



**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**FORTY-NINTH**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AGENDA & MATERIALS



# **LAW SOCIETY**

OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## **FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, June 13, 2026**

10:00 AM

**In-Person at 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 5204-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Via Zoom**

### **MOTIONS**

To assist in the accurate recording of motions and to ensure that members are aware of the substance of those motions, motion sheets are available at the Law Society office, online at the Law Society website. Please follow the instructions for completion. Completed motions will be retained by the Law Society.

## Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda (D)
3. Meeting Notice and Verification  
*[Legal Profession Act, Section 10(2)]*
4. Approval of the Minutes (D)  
48th Annual General Meeting  
- November 29, 2025
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. President's Report (D)  
*[Legal Profession Act, Section 10(3)]*
7. Treasurer's Report (D)  
*[Legal Profession Act, Section 12]*
8. Acceptance of the  
2025 Auditor's Report (D)
9. Appointment of Auditors (D)
10. Executive Director's Report
11. Committee Reports  
(and Business Arising) (D)  
Access to Justice  
Admissions  
Continuing Professional Development Discipline  
Insurance  
Legal Ethics & Practice  
Rules  
Social  
Remote and Rural Wills and Estates Outreach  
Project  
*[Legal Profession Act, Section 9(1)]*
12. External Reports  
Legal Aid Commission  
Federation of Law Societies of Canada  
Northwest Territories Law Foundation
13. Other Business (D)  
Motion to Extend Current Executive Terms
14. Adjournment & Next Meeting

(D) indicates a decision item



# **LAW SOCIETY**

**OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Motion Number: 1

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
- 2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Secunder.
- 3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secinded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To approve the Agenda.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder



## NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Forty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026 commencing at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Society of the Northwest Territories' office, 5204 50th Avenue, (4th Floor, Diamond Plaza) Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The Annual General Meeting can also be attended virtually by Zoom. Registration for the Annual General Meeting can be completed through the [member portal](#).

**DATED** at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, this 30th day of April 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JR" with a stylized flourish.

Jeff Round  
Executive Director  
(Deputy Secretary-Treasurer)

MINUTES  
48th Annual General Meeting  
Law Society of the Northwest Territories  
November 29, 2025

Sandra Mackenzie  
Alex Godfrey  
Keelen Simpson  
Chris Cahoon (Avery Cooper)  
Jeff Round  
Ian Rennie  
Matthew Yap  
Erinma Abara  
Dana Webster  
Tim Syer  
Paul Parker

Geoff Wiest  
Matthew Scott  
Charlene Doolittle  
Jeremy Walsh  
Kelly McLaughlin  
Scott Parker  
Margo Nightingale  
James Thomas  
Bruce McRae  
Katerina Doige  
Kim Arial

Zoom :  
Glen Rutland  
Toby Kruger  
Jina Bae  
Amanda Miller-Fleming  
Sukham Dhindsa  
Emma Russell  
Amanda Miller-Fleming  
Katerina Doige  
Kim Arial  
Gavin Cazon-Wilkes

Vice-President Sandra Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 10:03 am, welcomed everyone to the meeting and delivered a land acknowledgement. She introduced the members of the Executive Committee.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

MOVED BY: Tim Syer  
SECONDED BY: Keelen Simpson

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented with the addition of the Remote and Rural Wills and Estates Project Report to External Reports.

**CARRIED**

**Meeting Notice:**

The Executive Director confirmed the Notice of the Meeting and Notice of Election had been distributed to the membership in accordance with the Rules of the Law Society of the NWT.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

MOVED BY: Kelly McLaughlin  
SECONDED BY: Alex Godfrey

THAT the Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, December 7, 2024, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Election of Executive:**

The results of the election for new members of the Executive Committee were announced, and Keelen Simpson and Bradley Patzer are welcomed to the committee.

**Business Arising From the Minutes:**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**President's Report:**

The Report of the President was received by the meeting.

