



# LAW SOCIETY

OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting  
Law Society of the Northwest Territories  
Law Society Training Room  
**September 9, 2025**

### **Attendance:**

Christopher Buchanan, President  
Alex Godfrey, Treasurer  
Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa, Secretary (virtual)  
Keelen Simpson, Member-at-Large  
Ramona Pearson, Layperson (virtual)  
Glen Rutland (Rules Committee Chair) (virtual)  
Jeff Round (Executive Director) (virtual)

### **Call To Order:**

Christopher called the meeting to order at 12:04PM

### **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY:       KEELEN SIMPSON  
SECONDED BY:   ALEX GODFREY

THAT the Agenda be approved as amended to hear from Glen Rutland first.

**CARRIED**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

#### **Rules of the Law Society Project**

- Update from Glen Rutland. Overall interest in simplifying Rules. Managing transition between Executive Directors. On track with Conway Legal. First section being tackled: discipline rule changes. Next: admissions. Finally: general areas of the Rules.
- Received initial report from them reviewed by Glen and Jeff Round. Generally, wanted changes to format and focus. Initially, Conway looked at what was transitioning from old Act to new Act; however, we do not need focus on old Act vs new Act. We want them to focus on corresponding rule changes related to new Act. Recommendation based on review of what is happening in other jurisdictions. Do we deal with it in Rules or policy? What are best practices? Conway is re-formatting the first section and will be providing it to us.
- Is anything needed from Executive? Not right now.
- Next 4-5 months will be getting packages, reviewing them, giving to relevant subject-matter Committees, then to Rules Committee, then provided to Executive for review and decision.
- Does Executive want packages individually (Discipline, Admissions, Misc) or all at end? Preference to receive them as packages, not all at once at the end.
- We contemplated public consultation – when would that be? Consensus that a single consultation on entire Rules would be best.

- Should we have public consultation for Rules? Primary role and function of Rules is protection of public. There may be specific areas where Executive may want feedback by public representatives. Do not have lay members involved in every part of process.
- When we get document, can decide what areas require public consultation.
- What process would moderate process for public consultation? Presentation and Session format to be considered, especially for discipline and competence, so it does not become a session on complaints about specific lawyers.
- Timeline – spring ideally for public consultation, then start drafting in summer/fall. Hoping to get to rule drafting quicker but understand the delays.
- Who would draft Rules? Unsure at this time what the plan for drafting is. In the meantime, should consider who would be potential drafters and their availability to take this type of work on.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

MOVED BY:       KEELEN SIMPSON  
 SECONDED BY:   SUKHMANPREET DHINDSA

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

### **FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA:**

#### **Council Member search**

- Alex Godfrey – recused.
- President had a conversation with NU and YU counterparts. Agreed to skip Council Executive nomination this year. Pressure is off on that front.
- Tracy Bock’s term is ending in November.
- Expressions of interest sought from membership, deadline for submission is September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Will be advertised twice more before deadline.
- Executive will have to discuss it at a separate meeting to review applications and vote.
- **Action Item: Jeff to canvas meeting dates with Executive, except Alex, to meet to vote on member before end of month.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

#### **Rule of Law Campaign:**

- Quebec is doing their own campaign. 9 of the provinces are participating. Nunavut and NWT are not participating.
- LSNT receiving updates on process of Rule of Law – following and monitoring but not engaging. Discussions are ongoing as to how work will be credited but we are not participating.

#### **Notices to the Public**

- Work is completed. One category that is missing, Notices of Striking, which are few (3) but that category will be added to website.

#### **2025 Presidents’ Dinner**

- Assigned seating will be implemented. Chris has put together a seating plan.
- Meeting occurred last week with CBA President, Stefanie Laurella, Jeff, and Alaina (event planner) to discuss details.
- Detailed Run-of-Show has been developed. Dene drummers are attending to perform. Land acknowledgement will be done by Chris. Chief Justice Kullar, NWT Court of Appeal, will be visiting and making remarks. Q&A with Chief Justice Wagner after dinner – 5 questions.
- Charles Davison will be receiving the President’s award. He has been notified and will attend with his spouse.

### **2025 SCC New Lawyers Dinner**

- Business casual. Chris introducing judges (2 of them). Junior lawyer of 5 or less years were invited. Approximately 35 people are attending; list has been shared with SCC.
- Invite NWT Supreme Court Windsor law student to attend.

### **LSNT Employee Benefits Policy – review and discussions**

- Subcommittee with Chris, Alex, Keelen, and maybe Sandra to review and prepare a draft or suggestions for Committee for review and discussion.

