



**6 JUNE 2025  
IN-PUBLIC BENCHERS' CONVOCATION**

**MINUTES OF THE SUMMER 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 FRIDAY, THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 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  
Doug Wright  
Lauren Chafe, KC  
Johnathan Earle  
Derek Ford  
Greg French  
Carey Majid, KC  
Mark Mills  
Sheilagh Murphy, KC  
Jonathan Regan  
Steve Scruton  
Lorilee Sharpe  
Alex Templeton  
John Whelan

Appointed Benchers: Ross Elliott  
Linda Harnett  
Glenda Reid  
Allan Skanes

Regrets: Valerie Hynes, KC  
David Williams

Law Society Staff: Ian Patey, KC (Federation Council Member)  
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.

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

*On Motion by Sheilagh Murphy, KC 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

*On Motion by Mark Mills and seconded by Glenda Reid: that agenda item 5, Strategic Work Plan – Public Education Campaign Proposal, be moved to the in-camera agenda so that the financial implications of the proposal may be discussed. CARRIED.*

### 4. Adoption of Agenda

*On Motion by Allan Skanes and seconded by Mark Mills: that the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.*

## ITEMS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

### 5. Strategic Planning Work Plan

#### *Updated Strategic Work Plan*

Benchers were presented with a draft Strategic Work Plan prepared by Law Society staff. The Executive Director noted that the draft plan was developed from the strategic planning discussions as well as the input from staff. It is structured to align with the strategic priorities previously identified and adopted by Benchers. She added that staff will be responsible for moving the initiatives outlined in the plan forward, but that the document is fluid and may be amended by Benchers as necessary. It also included the National Campaign on the Rule of Law which will be removed if Benchers do not approve proceeding with it in the in-camera session.

Benchers agreed that the draft document reflected the planning session.

*On Motion by Steve Scruton and seconded by Ross Elliott: that Benchers approve the Strategic Work Plan. CARRIED.*

### 6. Education Committee Report:

#### *Certificates of Fitness – 26 June 2025 Call to Bar*

Benchers were asked to approve Certificates of Fitness for:

**Nick Kennedy  
Alex Campbell  
Kia Andersen  
Liam Hynes  
Michelle Akpaka  
Tiffany Mitchell  
Folabomi Ogunyemi  
Lexton Lee  
Gloria Akabuogu  
Brandon Rideout  
Nicole Payette  
Sarah Rowe**

**Jeremy Gillam  
Rosalind Keyes  
Tyler Murphy  
Ben Ralph  
Danielle Harris  
Noah Jacobs  
Leah Myles  
Mary Bellefleur  
Julia Fitzpatrick  
Hannah Loder  
Lydia Miller  
Blair Curtis  
Bethany Rossiter**

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

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **7. President's Report**

A report was provided.

The President highlighted her recent trip to Labrador, which she attended with Bencher Johnathan Earle and the Executive Director. The purpose of the trip was to build new relationships and continue existing relationships, particularly with Indigenous people in the province. She noted that, during the 5-day trip, they visited over 15 communities and travelled over 2,700 km. They met with the Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation, a residential school survivor, an Indigenous elder, Justice Ryan of the Supreme Court, an all-grades school, and many town clerks, managers and mayors.

She advised Benchers that their presence was well-received and that opening dialogue with these communities is crucial as we carry out the Law Society's mandate of regulating the practice of law and the legal profession in the public interest.

### **8. Education Committee Report – Transfers under NMA, Notices of Resumption of Practicing Status and Student Admissions**

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 Steve Scruton and seconded by Ross Elliott: that the in-public portion of the Benchers' meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.*

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GLADYS DUNNE, KC