

The Polar Barristers

Access to Justice *On Air* in Pangnirtung

On Wednesday February 8th, LSN President Tamara Fairchild and LSN Member Scott Hughes, both criminal defence lawyers with Maliiganik Tukisiinakvik Legal Services in Iqaluit, spent time speaking to the Pangnirtung community after court circuit was done. With help for interpretation offered by their colleague Naimee Akpalialuk, court worker for the circuit, Tamara and Scott took calls from the public at the community radio and provided some public legal education about impaired driving and sexual consent.

Photo, from left to right:

Tamara, Scott and Naimee



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The Spirit of Giving See page 3

Volunteer for our next sponsored meal...



Thanks to the many volunteers who supported our holiday efforts at the soup kitchen, including the meal service team. Left to right: Jena Montgomery (LSN member project coordinator), Chef Michael Lockley, Madam Justice Sue Cooper (front row), LSN Executive Member Marsha Gay with our young volunteer Mathias, Madam Justice Bonnie Tulloch (back row), LSN Members Yvan Nault and Lana Walker.



NuLAP

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Second Law School Program to Foster Local Legal Talent

An Interview with Justice Beverley Browne

By Thomas Rohner

It's simple, really: If kids grow up with a lawyer in the family, they are more likely to dream of a law career.

But until just a decade ago, most kids in Nunavut were less likely to harbour that dream, said Justice Bev Browne, one of the founders of Nunavut's only legal training program, the Akitsiraq Law School.

Eleven Nunavummiut graduated from the Akitsiraq program in 2005 — the only graduating class the program produced.

Now, with the Government of Nunavut's announcement that a second legal training program will begin in September 2017, even more students can dare to dream.

"I think before Akitsiraq, young people didn't consider law as a career choice because it was just so far from any kind of reality they knew. But now it's a real choice for students who are talking about what they want to be when they grow up," Browne said recently from judge's chambers at the Nunavut Court of Justice in Iqaluit.

"Some of their relatives might be lawyers, and that's huge — that changes everything."

In her 20-year career in Nunavut, Browne, who now presides from the Queen's Bench of Alberta, helped build a criminal and civil court system from the ground up.

Browne, Nunavut's first senior judge, said she was part of a committee that began talking in the 90s about the need for a Nunavut-based law program.

"It became apparent to us that very few students were successful when they went down south to university. I think they struggled to fit in so far away from their families."

Inuit were obviously capable of becoming lawyers, Browne said, so the committee reasoned it would be better to start a program in Nunavut.

"We had some of the highest calibre professors from across the country come up and teach. They were smart enough to adapt the curriculum to reflect the reality in Nunavut, with things like property law and the land claims agreement and all the things that people who are going to be practising law in Nunavut need to know something about."

Nunavut students today might be better equipped to cope with attending post-secondary education in the South, Browne said.

But many of the advantages to training Inuit lawyers discussed before Akitsiraq started up are still true today.

"Lawyers from the South, even those who've never lived in Nunavut, do an excellent job of representing Inuit in court," said Browne.

But the judge said she can't "focus enough" on the value Inuktitut-speaking lawyers would add to Nunavut's justice system, especially on sensitive and complicated matters.

"People don't express themselves as well in a second language when talking about things like serious crimes. To some extent, different languages tell different stories...Court workers and interpreters, they do a great job, but that's a band aid solution to make it work," said Browne.

And having more Inuit lawyers wouldn't only be a boon for the civil or criminal justice systems in Nunavut.

"It's significant to have people with legal training in decision-making roles, for example," the judge said.

"No matter what people do after they get a law degree, they are highly educated individuals who have good critical thinking skills. That plays well for the future of the territory."

The graduates of the Akitsiraq program were all in high demand for important jobs, Browne said.

"I'm proud of all of them, still, to this day, for all the things they're doing for the benefit of Nunavut. I believe every one of them has used their high level of education to benefit Inuit and the territory."

And we can expect the reincarnation of the law program in September 2017 to inspire even more Nunavut children to become lawyers, Browne said.

The next Law School¹ which should be welcoming 25 students to enroll in a four-year program, also hopes to inspire young students and youth through funding provided by the Nunavut Law Foundation's Upinnaqtuq Award.

The award is given in honour of Browne for her dedication, passion and leadership during her 20 years in Iqaluit, especially for the benefit of youth.

"We have to take care of our young people, educate and encourage them, so this territory can be the most amazing territory. This award recognizing a youth who is doing well, trying hard and who means well, is very important."