It was then:

MOVED BY: Tim Syer  
SECONDED BY: Kelly McLaughlin

THAT the President's Report be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Report of the Treasurer was received by the meeting. It was then:

MOVED BY: Tim Syer  
SECONDED BY: Kelly McLaughlin

THAT the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Acceptance of the 2024 Auditor's Report**

The audited financial statements of the Law Society of the NWT for the year ending December 31, 2024 as prepared by Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd. were received by the meeting. It was then:

MOVED BY: Scott Parker  
SECONDED BY: Dana Webster

THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Appointment of Auditors**

The Treasurer advised that it is necessary to appoint an auditor for the year ending December 31, 2025. It was then

MOVED BY: Keelen Simpson  
SECONDED BY: Charlene Doolittle

THAT Avery Cooper and Co. Ltd. be appointed as auditor for the Law Society of the Northwest Territories for the year ending December 31, 2025.

**CARRIED**

### ***Executive Director's Report***

The Report of the Executive Director was received as information.

### ***Committee Reports***

The following Committee Reports were received by the meeting:

- Admissions
- Continuing Professional Development
- Discipline
- Insurance
- Legal Ethics and Practice
- Social
- Access to Justice
- Rules

### ***External Reports***

- Federation of Law Societies of Canada
- Rural Wills Project (A2J)
- Law Foundation of the Northwest Territories
- Legal Aid Commission

### ***Other Business***

A question was posed about the process to engage counsel in the work of the Wills project. Sandra Mackenzie indicated that there was a process followed to identify potential contractors when the project started.

The 2025 LSNT Holiday Gathering and its cancellation was discussed. The Social Committee is interested in hearing from members about what they would like to see to encourage connection between members.

There being no further business of the meeting, it was adjourned at 10:47 am.

MOVED BY: Tim Syer  
SECONDED BY: Keelen Simpson

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

***CARRIED***

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Sandra Mackenzie, Vice-President

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Jeff Round, Deputy Secretary

Motion Number: 2

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
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- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To approve the Minutes from the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories held on November 29, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at Yellowknife on June 13th, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder

# President

Sandra MacKenzie

It is my honour to present this report as President of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

Although it has only been six months since our last AGM — the meeting having moved from December to June to allow for more timely approval of the LSNT's financial statements — there has been a great deal of activity. Here are the highlights:

- The New Rules Project continues to progress, with Conway Litigation under contract to provide recommendations for new Rules under the new *Legal Profession Act*. The project is moving into its second phase and a targeted request will go out shortly for a legislative drafter to draft the Rules based on the recommendations of the Rules Committee. Thank you to Glen Rutland for his continued leadership of the Rules Committee.
- All committees now have an updated terms of reference and are active. Thank-you to all the volunteers who chair and sit on these committees. The day-to-day work of the Law Society would not be possible without you.
- The Law Society has been actively involved in planning the upcoming Bench and Bar learning event taking place June 24 and 25, 2026 and is excited to host the BBQ at Fred Henne park taking place on June 24, 2026.
- The LSNT has been working with the Softworks Group since January to implement the Alinity membership management software, with Phase 1 roll-out scheduled for September 2026. Phase 1 will include membership and RAC applications, changes of status, entity applications, and member profile updates. As part of this transition, the LSNT will move to credit card payment only. The next renewal will be performed in the new software.

In response to the Financial Action Task Force evaluation of Canada in mid-November 2025, the LSNT has developed a suite of trust accounting and anti-money laundering material now available on our website, including information guides, practitioner tools, and CPD sessions scheduled for June 17 and July 21, 2026. The annual s.48 reporting forms have also been updated and placed online. All practitioners who work with trust money are encouraged to review these resources.

The Discipline Committee continues to use an investigator employed by the Law Society of Manitoba, resulting in complaints being assessed much quicker than in the past. Thank you to the Discipline Committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Brad Patzer, Alex Godfrey, and Jeff Round attended the Federation of Law Societies Meetings in Ottawa in March 2026 along with our FLSC representative Margo Nightingale and reported back to the balance of the executive on the ongoing business and the governance review taking place at the FLSC.

