



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Membership and Admissions Committee

Rohan Brown, Chair, and Jessi Casebeer, Vice-Chair

Re: Report for the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting

Date: June 10, 2022

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.

A. Membership Statistics

In 2021, MAC considered 36 regular applications for membership and 9 student-at-law applications. The regular membership application numbers are similar to those at March 31, 2021. An overall slight decrease from pre-Covid-19 pandemic (at March 31, 2020).

As of March 31, 2022, there were 69 active resident lawyers. The average resident bar in the last ten years has been of 76 lawyers.

In comparison to the non-resident bar, in 2012: 199 active lawyers; at March 31, 2022: 243 active non-resident lawyers. The latter represent an increase of roughly 15% from 2021.

With travel restrictions in place, 66 lawyers were practicing under a Restricted Appearance Certificates which is an increase of 18% from 2020 (March 31, 2021).

With the steady flow of applications, MAC has recently amended its application cycle from three to every two weeks at which time applications are submitted for review and recommendations.

B. Other Activities and Projects

(I) Streamlining the Application Process

As part of the ongoing action plan and priorities, the Committee has been 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 in recognizing 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.

Among the improvements made to streamline the application process is making the online application system available for all types of applications, including the membership renewals. The renewals of Restricted Appearance Certificates (RACs) and Student Applications for regular membership has been recently launched this year making the application process 100% online.

(II) Students-at-Law

This year, the MAC has particularly worked on the SAL applications owing to some challenges that the applicants have had such as securing and putting together their articling requirements. The Committee, together with the assistance by the LSN Support Staff, has facilitated the bulk of the SAL Applications.

(III) Nunavut Statutes Exam

In line with the LSN's mandate in ensuring that the territory is served by competent lawyers, and to uphold the independence, integrity, and honour of the legal profession, the Committee has endeavored in developing the Nunavut Statutes Exam.

The exam is based on the updated list of statutes arising from a comprehensive survey of the membership's practice of law in the territory. Initial review of the substantive and ethical questions was undertaken by the Committee. The answer key was crafted to consider alternative valid responses to the questions. Principia Assessments Ltd, working together with Sarah Siebert as Project Manager for LSN, has further developed the exam ensuring a defensible assessment regime. The first batch of examinees was invigilated last May 21, 2022 and was made available in Inuktitut and French upon request of the examinee.

The Committee recognizes the efforts of the working group comprised of Julie Bedford, Caroline Briand, and Bruce McRae in taking part in the drafting and validation process of the exam.