It won't be long, Browne said, until Inuit kids dream not just of being lawyers but judges too.

"The ideal now is to get an Inuit judge, and why not? Akitsiraq grads have been out of school for 10 years now."

¹ The Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) with the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law will be offering the Nunavut Law Program starting September 2017; NAC: <http://www.arcticcollege.ca/education-news/item/6474-nac-to-offer-law-degree-with-university-of-saskatchewan>.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

The LSN is giving back to our community

The Executive introduced, with the support of our staff and leadership from member Jena Montgomery, an exciting challenge for our membership that aims to give back to our community and help alleviate food insecurity. The challenge aims to:

- **Bring a bag to Nunavut** filled with dried food supplies that are popular ingredients at the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank; they include coffee, sugar and flour. Contact Nalini Vaddapalli to learn more: ceo@lawsociety.nu.ca
- Engage our member to volunteer at a LSN sponsored event, alongside other members to **serve a meal at the Qayuqtuvik Food Centre in Iqaluit**. Contact Jena Montgomery when upcoming sponsored events are announced: jmont092@gmail.com.

Next sponsored Easter themed meal

You can email our coordinator Jena if you are available to volunteer on **Saturday April 15**: jmont092@gmail.com.

Volunteer contributions

The Law Society relies on important volunteer contributions made by our membership to help meet our mandate; in lieu of purchasing small gifts for some of our Members as we have done in the past, we donated to both the Food Centre and Food Bank and took the opportunity to raise additional funds (thanks to our **evening's DJ, President Tamara Fairchild**) during our December 8th holiday gathering with the **support from our friends from the CBA NU Branch**.

Law Firm Sponsorship

If your law firm would like additional information about sponsoring a meal at the Qayuqtuvik Food Centre (a registered charity) including the estimated minimal donation to cover a full meal , please contact Nalini ceo@lawsociety.nu.ca.



Members are already responding to our call to

Bring a bag to Nunavut!

First and foremost – Thanks to then **FLSC President Jeff Hirsch** of Winnipeg who brought up a few suggested standard bags of dried food ingredients during his August presidential visit to Iqaluit; Jeff also came up with the idea of naming this initiative as *Bring A Bag to Nunavut!* Thanks so much Jeff for the support and enthusiasm!

Thank you to **Meghan Ross** (left) and **Sacha Paul** (Right) from **Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman LLP of Winnipeg**; they dropped by to donate their *Bring a Bag to Nunavut* ingredients and met up with Don (centre)!



Thanks To **Ken Flowers** and **Tim Syer** from **Lawson Lundell LLP (Vancouver and Yellowknife offices)** who travelled all the way to Iqaluit with their own *Bring a Bag to Nunavut* ingredients! The LSN staff dropped of their ingredients at the Qayuqtuvik Food Centre where the Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank is also conveniently located.

Our first dinner...



We came together for the holidays and served up our very first sponsored dinner at the **Qayuqtuvik Food Centre** (soup kitchen) on December 10th and supported our local food bank (**Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank**).

Left: We stopped by the December holiday fundraiser morning at the local CBC Station in Iqaluit and handed over a cheque for the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank to CBC staff.

Right: Getting ready... Chef Michael Lockley and Assistant Chef Kris Blake.



A New Moral Code of Ethics for Nunavut

By Thomas Rohner

Members of the Law Society of Nunavut will soon join lawyers from across Canada in following the same model code of ethics and conduct.

And while the new code is very similar to the code society members already follow, there are important differences to how lawyers can speak to witnesses on the stand and how in-house lawyers gauge their ethical obligations.

Sacha Paul, an Aboriginal lawyer from



Manitoba who visited Iqaluit in September to help with Nunavut's transition, said territory lawyers already follow a model code, but that code is out of date.

"Right now, society members are governed by a very old code of conduct, the Canadian Bar Association's code. Nunavut is the only Canadian jurisdiction still under that code," Paul said after presenting a draft of the new code to Nunavut lawyers at the Frobisher Hotel.

By 2015, all other jurisdictions had adopted the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's 2009 model code, Paul said.

The 2009 code became necessary after the federation signed a national mobility agreement in 2002 that allowed lawyers to practice more easily in more than one jurisdiction.

Between 2009 and 2015, all other Canadian jurisdiction's adopted the federation's model code, making small adjustments to reflect their jurisdiction.

And now it's Nunavut's turn, Paul said.

"All of the big aspects of ethics remain the same in the new proposed code. Lawyers still have to conduct themselves honourably and with integrity. They still have an obligation to be competent, and to keep confidential information confidential," he said.

