**MINUTES**

Executive Committee Meeting

Law Society of the Northwest Territories

Via ZOOM

September 24, 2020

**Attendance:**
Mike Reddy, President
Brad Patzer, Vice President
Christina Brownlee, Secretary
Sheldon Toner, Treasurer
Heather Chang, Layperson
Karin Taylor, Member at Large
Karen Wilford, FLSC Representative

Glenn Tait, Executive Director

**Regrets:**

Tracy Bock, Past President

**Call To Order:**

 President Mike Reddy called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Added to the Agenda under New Business was Legal Profession Act update

Moved BY: Sheldon TONER

 Seconded BY:  Brad PATZER

 THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

***CARRIED***

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

It was noted that at page 14 of the consent agenda there was a typographical error. Glenn committed to have that error corrected.

Moved BY: Heather CHANG

 Seconded BY: Christina BROWNLEE

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

***CARRIED***

**Federation of Law Societies of Canada:**

Karen Wilford presented an oral report on recent FLSC events and initiatives. The FLSC conference is coming up in October, Karen asked for an indication of how many Executive members would be attending. Karen has met with a number of other FLSC committees in her role as the co-chair of the FLSC TRC Calls to Action Advisory Committee.

 **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

1. Glenn Tait gave an update on the Helsby Drake website project.
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2. There were no developments on either the Cultural Competency Course or on the NWT Law School. Glenn Tait proposed to remove these items from the agenda, and will report if there are any developments.
3. Glenn Tait reported that an external legal opinion had been requested on the issue brought forward by the LEAP Committee. That opinion should be received by the end of September.
4. Those who expressed an interest in the Law Foundation board of Directors were considered.

MOVED BY: Sheldon TONER

 SECONDED BY: Heather CHANG

THAT Matthew Yap be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Law Foundation Board of Directors.

***CARRIED***

Sheldon Toner reported on his discussions with the Chair of the law Foundation, and volunteered to be the Executive informal liaison with the Law Foundation.

1. There was a discussion about the renewal of the Territorial Court Civility Committee MOU.

MOVED BY: Brad PATZER

SECONDED BY: Sheldon TONER

THAT the Civility Committee MOU be renewed for a period of three years.

***CARRIED***

Glenn Tait reported that the membership of that Committee would be ra-advertised, as there was only one person who expressed an interest in being on the Committee.

**Finance:**

1. Glenn Tait presented a Variance Report dated September 17, 2020, for information.
2. Glenn Tait reported that for the period from April 1 to September 15, registrations and RAC applications were down sharply from 2019.
3. Glenn Tait reported that the Finance Committee is meeting next week to look at the 2021 draft budget.

**Discipline:**

1. Glenn Tait reported that there are currently two discipline complaints in progress.  There was a Sole Inquirer hearing on September 1, a written decision is expected quickly. The custodianship application was granted by the Supreme Court on August 28, thanks to Sheldon Toner for doing this pro bono.
2. Glenn Tait reported on the report on Achieving National Discipline Standards generated by the Federation of Law Societies. The Law Society was the first jurisdiction to achieve all of the national Discipline Standards.

**Rule/Policy Changes:**

1. The Rules Committee has recommended a suite of changes to the Rules. These changes have been with the Rules Committee for approximately 8 months.

MOVED BY: Christina BROWNLEE

SECONDED BY: Brad PATZER

THAT AL-2, the Rules Committee recommendations be approved.

***CARRIED***

**New Business:**

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the draft ad for a layperson for the Executive Committee after Heather Changs’s term expires at the end of March. Sheldon toner was gong to offer some suggestions for additions to the ad, following which Glenn Tait will circulate it again to the Executive Committee. Executive Committee will also consider methods of advertising this opportunity, in addition to the newspaper.
2. There was a discussion about bar admission courses for students. The Executive Committee decided to maintain the current position, which is that articling students can attend any bar admission program in any of the other jurisdictions.
3. The Executive Committee discussed the recommendation from the CPD Committee about removing the CPD plan from future renewal documents.

MOVED BY: Christina BROWNLEE

 SECONDED BY: Sheldon TONER

THAT The requirement for a CPD plan no longer be included as part of the membership renewal process.

***CARRIED***

1. The Executive Committee discussed the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas Party, in light of the current restrictions in place. It was decided that the Annual General Meeting will be conducted by Zoom, with the Executive gathered at the Training Room. The Christmas party will be cancelled for 2020.
2. Glenn Tait reported on what other Law Societies positions were on term limits for Chief and Senior Superior Court Judges. It was decided that the Executive Committee would not take any action on this matter.
3. Mike Reddy reported that the legislative proposal for changing the legal profession act is with him. It will be presented to the Department of Justice after the proposal dealing with remote bar admission processes has been considered by the Legislative Assembly.

**Meeting Dates:**

Members will be polled. The last week in October was a good week for a meeting. Glenn Tait will poll the Executive.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:05 PM.

Mike Reddy, President Christina Brownlee, Secretary