teacher, etc.)
- Date of course
- Number of hours
- Recognized category

Members will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with this policy and for reporting CLE activities to the LSN.

Members who are exempt from complying with CLE requirements will identify their exemption in their self-report.

G. Monitoring & Compliance

The Law Society of Nunavut will review the annual self-reporting of CLE by randomly auditing members.

A member who is audited may be asked to provide receipts or other documents to establish the number of hours of recognized CLE and the eligibility of the activities. Members are responsible for retaining records of the CLE activities and to make the records available to the LSN upon request.

A member who fails to comply with the CLE requirements will have their licence to practice suspended unless they complete and report the required hours of eligible CLE within 30 days of receipt of a notice of a failure to comply from the Secretary and remains suspended until the member has completed, reported the required hours and paid the reinstatement fee set out in Schedule A of the Rules of the LSN (as set out in s.71(1)(a) of the Rules of the LSN)

Where the circumstances warrant, irregularities may be referred to the Chair of the Discipline Committee for further investigation.

Appendix A
Description of Recognized CLE Activities

Unrestricted Self Study	An educational gain through one’s independent means
	Examples: Reading journals and informative publications or listening to a podcast related to the practice of law
Restricted Self Study	An educational gain through one’s independent means by using material or programs specifically designed for professional development or legal education.
	Examples: Participating in self-directed online programs; reviewing recorded seminar; legal writing if the intended readers are not a specific client.
Group Study	An educational activity where interaction and discussion are available to a group of participants
	Examples: Participating in a program set in a classroom-like setting such as a conference, seminar or webinar or teleconferences where questions can be asked and answered on real time; participating in a group discussion focused on the development and sharing of information on specific practice areas.
Nunavut Official Language Training	Participating in a Nunavut Official Language training activity
Educational Training	Participating in a training program provided by a law association or employer that does not otherwise qualified as “Group Study” and where questions can be asked and answered on real time.
	Examples: Trial Advocacy Program; Trauma-informed training

Pro Bono	LSN Access to Justice Program
Invited Speaker	Law-Related Event
Moot Court (Coaching or Judging)	Coaching or Judging
Teaching a Course on a volunteer or part-time basis (not as part of full time or regular employment)	Teaching in a Nunavut Official Language training activity