But, like in other jurisdictions, there are a few changes to the federation's code to better reflect lawyers' realities on the ground in Nunavut.

For example, the definition of client is a bit broader, Paul said.

"Sometimes clients can come to you and ask you for things not agreed to previously. If they have reason to believe you're acting on their behalf, then the client-lawyer relationship exists. Be cautious to make sure you're not giving them the wrong impression. The obligation is on us as lawyers to make sure the person who comes to us knows they are a client or are told we can't represent them."

Continued on Page 7



Thomas Ahlfors (left) receiving the cheque from Nalini Vaddapalli for **donation to the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank** on behalf of the Model Code **Working Group Members** which are **Shelley Miller (Chair of the Ethics and Unauthorized Practice Committee), Thomas Ahlfors (in photo), Sacha Paul (Chair or the Working Group) and Barbara Winters**. The LSN Executive is also indebted to **Ross McLeod, Practice Advisor with the Law Society of Alberta**, for his invaluable leadership, guidance and support during the review process and for his ongoing support.

SPOTLIGHT

Meet LSN Member *Denford Madekufamba*

By Carolyn Curtis

It's summertime and a balmy 12 degrees Celsius. There's no question Denford Madekufamba is a long way from home.

Legal counsel for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Zimbabwe born lawyer began his profession as a crown prosecutor in his home country before going into private practice and becoming "a Jack of all trades."

"I used to do labour law, employment law, family law, criminal law," Madekufamba explains. "We don't specialize [in Zimbabwe] because the economy is not that different, so there are not as many lawyers so as to allow specialization."

In the early 90s, his wife received sponsorship to study in Canada and left for Guelph to do an undergraduate degree. In 1994, when she had given birth to their first child, Madekufamba visited Ontario, developing an interest in Canadian law. In 1995, after finishing her degree, his wife rejoined him in Zimbabwe where, after five years in private practice, he took a job as chief administrator for a municipal organization, known in Canada as a corporate secretary.

During this time, the Zimbabwe government started forcefully taking land without compensation. It made practicing law a dangerous profession, particularly to anyone who stood up for the rights of those trying to resist. There were times Madekufamba felt his own wellbeing and that of his family's was threatened.

"From that moment, going until now, it has lead to a lack of respect for property rights and... for the rule of law," he says. "If you were perceived to be not supporting the government, you could be taken.

"If you represented anyone who was arrested for political crimes, then you were targeted... I represented these people. There were instances where thugs were being sent by the government... There was no distinction between the ruling party and the State... It's still going on."

In 2004, when his wife got another scholarship to pursue a masters' degree, Madekufamba decided to move with her to Canada. He joined her in 2005, finding work outside of the legal profession to support his family. In 2012, he started the certification process through the Law Society of Upper Canada to practice in Canada.

"For Canada equivalency, I needed to show competence and write exams in 12 subjects in Canadian law," he explains. "There are two choices. You can go to law school... or do self-study. So I did self-study."

After Madekufamba was successfully awarded a certificate of qualification to practice law in Canada, he had two choices – to go through the process of articling or to enter the LSUC's law practice program. He chose the later, a process that took 8 months to complete. Throughout this time, he worked as a tractor trailer driver to pay the bills.

"It was very demanding," Madekufamba recalls.

Through his studies, he learned a whole new terminology and processes.

"It's an opportunity to learn more about a society," says Madekufamba.

"For example, in Canada, in family law, custody [is about] the parent who makes the major decisions. In Zimbabwe legal context, custody is who is going to stay with that child, who is going to live with the child."

"If you were perceived to be not supporting the government, you could be taken... If you represented anyone who was arrested for political crimes, then you were targeted... I represented these people."

After his training, Madekufamba worked briefly for a legal clinic in St. Thomas, Ontario, working primarily with an indigenous population. He then got an offer to come up North as legal council for QEC.

"I'm the only lawyer, so [I'm responsible for] the usual in-house duties, but more particularly with respect to procurement law, construction law," he says. "Our rates have to be approved, regulated. It's part of my responsibilities to make sure that the regulatory framework is complied with."

Despite the cold climate, Madekufamba enjoys his work in Iqaluit, but it's not without its difficulties.

"My family is in Calgary, so that is another challenge," he explains. "I don't see them as often as I would like to."