Thank-you to my fellow executive committee members Sukham Dhindsa, Alex Godfrey, Keelen Simpson, Brad Patzer and Ramona Pearson. Each executive committee members acts as a liaison to one or more committees and spends hours of volunteer team committed to the running of the Law Society.

Finally, I would like to recognize the team at the LSNT. The team expanded in early 2026 to include a full-time administrative assistant, providing better coverage and greater support to LSNT Committees. The team now consists of Executive Director Jeff Round, Membership Coordinator Liz Jackson, Finance and Engagement Coordinator Chelsey Zurkan, and Administrative Assistant Helna Poruthur. Thank you to Jeff and the entire team for their hard work.

Sincerely,

Sandra MacKenzie

President

Motion Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder

# Treasurer

Brad Patzer

## **Work of the Committee**

The members of the Finance Committee for 2025/2026 were Mike Reddy (Vice-Chair), Ronald Halabi and I.

The following are the highlights of our activities from 2026:

- Reviewed the 2025 Audited Financial Statements;
- Reviewed the 2026 Budget for review and approval by the Executive;
- Provided ongoing oversight of our accounts and investments; and
- Ensured that both the Liability and Assurance reserve funds remained adequate

## **2025 audited financial statements**

The audited Financial Statements for December 31, 2025, are attached. The Law Society's overall financial position continues to be strong. The Law Society saw a surplus of \$207,236 from a projected deficiency of \$78,565 and our net asset position is very positive.

There was again growth in membership revenue and the investment funds, and delay in membership management software implementation delay contributed to the excess.

The 2025 Financial Statements include both revenue and expenditures associated with the Rural Wills and Estates Project, an initiative funded by Justice Canada's Partnership and Innovation Program, and in 2025 Crown Indigenous Relation and Northern Affairs Canada. Additional financial controls were put in place following AGM 2024 to ensure that spending did not exceed revenue (see page 12).

## **2026 year to date**

The Income Statement for the current fiscal year to April 30, 2026 is included in the package.

Revenue to date is 82% of the amount budgeted with 8 months remaining.

Expenditures to date are 28% of the budget total.

This is as expected due to the timing of renewals being early in the fiscal year, with ongoing operations expenditures, LSNT insurance levy (\$135K) and some significant expenditures for drafting of the Rules (\$50K) and member management software (\$100K) anticipated later in the year.

## **2027 budget**

The Law Society budget for 2027 is attached for your information. The 2027 budget includes a small surplus and provides for an increase in non-contracted expenditures of 3% and anticipates membership revenue slightly less than the actual revenue received in 2025. This was by design as it is not clear whether the increased membership activity in 2025 will be sustained year over year. Other key features are no increase to fees for the 2027 renewal, the sunset of revenue and expenditures relating to the Rural Wills and Estates Program at the end of Q1 and continuation of drafting work supporting the Rules project.

The budget for 2027 continues to reflect the Society's commitment to financial sustainability and accountability.

## **Conclusion**

The Society's financial position is strong and sustainable. This is as the result of previous good planning, favourable investments and reliable reporting and management. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the LSNT staff, the accountants at Crowe Mackay and audit staff at Avery Cooper for their commitment to sound decisions and responsible stewardship on behalf of the Society.

As Treasurer, I will be making three motions:

1. Moving the acceptance of this Treasurer's Report;
2. Moving the approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2025; and
3. Moving that Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd. be appointed as the auditor for the Law Society of the Northwest Territories for the year ending December 31, 2026.

