



LAW SOCIETY

Newfoundland & Labrador

**10 June 2022
IN PUBLIC BENCHERS' CONVOCATION**

MINUTES OF THE SUMMER TERM CONVOCATION OF THE BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HELD AT THE SHERATON HOTEL AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, THE 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2022, COMMENCING AT 9:30 A.M.

The following Benchers were present:

Elective Benchers: Renée L.F. Appleby, QC, President
Ann Martin, Past-President
Suzanne Orsborn, Vice-President
Scott Worsfold
Gladys Dunne
Lauren Chafe
Brenda Duffy, QC
Valerie Hynes, QC
Desmond Parsons
Kimberly Mackay
James E. Merrigan, QC
Jonathan Regan
Alex Templeton
David Williams
Doug Wright
Rod Zdebiak

Appointed Benchers: Ross Elliott
Linda Harnett
Glenda Reid
Allan Skanes

Regrets: Michael Ladha, QC
Carey Majid, QC

Law Society Staff: Brenda B. Grimes, QC
Aimee N. Rowe
Lori Chafe

The President stated that a notice of the Benchers' Convocation was provided to all Benchers in accordance with the Rules of the Law Society. A quorum of Elective Benchers and Lay Benchers being present, the President declared the Convocation regularly constituted.

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and formally acknowledged that the Island of Newfoundland is the ancestral homeland of the Beothuk and Mi'kmaq.

2. Excusal of Benchers unable to attend Convocation

*On Motion by Doug Wright and seconded by Alex Templeton: that Benchers unable to attend Convocation be excused. **CARRIED.***

3. Motion to move any Agenda Item to the In Camera Agenda

There was no motion.

4. Consent Agenda

*On Motion by Scott Worsfold and seconded by Kimberly Mackay: that the Consent Agenda be approved. **CARRIED.***

5. Adoption of Agenda

*On Motion by Doug Wright and seconded by Lauren Chafe: that the Agenda be adopted. **CARRIED.***

ITEMS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

6. Education Committee Report:

Certificates of Fitness

Benchers were asked to approve Certificates of Fitness for:

Emily Jane Hickey
Kaylyn Rae Anthony
Siobhan Marie Donovan
Sarah Jane Dominic
Patrick Cameron
Kathryn Margaret Power
Chelsea Eugena Audrey Drodge
Joshua David Merrigan
Bradley Michael Budden
Adam Charles Leopold Godlewski
Chelsey Elva Ruth Buggie
Jessie Ann Faye McNeil
Michael Hrabowsky
Dana Tricia Evans
Jillian Roseanna Hickey
Carolyn Mary Woolridge
Deborah Rebecca Mary Yetman
Lucas Christopher Roche
Michele Lynn Grant

*On Motion by Desmond Parsons and seconded by Allan Skanes: that the Certificates of Fitness be approved. **CARRIED.***

7. Strategic Planning Work Plan

Strategic Initiative – Enhance and Clarify Governance Structure – Skills Matrix

Benchers recommended several amendments to the skills matrices at the 11 April 2022 Benchers Convocation. Benchers were provided with an updated matrix.

*On Motion by Doug Wright and seconded by Kim Mackay: that Benchers adopt the proposed Skills Matrix for distribution to i) the Committee responsible for appointing lay benchers; ii) all nominees (or individuals inquiring about nominations; iii) candidates seeking appointment due to a Bencher vacancy; and iv) all existing and new Benchers. **CARRIED.***

Promote Health and Wellness - Develop Programs/Initiatives that Promote Health and Wellness - Mental Health in the Legal Community Seminar Survey Results

Benchers were provided with a memo from the Chair of the Insurance Committee attaching the results from the mandatory continuing professional development seminar, Mental Health in the Legal Community. The Committee was seeking Benchers input on how to address the results of the survey.

Benchers noted that there was some information highlighted in the Executive Director's Report that could be included in the wellness toolbox and sent in a broadcast to members.

General Discussion

Benchers were provided with a copy of the Strategic Work Plan with an updated status section. The Executive Director, Brenda Grimes, QC, noted that work on the strategic initiatives identified in the Strategic Work Plan is progressing. She highlighted that the Work Plan is a living document and can be amended by Benchers where appropriate when priorities change.

8. Fitness to Practice Committee – Draft Rules and Terms of Reference

Benchers were provided with a memo from the Executive Director requesting that Benchers approve new Rules and Terms of Reference for the Fitness to Practice Committee. As noted in the memo, the new Rules and Terms of Reference arose from amendments to the *Law Society Act, 1999* establishing a Fitness to Practice Committee.

*On Motion by Brenda Duffy, QC and seconded by Linda Harnett: that Benchers approve the Terms of Reference for the Fitness to Practice Committee and the amendments to Law Society Rules 2 and 9. **CARRIED.***

9. Process for Appointment of CAC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Benchers were provided with a memo from the Executive Director requesting a Rule change to allow for the appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Complaints Authorization Committee (“CAC”) from members of the Executive Committee.

The Director of Professional Responsibility noted that the change also required a minor change to the Terms of Reference for the CAC.

*On Motion by Linda Harnett and seconded by Scott Worsfold: that Benchers approve the amendments to Law Society Rule 2.15(2) and the updated Terms of Reference for the Complaints Authorization Committee. **CARRIED.***

The President noted that she shadowed the CAC meetings before sitting as Chair of the CAC. She believes the amendment, providing that the newest member of the Executive Committee shall serve as Vice-Chair of the CAC, will be beneficial.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10. President’s Report

A report was provided. There were no questions arising.

11. Education Committee Report – Notice of Resumption of Practicing Status and Transfers under the National Mobility Agreement

A report was provided. There were no questions arising.

12. Benchers’ Minutes – For Public – 11 April 2022

The minutes were provided. They were previously approved by Benchers for posting on the Law Society’s website in advance of this meeting in accordance with the Openness, Transparency and Confidentiality Policy.

CONCLUDING MATTERS

13. Other Business

There was no other business arising.

14. Adjournment

The President noted that Benchers would move to the *in-camera* portion of the meeting and that the public portion of the Benchers' Meeting was adjourned.

RENÉE APPLEBY, QC