NuLAP a Vital Service for Nunavut Lawyers

John MacLean talks vicarious trauma and the pressures of the legal profession

By Carolyn Curtis

Lawyers have the highest rate of mental illness of any profession and among the highest rates of depression and substance abuse, says John MacLean. The past president of the Nunavut Branch of the Canadian Bar Association, he is now the executive director of the Nunavut Lawyers Assistance Program, which provides counselling and peer support to members of the legal profession and their families.

MacLean knows firsthand the benefits of the program and made mental health in the legal profession a priority in his role as president of the bar association.

"I make no bones about it," he says. "I'm not just a fan of the program. I'm a card carrying member."

MacLean started out in journalism, studying at the University of King's College in Halifax. His interest in politics, government and decision-making lead him to the legal profession. There, he found a "work hard, play hard" culture that embraced alcohol and other substances as a way to relieve the stress of the job.

"[The law profession] is also where you find Type A personalities," he explains. "We think we can fix everything and we think it's a sign of weakness to ask for help."

"It makes us wonderful advocate for our clients... but it does not necessarily do any good when we're facing a crisis ourselves."

For lawyers in Nunavut, the practice of law brings its own particular challenges. Often there is extensive travel involved in and out of communities, which can mean frequent time away from family and friends. Particularly with the many young lawyers moving to the territory, familiarizing themselves with a new situation, away from their usual supports, can be difficult.

"We get a lot of young lawyers here," MacLean explains. "Moving to a new place and new job and new lexicon can be a pretty stressful thing, especially if you are away from your family and supports."

With most lawyers in Nunavut practicing criminal law, there are often cases of vicarious trauma as well.



"We have a lot of external pressure on us," says MacLean. "If you are a trial lawyer... they are representing people going through some of the worst times of their life."

MacLean emphasizes that if law practitioners don't address mental health issues, the results can be devastating, from disciplinary actions to even suicide.

"You can find yourself losing everything," he says.

MacLean, who has experienced depression since he was a teenager, has benefited greatly from the NuLAP program. Combined with daily physical exercise and other coping skills, it has had a dramatic impact on his mental health and ability to handle the stress of the job. Keeping in touch with family and friends over Skype and taking much-needed vacations are also key to establishing a better work-life balance.

The NuLAP program is made possible with the support of the Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society. In a serious crisis, Nunavut lawyers can call the number on the back of their law society card and are connected with a 24-hour hotline out of Alberta.

NuLAP provides 2 hours of counselling to everyone in the law profession within Nunavut. After that, they are able to connect lawyers with other resources, including peer support and mentorship.

"People don't necessarily want to talk to a psychologist," says MacLean, explaining that for some lawyers, just going for coffee with someone who can understand where they are coming from can be extremely helpful.

NuLAP is operated on a shoestring budget, costing only \$1500 a year, thanks to the support from Alberta and local volunteers.

"It's a very small amount of money for a really vital service for all lawyers whether you're a member of the CBA or not," MacLean says.

As the program's director, he would like to branch out to reach more legal practitioners throughout the territory.

MacLean is also looking at holding a collaborative vicarious trauma workshop with mental health workers and nurses, who face many of the same stressors in their professions.

A long term goal is to establish an alternative route for lawyers facing disbarment due to mental health issues.



NuLAP provides counseling and other support to Nunavut-resident lawyers, articling students, law students, judges and their families who have personal problems. NuLAP is funded by the Nunavut Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

Since January 1, 2013, counseling and peer support services are free and provided by

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www.albertalawyersassist.ca/



After living in Iqaluit for over 6 years, I still very much enjoy the opportunity to welcome our members – old & new - and showcase our spectacular environment. Meet Brian Gover (far left) and his wife Allison Davis (behind Brian); Sacha Paul, Adil Khan (just arriving to Iqaluit as the newly interim Executive Legal Administrator); and newly called Members Meghan Ross and Angela Austman.

An early September breathtaking view including the remarkable traditional whalebone structure located at the rear end of the Iqaluit cemetery located in Apex.

-Nalini Vaddapalli, CEO

Continued from page 4 - Ethics

Another change to the model code for Nunavut lawyers concerns speaking to witnesses once they've taken the stand.

"Traditionally, lawyers have not spoken to witnesses once they're on the stand. The time to speak to them is done. It's the time for the judge to listen to evidence in an unfettered manner," Paul said.

But the new code proposed for Nunavut lawyers would allow lawyers to speak to their witnesses, so long as the court is made aware of that intention.

The need to speak to witnesses should be rare because they should be well-prepared before beginning their testimony, Paul said.

"But there may be situations where something arises where ethically it's now appropriate to speak to a witness, say on a break from testifying," he said.

