



**24 FEBRUARY 2025  
IN-PUBLIC BENCHERS' CONVOCATION**

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY TERM CONVOCATION OF THE BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE LAW SOCIETY AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ON MONDAY, THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:30 A.M.**

The following Benchers were present:

Elective Benchers: Gladys Dunne, KC, President  
Scott Worsfold, Past President  
Rod Zdebiak, KC, Vice-President  
Lauren Chafe, KC  
Johnathan Earle  
Derek Ford  
Greg French  
Carey Majid, KC  
Sheilagh Murphy, KC  
Jonathan Regan  
Steve Scruton  
Lorilee Sharpe  
Alex Templeton  
John Whelan  
David Williams  
Doug Wright

Appointed Benchers: Ross Elliott  
Linda Harnett  
Allan Skanes

Regrets: Valerie Hynes, KC  
Mark Mills  
Glenda Reid

Federation Council

Member: Ian Patey, KC

Law Society Staff: Brenda B. Grimes, KC  
Aimee N. Rowe

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.

\*Unless otherwise specified in the minutes, all motions were carried by a unanimous vote of Benchers.

## 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.

The President noted that it was Lorilee Sharpe's first meeting as a Bencher and introductions were made.

Finally, the President congratulated Lauren Chafe, KC and Ian Patey, KC on their KC appointments.

### 2. Excusal of Benchers unable to attend Convocation

*On Motion by Johnathan Earle and seconded by David Williams: 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. Adoption of Agenda

*On Motion by Allan Skanes and seconded by Steve Scruton: that the Agenda be adopted. CARRIED.*

## ITEMS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

5. Strategic Planning Work Plan

*General Discussion about Strategic Work Plan*

The Executive Director noted that the Strategic Work Plan was not included in the Benchers' materials for the meeting as a new one is under consideration. She added that the main item outstanding from the previous work plan related to access to justice and alternate legal service providers. She added that the item will likely roll over into the new work plan.

The Executive Director suggested that a memo on the strategic work plan would likely be presented to Benchers in April.

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6. President's Report

A report was provided.

The President highlighted the following:

- A successful Benchers' Christmas reception;
- Her attendance at Justice Porter's swearing in ceremony;
- Her attendance at the King's Counsel appointments ceremony; and
- Her attendance at a meeting with several Ministers relating to the land registry system in the province.

7. Education Committee Report – Student Admission, Transfers under the NMA, Notice of Resumption of Practising Status

A report was provided. There were no questions arising.

**CONCLUDING MATTERS**

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. 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.

*On Motion by David Williams and seconded by Johnathan Earle: that the in-public portion of the Benchers' meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.*

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GLADYS DUNNE, KC