### **Cultural Competency Training**

- Admissions and CPD committee canvassed.
- Admissions committee responded. They want to defer to CPD committee if cultural competency training will meet CPD requirement.
- All 3 training paths are still available. The Path is available through CBA for a cost. Does society want to continue to pay for it as we paid for it between 2021 and 2023. Cost is \$75 per attendee, billed to LSNT if code used. Two free options exist.
  - o Consensus for members to pay for their own CPD, if they choose to take this course. We give them two free options.
- **Action Item: Jeff to update website with competency course information.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Admissions Committee**

- Jeff had an initial meeting on Sept 4 with committee to determine work needed to be done to include TRC mandate.
- Kelly, Chair of Committee, will canvas members to populate sub committees to complete the work needed to be done at that committee.
- Kelly anticipates advancing recommendation at October meeting regarding Student-at-law admissions plan. We may be out of sync with rest of country. Most other jurisdictions require fewer areas of practice or none and leave it to principal to determine. Committee will come with recommendations.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **FATF AMLTF Review**

- Jeff reached out to Noah, who is lead on this at FLSC.
- New firm start-up report will be updated to match Accountant's report.
- Training and risk assessment for trust account and new trust account holders will be developed for review by Executive.

### **RCMP MOU on information sharing**

- MOU is finalized and ready for signing, RCMP to provide a date.

### **Section 48 reporting**

- Deadline was September 2 (due to holiday). All required firms provided responses or sought extension in advance. No administrative suspensions resulted.
- Review of reports is on-going. Resulting from those, will chat with Discipline committee about annual spot audit, otherwise will randomly select firms for spot-audits to be completed over next 6 months.

## **FINANCE REPORT:**

- **Signing authority** – waiting on a few folks to sign RBC packages. CIBC packages are signed.
- **Actuarial Review** – Alex and Jeff met with actuary to kick-off engagement. They have asked for list of materials, such as financial audit statements. They indicated it will be a quick engagement with a report by end of September. It will include investment account and operational account review.
- Asked actuary to give recommendation for frequency of review in future.

- Question around GST remittances. CRA is saying we owe 30K but they issued us refund cheques for 16K. Work is underway to clean it up.
- All other payments and invoices are up-to-date.
- **Action Item: Jeff to invite Finance Committee to attend meeting October 28<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting.**
- **AGM – change date for LSNT AGM**
- 5 Law societies have same fiscal year as us. They hold their AGM between May-Oct, trend for earlier.
- Auditor highly recommends moving AGM earlier to review/approve audited statements earlier in the year.
- Crowe McKay confirmed they could produce our records to auditor in March.
- Discussion: is it necessary to change our AGM? Business sense to switch to obtain audited financial statements earlier.
- Executive to think more about moving AGM to May or June. Keelen to give options on dates/times for AGM to occur. Put on agenda for next meeting for discussion or decision.
- Jeff – to review Rules to determine concerns for changes to terms of Executive if AGM changed.

**DISCIPLINE:**

- Reviewed report from package. LSNT is in full compliance.
- 9 active complaints, 1 to committee, 1 to sole inquirer, 1 closed, 1 new opened, a few new ones in the works as people have asked for form but not yet returned it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2025 AGM date selection**

- would ordinarily be 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December. Consider moving it to November 29.
- Will be held at LSNT offices, open at 9:30 for breakfast, 10:00 AGM start.
- Jeff to check 2024 minutes and Rules to determine if date can be moved up.

**2025 Holiday Gathering**

- Social Committee: Elks booked for holiday gathering Friday, November 28, 2025.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:24PM

MOVED BY: KEELEN SIMPSON

SECONDED BY: ALEX GODFREY

THAT the Meeting is adjourned.

**Next Meeting: October 28, 2025 @ 12:00 pm**

*Christopher Buchanan*

[Christopher Buchanan \(Dec 19, 2025 10:20:44 MST\)](#)

Christopher Buchanan, President

*Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa*

[Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa \(Dec 19, 2025 11:19:58 MST\)](#)

Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa , Secretary











# Draft Minutes September 9 2025

Final Audit Report

2025-12-19

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Created:        | 2025-12-12                                    |
| By:             | Jeff Round (jeff.round@lawsociety.nt.ca)      |
| Status:         | Signed  |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAAnGZ6zxmWFzWWyc8Vc9di138-MF7ix6o1 |

## "Draft Minutes September 9 2025" History

-  Document created by Jeff Round (jeff.round@lawsociety.nt.ca)  
2025-12-12 - 6:41:37 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to christopher.buchanan@mross.com for signature  
2025-12-12 - 6:41:54 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by christopher.buchanan@mross.com  
2025-12-12 - 6:42:25 PM GMT
-  Signer christopher.buchanan@mross.com entered name at signing as Christopher Buchanan  
2025-12-19 - 5:20:42 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Christopher Buchanan (christopher.buchanan@mross.com)  
Signature Date: 2025-12-19 - 5:20:44 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to sukham@skdlaw.ca for signature  
2025-12-19 - 5:20:47 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by sukham@skdlaw.ca  
2025-12-19 - 6:19:34 PM GMT
-  Signer sukham@skdlaw.ca entered name at signing as Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa  
2025-12-19 - 6:19:56 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa (sukham@skdlaw.ca)  
Signature Date: 2025-12-19 - 6:19:58 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2025-12-19 - 6:19:58 PM GMT