Even if speaking to a witness is ethical, it might not make the court happy, so judges should always be asked, Paul said.

A third proposed change to the model code for LSN members involves in-house lawyers in organizations and governments.

The number of in-house lawyers in Nunavut is bigger than those practicing privately or in criminal law, Paul said.

"So we took the step to add in a clause that speaks to ethical obligations of in-house lawyers in the unusual circumstance that the organization does something illegal," he said.

Lawyers cannot be party to anything illegal, and the new model code spells out steps in-house lawyers should take if they find themselves in that "unusual circumstance."

"In only profound circumstances do lawyers have to say, 'I quit.'"

Luckily, the new model code for Nunavut lawyers should be pretty straight-forward for most to follow.

That's because many lawyers who practice in Nunavut practice in other jurisdictions where similar model codes have already been adopted.

And the new model code only has minor changes to the Canadian Bar Association's code already in effect in Nunavut.

Paul said a committee in Nunavut has been drafting a model code for the territory since 2014.

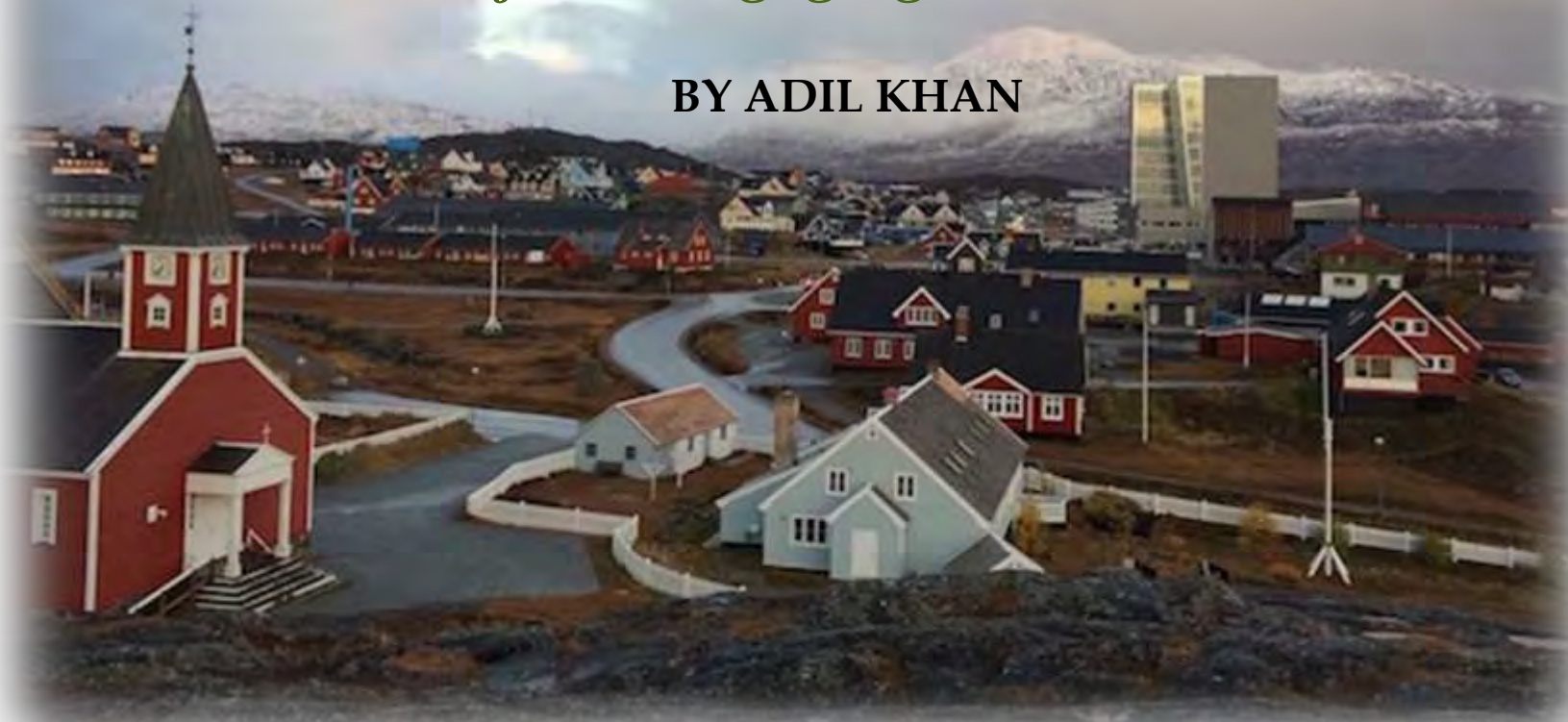
A meeting had been scheduled for November for LSN members to ratify the new code, he added.

