



LAW SOCIETY
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MINUTES

Law Society of the Northwest Territories
Law Society Training Room
January 25, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Glen Rutland, President
Alex Godfrey, Vice President
Tracy Bock, Treasurer
Ian Rennie, Secretary
Candace Seddon, Member at Large
Heather Chang, Layperson
Karen Wilford, FLSC Representative

Donna Allen, Executive Director
Bob Wilson, Communications and Planning Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

President Glen Rutland called the meeting to order at 11:02am.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Glen Rutland asked that the approval of the Committee Membership List be moved to the regular agenda, and to add documents to Business Arising from the Minutes and Finance.

MOVED BY: Tracy BOCK
SECONDED BY: Ian RENNIE

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST APPROVAL:

Glen Rutland proposed changes to the Committee Membership List.

MOVED BY: Ian RENNIE
SECONDED BY: Candace SEDDON

THAT the Committee Membership List be approved as amended.

CARRIED

ACTION PLAN:

- 1) Karen Wilford gave a report on the draft policy on confidentiality and Legal Aid clients. Wording changes to the policy have been suggested by the Legal Ethics and Practices Committee. Karen believes the content of the proposed policy is covered in the Code of Conduct and the policy is not required. The Executive concurred.
- 2) The Law Society of the Northwest Territories Council representative, Karen Wilford, has received instructions from the Executive Committee regarding Model Code revisions. The Legal Ethics and Practice Committee have not recommended amendments to the omnibus package that will be reviewed by the Council in March of 2017

FINANCE:

- 1) Donna Allen presented a report of the survey she did of the equity/revenue ratios surplus policies of other Law Societies, for information. The LSNT Auditors will be consulted an appropriate surplus and reserve level for the LSNT and the Finance committee will develop a new policy to recommend to the Executive.
- 2) Donna Allen presented the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the year ending December 31, 2016, for information.

DISCIPLINE:

- 1) The status of the Jane Olson discipline case was presented for information.
CARRIED
- 2) Disciplinary statistics were presented for information.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1) A meeting between the previous Executive Committee and the current Executive Committee was discussed. The current Executive Committee suggested that a short meeting to discuss ongoing issues would be useful. **Members of the previous Executive Committee will be invited to the February Executive Committee meeting at noon.**
- 2) **Tracy Bock and Heather Chang will draft questions for the proposed Member Survey.**
- 3) There will be a meeting with the Judiciary regarding membership on Bench and Bar Committees on March 6, 2017 at the Supreme Court. **Glen Rutland and two other Executive Committee members to be named will attend.**
- 4) Executive Committee Liaison Assignments-
 - a. Tracy Bock- Finance Committee
 - b. Ian Rennie- Admissions Committee, Rules Committee
 - c. Donna Allen, Glen Rutland- Discipline Committee
 - d. Candace Seddon- CPD Committee, Social Committee
 - e. Alex Gordon- Legal Ethics and Practices Committee

RULE/POLICY AMENDMENTS

- 1) The rule change notice for the fee changes will be changed to reflect that the name of the rule to be changed is Appendix Schedule "A" from Appendix 1 Schedule "A". This will be presented at the Special General Meeting of the membership on January 27, 2016.

WORKPLAN:

- 1) The Workplan will be revised after the meeting with the previous Executive Committee members in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) There was a discussion about Executive Committee member's recusals and conflicts of interest. Guidelines for recusals and conflicts of interest were clarified. Generally recusals will be used where a member of the Executive has a direct supervisory relationship, or is involved in the matter related to the vote.
- 2) There was discussion regarding the recognition of individual members at the Volunteer Luncheon. It was decided to leave individual recognition of members to the President's Award process.
- 3) Donna Allen presented a report on the member renewal process. Moving forward, requests for changes of status will be batched.
- 4) Justice Cote has been confirmed for the President's Dinner in 2017. Bob Wilson will be staff member and Glen Rutland will be Executive Committee member of the President's Dinner Committee.
- 5) The Volunteer Luncheon will be held in the Janvier Room of the Explorer Hotel at noon on February 16, 2017.
- 6) Heather Chang was approached by the John Howard Society to sit on the Community Justice Committee. She is waiting for the terms of reference for the Committee, but wanted approval from the Executive Committee to serve.

Heather Chang left the meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed Heather Chang's invitation to sit on the Community Justice Committee, and saw no conflict.

Heather Chang returned to the meeting.

FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA:

- 1) Karen Wilford presented a report on FLSC initiatives, including the Strategic Plan, for information. She has been appointed to the Litigation Committee. There will be a FLSC Council Meeting in mid-March.

The Committee moved In Camera at 12:35 pm for the duration of the meeting.

MEETING DATES:

LSNT Executive: February 15, 2017

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:00 PM

Glen Rutland, President

Ian Rennie, Secretary