



To: Members of the Law Society of Nunavut

From: Gloria Song, Law Society of Nunavut Representative, Access to Justice File

Re: Report for the 2019 – 2020 Annual General Meeting on the Law Society of Nunavut’s
Access to Justice activities

Date: May 14, 2020

As the Law Society of Nunavut's Access to Justice Representative, I am pleased to provide a general update on the Law Society of Nunavut's activities in the area of access to justice, along with future plans.

1. Access to Justice for Family Violence in Nunavut: Research Project & Awareness Campaign

This is a project in partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada with funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario and Justice Canada, comprised of a study of unmet legal needs of Inuit women dealing with family violence in Nunavut, to inform key messages for a public legal education campaign to raise awareness amongst Nunavummiut about family violence and their legal options. This two-year project is well underway, with most of the data collection completed through community visits to hold interviews with Inuit women with lived experiences of family violence and focus groups with service providers in Nunavut.

Next steps:

- Preliminary findings will be available shortly and will be validated with project partners.
- A survey to collect further information was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be administered later this year.
- The awareness campaign is expected to be launched by the end of this year.

2. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Harassment in the Workplace

Through funding from Justice Canada, the Law Society of Nunavut has recently launched another access to justice project to promote public legal education about addressing sexual harassment and other forms of harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace.

Next steps:

- Public legal education resources are currently being developed in partnership with Ilinniappaa Skills Development Centre, including a handy resource card providing information about processes for dealing with harassment in the workplace, along with self-care tips while doing so.
- We are also currently developing a manual about the relevant legal framework along with a training session for lawyers to help them provide trauma-informed Inuit-specific services in this area, expected to be delivered later this year.
- Future public legal information products to be developed include webinars, podcasts/radio programming, and posters.

3. Liaising at the national level with other access-to-justice players

I continue to represent the LSN at national level meetings on access to justice, including with the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's Access to Justice Exchange group. Although the Annual Summit of the National Action Committee (NAC) on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I had the pleasure of participating in the 2019 summit to learn about access to justice work being done in other jurisdictions and to discuss common issues with law societies, lawyers, judiciaries, public representatives and other legal service providers across the country.

Next Steps:

- We would love to have more representatives from Nunavut join for future NAC Summits, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is any interest in learning more.

4. Other Public Legal Education and Information initiatives

I had the pleasure of co-facilitating a public legal education workshop on employment rights at the Northern Youth Abroad Next program in Ottawa for northern youth from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in July 2019.

The Law Society of Nunavut's public legal information resources, developed for past access to justice initiatives, are now available on the Law Society of Nunavut's newly formatted website: <https://www.lawsociety.nu.ca/en/public/access-legal-knowledge/>.

Members of the Law Society are welcome to share these resources broadly. Members are also reminded that the LSN continues to operate an **Inuktitut hotline** to provide important access to justice help for Inuktitut-speaking Nunavummiut. Responses in Inuktitut are provided to these telephone enquiries within 3 business days.

Next Steps:

- The Law Society of Nunavut continues to encourage members to approach us with ideas for public legal education ideas, and if they are interested in delivering legal rights workshops in any of the communities in Nunavut.
- We continue to look for more opportunities to strategically disseminate the public legal information resources that the Law Society has developed over the years (including the four recent PLI materials).

More information about the Law Society of Nunavut's Access to Justice work can be found on the LSN's website: <https://www.lawsociety.nu.ca/en/about-us/access-justice-program>.