

May 24, 2016

## **VIA EMAIL**

Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador 196-198 Water Street PO Box 1028 St. John's, NL A1C 5M3 **Attention:** Members of the Bar

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Re: Fees of the Public Trustee Changes Effective June 1, 2016

As you are no doubt aware, the 2016-17 Provincial Budget announced a number of changes to fees for existing Government services, with varying enactment dates. With respect to the Office of the Public Trustee, fees applicable to funds received on behalf of the estates of **Deceased Persons will increase from 5% to 8% as of June 1, 2016**. Fees for other types of clients will remain unchanged at this time.

This fee change provides an opportunity to remind Members of the Bar that the services provided by the Office of the Public Trustee are subject to the fees set forth in the Regulations to the *Public Trustee Act*, 2009. These fees apply to all funds received by the Office on behalf of all types of client estates, and are deducted directly from the funds held for that estate on a semi-annual basis. Members should provide this information to their clients prior to our appointment/involvement in any matter. Quite frequently staff of the Office are contacted by clients and/or parents of clients who advise that they were not previously informed by counsel that there would be fees imposed by our Office, often leaving them quite upset with our Office and counsel. Providing this information early could help alleviate these concerns.

Yours very truly,

John W. Goodland

Public Trustee (Acting)

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