



LAW SOCIETY
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting
Law Society of the Northwest Territories
Law Society Training Room
April 16, 2025

Attendance:

Christopher Buchanan, President
Sandra MacKenzie, Vice-President
Alex Godfrey, Treasurer
Keelen Simpson, Member-at-Large

Jessica Copple, Executive Director

Regrets:

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa, Secretary
Ramona Pearson, Layperson

Call To Order:

Christopher Buchanan called the meeting to order at 12:05

Motion to go in Camera at 12:06pm

MOVED BY:	Alex GODFREY
SECONDED BY:	Keelen SIMPSON

CARRIED

Motion to go out of Camera at 12:21pm

MOVED BY:	Alex GODFREY
SECONDED BY:	Sandra MACKENZIE

Approval of the Agenda:

MOVED BY:	Sandra MACKENZIE
SECONDED BY:	Keelen SIMPSON

THAT the Agenda be approved with the following change: addition of In Camera session.

CARRIED

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED BY: Keelen SIMPSON
SECONDED BY: Sandra MACKENZIE

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved

CARRIED

Federation of Law Societies of Canada:

Northern Representative for 2nd Vice Chair

The FLSC has contacted the LSNT, Law Society of Nunavut and the Law Society of Yukon to request direction for the position of 2nd Vice Chair. The Northern region is currently on the FLSC ladder and is without a representative since the appointment of Nunavut's Council Member to the bench.

The Executive Committee discussed the options, including deferring to November 15 2025, and nominating a representative thereafter. Committee members questioned the ability to defer for a second year. Should a second year deferral not be possible, they agreed to defer for the current year.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Membership Management Software

A review of the Implementation Agreement is underway. It is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Rules of the LSNT

An electronic vote earlier in the week determined that the LSNT would engage the services of Conway Litigation for the Rules Project after receiving their proposal in response to the Request for Proposals.

The committee discussed the proposal and agreed that the Executive Director should meet with a representative from the Contractor prior to requesting an agreement to ensure they are informed about the project details.

Action Item: Executive Director will contact Conway Litigation and inform them that the LSNT has accepted their proposal and reach out to Alyssa, the point of contact, to arrange a meeting.

MOU with the RCMP

The Committee discussed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding provided to the LSNT from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This was initiated by the FLSC in response to the current evaluation with the FATF.

Committee members requested attendance from an FLSC representative who could provide more information.

Action Item: invite Noah Arshinoff to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Committees

President Christopher Buchanan reported that new Chairs for the Admissions and Rules Committees had been appointed since the last meeting. The CPD Committee remains unchanged.

Admissions Committee

Chairperson: Kelly McLaughlin

Vice-Chairperson: Jessi Casebeer

Vice-Chairperson: Alison Lewis

Rules Committee

Chairperson: Glen Rutland

Action Item: President Christopher Buchanan to contact Chair of CPD Committee

Finance:

The Executive Director reported on Q1 financials (January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025). It was reported that the LSNT remains in a solid financial position, with increased revenue as a result of increased membership fees.

It was reported that the Rural Wills Committee, a sub-group of the Access to Justice Committee received funding through CIRNAC that will replace the funding received from Justice Canada's Innovation and Partnership program for the Rural Wills Project. The funding received from CIRNAC is through March 31, 2026, and totals \$199,600.

Discipline:

National Discipline Standards

The Executive Director reported on the 2024 National Discipline Standards, a Federation of Law Societies of Canada initiative. In past years, the LSNT did not meet standards relating to the timeliness of investigations. With

the appointment of the LSNT Staff Investigator as well as the decision to remove the Online Complaints submission on the website, the LSNT met those standards in 2024.

Rule/Policy Changes:

New Business:

Membership Renewals

The Executive Director reported on the 2025 membership renewal period and the ongoing issue with members submitting their renewals during the final week and more specifically, the final 2 days. This creates a bottleneck for LSNT staff, resulting in renewals not being approved until after the March 31 deadline. The Committee discussed the two recommendations that were proposed by the ED: changing the deadline for renewals to March 15 and/or changing the CPD year to the calendar year. Changing the CPD year would require a rule change. The renewal submission date can be utilized in the interim of any future rule changes.

The Executive Committee agreed to the following:

Communication regarding Membership Renewals will use a submission date of March 15 moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:28

Next Meeting: May 9, 2025

Christopher Buchanan

Christopher Buchanan, President

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa, Secretary

Signature: Christopher Buchanan
Christopher Buchanan (Dec 19, 2025 10:24:58 MST)

Email: christopher.buchanan@mross.com

Signature: Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa
Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa (Dec 19, 2025 11:17:04 MST)

Email: sukham@skdlaw.ca











2025-04-16 Executive Minutes Draft

Final Audit Report

2025-12-19

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