I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

**Law Society of the Northwest Territories**  
**Income Statement 01/01/2026 to 30/04/2026**

**REVENUE**

**Membership Dues**

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Application and Admissions    | 17,290.00         |
| Active                        | 791,816.65        |
| Inactive                      | 26,450.00         |
| Articling Students            | 100.00            |
| Certificate of Standing       | 2,400.00          |
| Change of Status              | 750.00            |
| Reinstatement                 | 1,800.00          |
| Professional Corp/LLP         | 920.00            |
| RAC New File                  | 8,100.00          |
| RAC Renewal                   | 10,800.00         |
| Liability Insurance Fund Levy | 1,326.67          |
| Assurance Fund Levy           | 0.00              |
| <b>Total Membership Dues</b>  | <u>861,753.32</u> |

**Other Revenue**

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| General                             | 0.00              |
| Event Registration                  | 0.00              |
| Recovery                            | 10,000.00         |
| Interest on Trust Funds (Unclaimed) | 0.00              |
| Grants/ Sponsorships                | 150,000.00        |
| Interest                            | 23,116.66         |
| Rentals (Boardroom)                 | 120.00            |
| Realized Gains (Losses)             | (6,514.56)        |
| Other Revenue                       | 2,000.00          |
| <b>Total Other Revenue</b>          | <u>178,722.10</u> |

**TOTAL REVENUE** 1,040,475.42

**EXPENSE**

**Employee Compensation**

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Salaries                           | 137,125.94      |
| VTA                                | 3,000.00        |
| Northern Living Allowance          | 7,712.47        |
| Cash Allowances                    | 1,032.26        |
| RRSP - Employers Portion           | 12,089.00       |
| WSCC                               | 3,535.43        |
| EI Employers Portion               | 3,684.21        |
| CPP Employers Portion              | 9,359.33        |
| Health and Disability Ins Premiums | <u>5,908.20</u> |

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Employee Compensation</b> | <u>183,446.84</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|

**General Expenses**

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Advertising                         | 32.55             |
| Audit - Spot Reviews                | 0.00              |
| Bank Charges                        | 538.27            |
| Bank Charges-Rev. Credit Card Fees  | <u>16,053.83</u>  |
| Total Bank Charges                  | 16,592.10         |
| Bookkeeping                         | 9,043.02          |
| Contributions External Events       | 0.00              |
| Hospitality Expense                 | 1,748.45          |
| Interest                            | 288.73            |
| Legal Fees                          | 16,189.30         |
| Legal Services                      | 15,210.00         |
| Rentals                             | 760.00            |
| Memberships / Dues                  | 36,116.16         |
| Members Health Benefits             | 946.70            |
| Office Supplies                     | 1,985.91          |
| Office Software                     | 23,515.98         |
| Office Equipment Purchases          | 1,535.00          |
| Printing and Publications           | 157.79            |
| Professional Development (Training) | 775.00            |
| Investment Management Fees          | 5,838.76          |
| Trust Insurance Premium             | 0.00              |
| Rent                                | 36,193.32         |
| Telephone / Internet                | 1,538.02          |
| Travel                              | 14,659.69         |
| Unclaimed Trust                     | 0.00              |
| Insurance Premium                   | 8,764.97          |
| Special Projects                    | 34,794.38         |
| Unanticipated Expenditures          | 14,025.00         |
| Interest & Penalty Charges CRA      | 2,632.25          |
| <b>Total General Expenses</b>       | <u>243,343.08</u> |

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b> | <u>426,789.92</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>NET INCOME</b> | <u>613,685.50</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|

