LCUCLANG BOYASHAMAR DA SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT

LAW SOCIETY OF NUNAVUT

BARREAU DU NUNAVUT



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Julie Bedford

Law Society of Nunavut Representative on the Legal Services Board of Nunavut

Re: Report for the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting

Date: June 4, 2022

Board Membership and Activity

There has been some transition in the Board membership over the last year, and more expected in the coming months. It is anticipated that we will see new representatives for the GN and the members-at-large joining the Board. There has been no change in the remaining positions: the LSN representative was re-appointed for a 3-year-term earlier this year, the Kivalliq representative has been nominated, but is still awaiting appointment, and the representatives for the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani remain the same.

Covid-19 and related restrictions have created some limitations on in-person meetings over the last two years. Much of the Board business has been dealt with remotely via conference calls. With restrictions having lifted, the Board was able to meet in-person in August 2021, as well as April of this year. It is anticipated that the Board will be able to meet with greater frequency and consistency moving forward, and will continue to utilize various committees to assist with issues that require attention in the interim.

HR Update

In March of this year, Sarah Mihailovich came onboard as LSB's Chief Executive Officer. This position is based in Rankin Inlet. Ms. Mihailovich brings with her a valuable skillset, including experience and knowledge in the area of leadership, legal practice and risk management, strategy, data analytics, project management, and administrative law.

LSB has seen the addition of two new positions: Criminal Defence Team Lead (Patrick Smith) and Access to Justice Counsel (Victoria Perrie).

There have been several new additions to the private panel. The panel includes legal counsel that are contracted to assist in the provision of legal services in the areas of criminal, family and civil law.

There have been some departures at LSB in recent months, including the Chief Legal Officer (Stephanie Boydell), Criminal Case Management Counsel (Lana Walker), and Operations Assistant (Matt Gee). The Chief Operating Officer (Jonathan Ellsworth) is also set to depart later this month. These individuals have all provided invaluable services to LSB.

Nunavut Law Program and Articling Students

LSB has been a strong supporter of the Nunavut Law Program, and participated in the Articling Student Recruitment Program for 2021-2022. LSB ultimately hired six articling students from the cohort, with articles having commenced in the summer/fall of 2021. The hope is that some of these students will remain within the employ of LSB upon completion of their articles.

Service Interruptions

LSB has had to deal with several unexpected challenges in recent years. The organization was affected by the GN Ransomware attack in 2019, with lasting effects well into 2020. The following year we saw the emergence of Covid-19, which resulted in various shut-downs through-out 2020-2021. In March of this year, LSB headquarters was lost to a fire in Gjoa Haven. It has been a challenging time, but LSB has taken steps to ensure that the necessary supports and contingency plans are in place and that Nunavummiut continue to receive high quality legal services.