"It's important for the public to know that lawyers have to live up to ethical standards. We have to provide proper legal services in a way that protects their interests, privacy and confidentiality."

Access to Greenland

The Case for Reengaging the Giant Next Door

BY ADIL KHAN



Nunavut has a unique story, but just four hundred miles east of Iqaluit is another place where northern aboriginal people have clawed back political power from a distant southern capital. The similarities between the Greenland and Nunavut are wide-ranging, each having spent the last three decades reasserting authority over their land, culture and government. Greenland's fifty-seven thousand people are 88% Greenlandic Inuit, predominantly bilingual – speaking both Danish and Greenlandic – and are spread sparsely around the southern and western coast, with a concentration of seventeen thousand in the capital of Nuuk. This article will explore Greenland's history and development, highlighting the lessons for Nunavummiut as they shape their own path forward.

I visited the cosmopolitan capital of Greenland in early October and had the chance to meet with Rebekka Bisgaard, an attorney at Greenland's largest private practice - Nuna Law Firm. The offices of Nuna Law occupied the sixth floor of one of the handful of office towers in the city and with its shiny boardrooms and glossy artwork could have been mistaken for any Seven Sisters office in Canada. The firm has a staff of seven lawyers and deals with a broad range of corporate and civil matters. The fact that a firm of this size and nature can prosper in Nuuk indicates the volume of commercial activity underway in Greenland and the breadth of the economic gap between the island and Nunavut. While much more in-depth comparative research is needed on how the varying process of devolution led to these outcomes, professionals in Nunavut should acknowledge the strategic value in partnering to strengthen economic linkages and advance the progress of the broader circumpolar region.

For almost three hundred years the enormous glacier covered island was a colony of Denmark, but Greenlanders began disentangling themselves from Copenhagen in 1972 by rejecting Denmark's referendum to join the European Community. While rising nationalism and natural resources were important factors, it was the fishing restrictions and the sealskin ban that galvanized opposition. In 1979 the *Greenland Home Rule Act* (GHRA) was passed, and Greenland officially became a politically autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark. The GHRA did not pass on title to property in the same sense as the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA), but the end result was the same.



Left:

Rebekka Bisgaard and Kista Høegh of the Nuna Law Firm stand beside the entrance of IKIU, a pro-bono legal aid organization, in Nuuk, Greenland