**Generated On: 03/06/2026**

**LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
BUDGET 2027**

| Project                          | 1             | 10           | 20            | 30          | 50          | 81   | 87        | 88           | 88B      | 87A          | TOTALS          |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| Description                      | Admin         | Assurance    | Liability     | Discipline  | FLSC        | CPD  | Social    | A2J          | B&B Conf | Pres Dinn    |                 |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                   |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              |                 |
| <b>Membership Fees</b>           |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              |                 |
| Applications and Admissions      | \$ 34,800.00  |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 34,800.00    |
| Active                           | \$ 800,000.00 |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 800,000.00   |
| Inactive                         | \$ 26,000.00  |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 26,000.00    |
| Articling Students               | \$ 260.00     |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 260.00       |
| Certificate of Standing          | \$ 7,500.00   |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 7,500.00     |
| Change of Status                 | \$ 1,000.00   |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 1,000.00     |
| Reinstatement                    | \$ 2,400.00   |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 2,400.00     |
| Professional Corp/LLP            | \$ 15,000.00  |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 15,000.00    |
| RAC new files                    | \$ 30,450.00  |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 30,450.00    |
| RAC renewal                      | \$ 33,750.00  |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 33,750.00    |
| <b>Total Membership Fees</b>     | \$ 951,160.00 |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 951,160.00   |
|                                  |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ -            |
| <b>Insurance Levy</b>            |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              |                 |
| Liability Insurance Fund levy    |               |              | \$ 115,000.00 |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 115,000.00   |
| <b>Total Levy</b>                |               |              | \$ 115,000.00 |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 115,000.00   |
|                                  |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ -            |
| <b>Other Revenue</b>             |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              |                 |
| Recovery                         |               |              |               | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |      |           |              |          | \$ 7,500.00  | \$ 17,500.00    |
| Event Revenue                    |               |              |               |             |             |      | \$ 500.00 |              |          | \$ 5,000.00  | \$ 5,500.00     |
| Unclaimed Trust Funds (received) |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ -            |
| Interest                         | \$ 15,000.00  | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00  |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 115,000.00   |
| Rentals (Boardroom)              | \$ 150.00     |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ 150.00       |
| Gain on Investment               |               |              |               |             |             |      |           |              |          |              | \$ -            |
| Grants (A2J)                     |               |              |               |             |             |      |           | \$ 42,500.00 |          |              | \$ 42,500.00    |
| <b>Total Other Revenue</b>       | \$ 15,150.00  | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00  | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 500.00 | \$ 42,500.00 | \$ -     | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 180,650.00   |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>             | \$ 966,310.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 165,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 500.00 | \$ 42,500.00 | \$ -     | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 1,246,810.00 |

| Project                             | 1             | 10           | 20            | 30           | 50   | 81          | 87          | 88           | 88B      | 87A          |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| Description                         | Admin         | Assurance    | Liability     | Discipline   | FLSC | CPD         | Social      | A2J          | B&B Conf | Pres Dinn    | TOTALS        |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>                      |               |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              |               |
| <b>Total Employee Comp</b>          | \$ 490,000.00 |              |               |              |      |             |             | \$ 7,500.00  |          |              | \$ 497,500.00 |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>               |               |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              |               |
| Advertising                         | \$ 1,000.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 1,000.00   |
| UTM Advertising                     | \$ 2,500.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 2,500.00   |
| Amortization                        | \$ -          |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ -          |
| Spot Audit                          |               | \$ 20,000.00 |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 20,000.00  |
| Audit                               | \$ 17,500.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 17,500.00  |
| Awards and Grants                   | \$ -          |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ -          |
| Bad Debt                            | \$ 500.00     |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 500.00     |
| Bank Charges                        | \$ 5,000.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 5,000.00   |
| Bank Charges - Credit Card Fees     | \$ 25,000.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 25,000.00  |
| Bookkeeping                         | \$ 20,000.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 20,000.00  |
| Donations                           | \$ -          |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ -          |
| Contributions - External Events     |               |              |               |              |      |             |             | \$ 5,000.00  |          |              | \$ 5,000.00   |
| Equipment Leases                    | \$ -          |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ -          |
| Hospitality Expense                 | \$ 7,500.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 7,500.00   |
| Insurance Premiums                  | \$ 7,500.00   |              | \$ 135,000.00 |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 142,500.00 |
| Claims & Insurance Administration   | \$ -          |              | \$ 1,000.00   |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 1,000.00   |
| IT/Tech Support                     | \$ 10,000.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 10,000.00  |
| Legal Fees                          | \$ -          |              |               | \$ 35,000.00 |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 35,000.00  |
| Legal Services (A2J)                |               |              |               |              |      |             |             | \$ 30,000.00 |          |              | \$ 30,000.00  |
| Catering                            | \$ 1,000.00   |              |               |              |      |             | \$ 5,000.00 |              |          | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 18,500.00  |
| Events Rentals                      | \$ -          |              |               |              |      |             | \$ 1,500.00 |              |          |              | \$ 1,500.00   |
| Membership/Dues                     | \$ 45,000.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 45,000.00  |
| Members Health Benefits             | \$ 7,500.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 7,500.00   |
| Office Supplies                     | \$ 7,750.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          | \$ 250.00    | \$ 7,750.00   |
| Office Software                     | \$ 46,500.00  |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 46,500.00  |
| Office Equipment Purchases          | \$ 7,000.00   |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 7,000.00   |
| Postage                             | \$ 250.00     |              |               |              |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 250.00     |
| Printing and publications           | \$ 1,250.00   |              |               | \$ 500.00    |      |             |             |              |          |              | \$ 1,750.00   |
| Professional Development (Training) | \$ 9,000.00   |              |               | \$ 1,000.00  |      | \$ 5,000.00 |             |              |          |              | \$ 15,000.00  |



