





Julie continues to work as a private panel lawyer for the LSB doing criminal defence work and 'filling the gap' as needed. "There is currently a shortage of staff and resident counsel," says Julie. "Private panel lawyers provide coverage wherever LSB needs it. This could include court in Iqaluit, traveling to one of the communities for circuit court, working on assigned files, or covering bails."

"It is a real privilege to be working in Nunavut," remarks Julie. "I have been able to enjoy the beauty of the land while also getting to know the communities. On one occasion I had a very memorable commute to work. I was attending circuit court in Kimmirut and had the opportunity to travel there by skidoo. It was such a beautiful trip. Being out on the land, away from town, was very peaceful."

Julie also spoke about a particular jury trial that had a very memorable reaction from the community.

"We arrived expecting a jury trial. However, on the eve of the trial we were informed that the Crown would not be proceeding with the charges," says Julie.

"The following morning, when we arrived at the hall, the room was

filled with members of the public who had been summonsed for jury selection. The Court explained to the packed court room that the charges were being dismissed and everyone was free to leave. What happened next was something I had never experienced before. The hall erupted with cheers and applause. It was very apparent that there was a general sense of relief or contentment that the trial was not going ahead." For Julie, this reaction highlighted the strong ties within the communities throughout the North. "In the smaller communities, generally everyone knows each other and what is going on within the community; they have a better sense of what is happening than we do as outside observers flying in for court."

Julie has been a member of the Law Society of Nunavut (LSN) since her arrival in 2013. Earlier this year she was confirmed as the LSN's representative on the LSB Board of Directors. Being on the Board is something that is near and dear to her heart. "Legal Aid plays such an important role in the justice system, ensuring that the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society

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