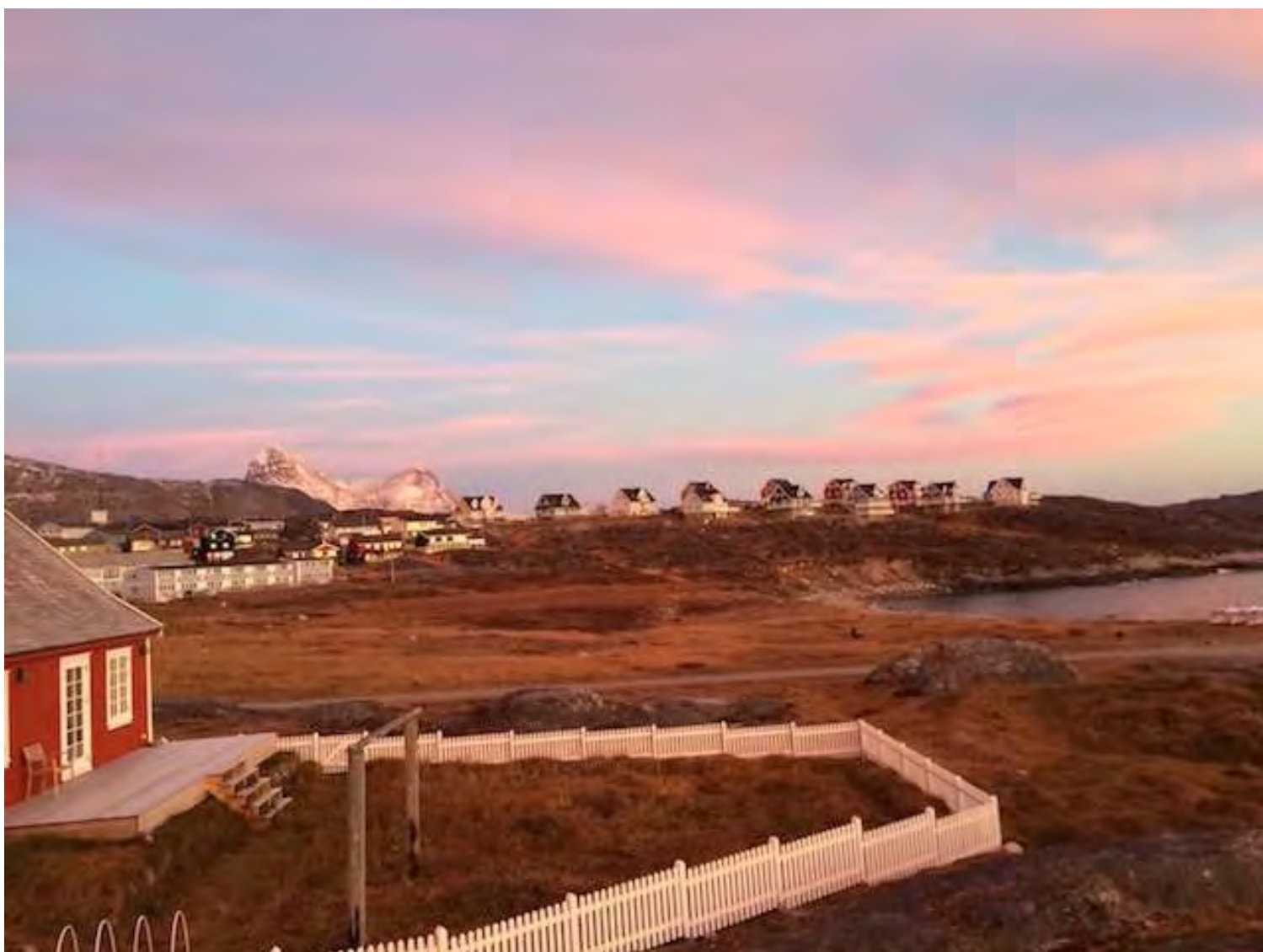
Greenlanders were to control the use of their land and set about building up an autonomous government and political apparatus. In 2008, Greenlanders voted to further repatriate authority from Denmark. Greenland's official language was changed from Danish to Greenlandic. The new arrangement also envisioned the sharing of revenues from future oil and gas development, so that the Danish subsidies could be phased out. Greenland is now firmly on the path to full and complete independence.

The GHRA and the NLCA have obvious similarities. Politically they portend a fundamental shift of power from central to aboriginal governments. Economically, they signify the abolishment of a culture of paternalism and welfare in favor of engaging aboriginal people in the modern global economy. Greenland, much like Nunavut, is facing significant changes in the composition of its economy, and is moving rapidly in the direction of becoming a commodities economy. While market factors have limited the mining sector's growth thus far, there is an evident public campaign to revive economic optimism in Greenland. An example is organizations like *Vækstfonden*, a Danish state investment fund that provides capital and strategic support to new growth companies. Focus has also shifted to the growing tourism sector. In 2008, there were nearly four hundred cruise ship arrivals in Greenland and, in 2014, close to eighty thousand overnight visitors. A vast majority of these were Danish. We can be inspired by Greenland's pathway leading to a world-class adventure tourist destination. Nuuk has for instance, a modern museum and art gallery to showcase local history and artists and offers a range of food, hotel and shopping experiences that mix tradition with modernity. Most visitors, the author included, are left surprised by the city's natural beauty and its vibrancy. Nunavut most certainly has the scenery and cultural dynamism to raise its profile amongst domestic tourists seeking original experiences. Accordingly, Canada can tap into the growing public interest in the Arctic and build on, and further develop attractions to increase interest in travelling to Nunavut.

Regardless of its ambitions, Greenland's economy today relies on the fisheries sector. However, there is growing interest in Greenland's gemstone, rare earth and uranium deposits from Europe, North America and as far away as China. But before any extraction project can go into production, companies need to garner broad support and ensure the project will benefit not exploit the local population in an Impact and Benefit Agreement with the Greenlandic government and the relevant municipality. Development is complicated by the small local labor pool, skepticism about Greenlandic regulations meeting international standards and the logistical challenges of a nation with no roads outside of its cities and towns. Further, there is a prevalent fear that mining could destroy the environment and traditional ways of life, but it may also offer the best solution to social problems by creating jobs and funding public services. Many in Nunavut will recognize the dilemma and sympathize with the difficulty of putting in place the legal frameworks that ensure the process results in broad and sustainable social gains.

