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June 19, 2024

Statement from the Law Society of Nunavut President

re: the Status of the Nunavut Statutes Examination

The Law Society thanks the Nunavut Law Program students, members of the Law Society bar and members of the public and the Nunavut Statutes Examination Taskforce for their feedback on the Nunavut Statutes Examination.

This brief statement is a notice to the profession regarding the decision made by the Executive to abolish the current version of the Nunavut Statutes Examination at the Special Meeting held on February 28th, 2024.

The Law Society has actively been addressing the issues of the Nunavut Statutes Examination since 2022. The decision to suspend the requirement for the completion of the Nunavut Statutes Examination at least until March 31^{rst}, 2023, was made at the earliest on August 31^{rst}, 2022.

The Nunavut Statutes Examination Taskforce Report¹ was published in May 2023, which recommended the immediate abolishment of the Nunavut Statutes Examination. During the Special Meeting held on February 28th, the Executive reviewed the report in detail along with the feedback and the decision was to abolish the Nunavut Statutes Examination as the Law Society could not continue to administer it in its current state due to the barriers and limitations to effectively address the unique culture and history of Nunavut.

The Executive welcomes the opportunity to engage in a collaborative and respectful discussion with the membership about our shared goals as members of the legal profession in Nunavut including working together to identify how to make improvements; to support diversity and inclusion; to consider Nunavut's unique history and culture; and to aim to remove barriers to the admission process in Nunavut all while balancing the standards of practice required in a self-regulating profession.

Yours Truly,
Joanne Smith
President of the Law Society of Nunavut

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¹ The Nunavut Statutes Examination Taskforce Report is available in English and Inuktitut.