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## **President's Holiday Message 2019**



Dear Members and Friends of the Law Society of Nunavut,

As 2019 draws to a close and we enter a month of parties, potlucks, games, music, and time with family and friends, I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the life and work of the Law Society of Nunavut this year. As one of Canada's smallest law societies we simply couldn't do all of things that we do without the dedicated support of volunteers from throughout Nunavut and across Canada.

Together with our partners at the Canadian Bar Association Nunavut Branch, we provided 25 hours of continuing professional development programming, with increased content in Inuit history and culture. We continue to offer the CPLED Bar Admission Course in Iqaluit with the support of our local members.

We've continued our never-ending work toward reconciliation by implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Committee Calls to Action, providing frontline services in Inuktut, and supporting the work of the Inuit Representation in the Legal Profession Committee. This Committee is working to identify and address systemic barriers to entry and practice faced by Inuit.

Our standing committees continue to be the lifeblood of the Law Society. Following a request at this year's Annual General Meeting, the Ethics and Practice Committee is developing new guidance materials for members on how to identify and address unauthorized practice. The Discipline Committee, Rules Committee, and Membership and Admissions Committees exercise their important roles in ensuring that we fulfil our obligation to regulate in the public interest.

The Law Society's Access to Justice Program received significant funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario and from the Department of Justice Canada to continue providing legal education and information across Nunavut and pro bono legal advice for matters related to sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace. The Law Society is working towards a Nunavut-wide awareness campaign on the prevention of family violence in collaboration with Pauktuutit, Inuit Women of Canada and with support from various organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

Looking ahead to 2020, the Law Society will be launching its new website, with online renewals and applications. We will continue offering professional development events. In April and in partnership with the CBA Nunavut Branch, we will be offering a 1-day session on resiliency and compassion fatigue led by Diana Tikasz. Watch for updates and registration information in your emails.

As a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to wellness in our community, the Law Society has purchased 100 youth drop-in passes for the Iqaluit Aquatic Centre. We know that engaging in physical activity for 30 minutes at least 3 times per week promotes mental health. Through this contribution, we hope to remove the financial barrier to this type of activity.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I extend a sincere thanks to all our volunteers, and extend the warmest of holiday greetings to all our members and friends.

## John L. MacLean

## **President**