The court system of Greenland is composed of four district courts, the Court of Greenland, the High Court of Greenland and, at its apex, the Danish Supreme Court. There is a district or magistrate court to hear criminal matters in each local district of the country and proceedings are conducted in Greenlandic. These remote forums are presided over by judges without any legal background aside from a district court judge course. In a contrast to the Canadian justice system in the north, Denmark has incorporated traditional practices into the justice system rather than imposing European norms and committed to establishing the physical infrastructure for communities to address their own legal concerns rather than rely on periodic court visits.

Further, suggestive of the Gladue principles not adopted into Canadian jurisprudence till that the late 1990s, the sanctions of the Greenland Criminal Code of 1954 are inspired, not by the severity of the offense itself, but by a desire to rehabilitate the offender and to protect society. All this, however, does not change the fact that there is a substantial barrier in understanding legal matters for a majority of the Greenlanders and this places a heavy burden on a small bar. The *Nunatsinni Advokatit* is the union of lawyers working in Nuuk and they number a partly twenty. Attracting and retaining talent in Greenland, as in much of Arctic, is challenging. Perhaps as a result,



the conduct of district courts in Greenlandic makes burdensome translation services necessary as many lawyers are non-native speakers. However, Greenland's bar is highly active in serving its community needs. Rebekka and her colleague, Kista Høegh, allowed me to attend on their pro-bono outreach work with an organization called *IKIU* (Greenlandic for "help"). The legal aid service for non-criminal concerns arranges calls between clients and lawyers and also coordinates field visits to communities.

While Greenland's economy may be more prosperous than Nunavut, the demands on the bar are comparable to our local Bar. However, the Greenlandic bar does not benefit from the convenience of a vast pool of non-resident practitioners to call on, but must address a similar burden of legal complaints; as such, the Greenlandic bar, much like the nation as a whole, faces many challenges ahead.

Greenland has done much to transform its image from that of an empty fortress to a region of business opportunity. With the end of the periodic Air Greenland connection between Iqaluit and Nuuk in 2015, both regions lost a critical pathway to continued economic interaction and cultural exchange. One would hope that in the future renewed access to Greenland would lead to a new commitment to enhanced connectivity amongst the two emerging political entities and developing economies.

Adil Khan is the past Executive Legal Administrator of the Law Society of Nunavut (From August to December 2016) and a lawyer who has worked in private practice in Vancouver and the development sector in Nepal.

New Stephanie Chipeur Accessibility Research Fund supports Nunavut project on access to justice for people with disabilities

By Priscilla Ferrazzi, University of Alberta

While the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability reported that 6.9 percent of non-institutionalized people in Nunavut over age 15 live with a disability, little is known about whether and how this group encounters barriers that limit access to justice. Access to justice is considered a cornerstone of inclusion, equality and social justice in Canada and is essential to the rule of law.

The Law Society of Nunavut has flagged the importance of considering access to justice needs of people with disabilities in the territory, and more generally, access to justice and its relationship to the enjoyment of other human rights has in recent years been in the forefront of the Canadian legal landscape (2013 Action Committee on *Access to Civil & Family Justice: Roadmap for Change* report; the 2013 Canadian Bar Association's *Reaching Equal Justice Report*).

The Stephanie Chipeur Research Accessibility Fund is supporting a literature review by a University of Alberta research team lead by Priscilla Ferrazzi that will identify barriers to access to justice affecting people with disabilities in Nunavut. The results will be shared and discussed with key stakeholders including the Law Society of Nunavut, the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society. The intent is to use the results of the literature review to generate consensus on a direction for a larger, related research initiative among justice, health and disability organizations in Nunavut.



Priscilla Ferrazzi

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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Congratulations to the newly elected CBA Nunavut Branch Executive!

On Saturday October 22, 2016, the CBA Nunavut Branch held its AGM and elected its 2016-17 Executive:

President - Kathryn Kellough

Vice-President - Sarah Bailey

Secretary - Tejas Madhur

Treasurer - Matt Binkle

Member-at-large - Stephen Mansell

We look forward to identifying common areas of interest for meaningful collaborations that will benefit both the CBA and the LSN membership.



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We wish to recognize the good work and efforts made by the Foundation to meet its statutory mandate. We invite our members to take notice of the Foundation's Annual Reports (<http://lawsociety.nu.ca/law-foundation-annual-reports/>)

Current Board of Directors:

Chair - Cindy Kieu

Director – Marie Belleau

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