



LAW SOCIETY

OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting
Law Society of the Northwest Territories
Law Society Training Room
June 5, 2025

Attendance:

Christopher Buchanan, President
Alex Godfrey, Treasurer
Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa, Secretary
Keelen Simpson, Member-at-Large
Jessica Copple, Executive Director

Regrets:

Sandra MacKenzie
Ramona Pearson

Call To Order:

Christopher called the meeting to order at 12:02PM

Approval of the Agenda:

MOVED BY: SUKHMAMPREET DHINDSA
SECONDED BY: KEELEN SIMPSON

THAT the Agenda be approved

CARRIED

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

MOVED BY: SUKHMAMPREET DHINDSA
SECONDED BY: KEELEN SIMPSON

THAT the Approval of the Consent Agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA:

Tracy unable to attend this meeting to provide updates. ED provided updates of the action items for next FLSC meeting: CanLII funding, NCA policy amendments, etc. Tracy unable to go to Federation meeting; Sandra will be attending as an observer virtually but LSNT will not be able to vote as proxy votes are not an option at FLSC. On May 12, 2025, there was a vote to defer the northern appointment of 2nd Vice President of FLSC Council until November and New Brunswick Council representative, Justin Robichaud was appointed as the 2nd Vice President in

the interim. The Territorial Law Societies will need to decide who will take that northern spot as of November, 2025.

Action Item: Chris to connect with other presidents to determine if they are anticipating nominating their rep. for the position.

Action Item: ED to send us FLSC terms of reference.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

MOU with the RCMP

Most other law societies have agreed to the MOU agreements with the RCMP. Many are still finalizing proposed amendments from the RCMP.

Motion to approve signing of the MOU provided to Executive on May 8, 2025

MOVED BY: SUKHMANPREET DHINDSA
SECONDED BY: ALEX GODFREY

CARRIED

Rules of the Law Society:

Conway legal team started work on this. They will start with discipline rules first. They are regularly meeting with ED already. They have held their first meeting with the ED and Chair of the Rules Committee, Glen Rutland. They will meet again in the coming weeks.

ED met with Admissions committee and they provided feedback for changes.

Law Society Committees

CPD Committee Chair

Blair McPherson expressed interest in being a chair.

Motion to appoint Blair McPherson as Chair of CPD Committee Chair.

MOVED BY: KEELEN SIMPSON
SECONDED BY: CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

CARRIED

Action Item: Chris to send letter to Blair appointing him as Chair.

Amendments to LSNT Committee Mandates

Action Item: Chris to send letter by June 9, 2025 to Chairs directing them to call a meeting and action reviewing and updating their respective committee mandates by August 1, 2025.

Law Society Priorities

To be discussed in July along with Alinity updates (if any), with expectation that incoming ED, Jeff Round will be attending meeting

RULE/POLICY AMENDMENTS

Adoption of the Model Code Rule Amendments *ex parte* proceedings

Motion to adopt amendments to professional conduct re: *ex parte proceedings* and sole party communications at Tribunals, which were accepted in 2022 at the FLSC level

MOVED BY: ALEX GODFREY
SECONDED BY: CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

Abstain: Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa

CARRIED

Consultation: Amendments to the Model Code Duty to Report

It is on FLSC agenda for their June meeting. The amendments are available for us to review (page 95 of the meeting package).

We will need to ensure there is consultation for our members. Sent to Jeremy Walsh, chair of LEAP to action consultation. The deadline to submit feedback is December 19, 2025.

Action Item: Follow up with LEAP Chair, Jeremy Walsh to ensure there is a plan for consultation with members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The office has been particularly busy, with an influx of complex applications. The admissions panel has been bringing forward concerns from applicants under mobility (called in other jurisdictions) regarding "good character". These slow down the process of approvals and create an administrative burden to LSNT staff and committee members. This will hopefully be addressed with changes to the Rules.

Regarding labour and internal trade changes, we provided letter to Premier and Justice stating legal profession should be exempt as we are satisfactorily self-regulated. Justice responded that any proposed amendments would exclude the legal profession.

ECE subsequently asked for consultation on that same issue. ECE had not spoken to anyone at Justice. We need to respond stating we have already conferred with Justice and received a response that our profession will not be affected. The deadline to respond they have given is June 30, 2025.

Action item: Chris to prepare and circulate response.

Onboarding of new Executive Director will commence June 24, 2025.

FINANCE REPORT:

2024 Financial Statements

The ED is working to finalize draft financial statements for approval at the July Finance Committee meeting.

DISCIPLINE:

2025 Discipline Administrators Conference Review

A new matter has been recommended to go to hearing. The Executive Committee will receive notice once it has been officially refereed by the Committee. Another matter that has been referred to hearing has now been reduced to a Sole Inquiry after some resolutions were addressed. The LSNT has received 2 new complaints, 1 complaint that was re-opened and a potential complaint since the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Engagement Proposal

The Executive Committee discussed the proposal provided by the Law Society of Manitoba for a Public Engagement Campaign about the importance of the Rule of Law. Discussion from Executive that this campaign does not align with our priorities at the LSNT.

Table for next week to get feedback from Sandra and Ramona, particularly as lay member.

MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA

MOVED BY: CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN
SECONDED BY: SUKHMANNPREET DHINDSA

CARRIED

MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF CAMERA

MOVED BY: CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN
SECONDED BY: SUKHMAMPREET DHINDSA

CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned: at 1:49PM

MOVED BY: ALEX GODFREY
SECONDED BY: CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

CARRIED

Next Meeting: July 16, 2025

Christopher Buchanan

Christopher Buchanan, President

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa , Secretary

Signature: Christopher Buchanan

Christopher Buchanan (Dec 19, 2025 10:22:58 MST)

Email: christopher.buchanan@mross.com

Signature: Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa (Dec 19, 2025 11:18:54 MST)

Email: sukham@skdlaw.ca











2025-06-05 Executive Committee Minutes - DRAFT

Final Audit Report

2025-12-19

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