Motion Number: 4

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
- 2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Secunder.
- 3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secinded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To approve the Treasurer's Report.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder

Report is not dated

**LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**  
Yellowknife, NT

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended December 31, 2025

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## **MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared by management, which is responsible for the reliability, integrity and objectivity of the information provided. They have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Where necessary, the statements include amounts based on informed judgements and estimates by management, giving appropriate consideration to reasonable limits of materiality.

In discharging its responsibility for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements and for the accounting systems from which they are derived, management maintains the necessary system of internal controls designed to provide assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded, and proper records are maintained. These controls include quality standards in hiring and training employees, written policies and procedures manuals, and accountability for performance within appropriate and well-defined areas of responsibility. The Board's management recognizes its responsibility for conducting the Board's affairs in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and sound business principles, and for maintaining appropriate standards of conduct.

Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd., Chartered Professional Accountants annually provides an independent, objective audit to express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

---

Jeff Round  
Executive Director and Deputy Secretary Treasurer

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of  
Law Society of the Northwest Territories

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Law Society of the Northwest Territories (the "Society"), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2025, and the Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued

- ♦ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ♦ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- ♦ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ♦ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ♦ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd.  
Chartered Professional Accountants  
Yellowknife, NT

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2025

### ASSETS

|                                         | 2025                | 2024                |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CURRENT</b>                          |                     |                     |
| Cash                                    | \$ 331,921          | \$ 256,115          |
| Accounts receivable                     | 7,948               | 53,955              |
| Prepaid expenses                        | 63,951              | 60,710              |
|                                         | 403,820             | 370,780             |
| <b>RESTRICTED CASH (note 3)</b>         | 13,869              | 24,241              |
| <b>INVESTMENTS (note 4)</b>             | 3,899,352           | 3,780,046           |
| <b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (note 5)</b> | 7,735               | 1,078               |
|                                         | <b>\$ 4,324,776</b> | <b>\$ 4,176,145</b> |

### LIABILITIES

|                                   |           |            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>CURRENT</b>                    |           |            |
| Trade payables and accruals       | \$ 74,079 | \$ 105,607 |
| Wages and benefits payable        | 29,381    | 51,512     |
| Deferred revenue                  | 39,175    | -          |
| Government remittances payable    | 28,081    | 61,030     |
|                                   | 170,716   | 218,149    |
| <b>UNCLAIMED TRUST MONEY FUND</b> | 12,397    | 23,569     |
|                                   | 183,113   | 241,718    |

### CONTINGENCIES (note 6)

### FUND BALANCES

|                                     |                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>GENERAL RESERVE per page 3</b>   | 2,164,767           | 2,014,221           |
| <b>ASSURANCE RESERVE per page 3</b> | 1,976,896           | 1,920,206           |
|                                     | 4,141,663           | 3,934,427           |
|                                     | <b>\$ 4,324,776</b> | <b>\$ 4,176,145</b> |

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director and Deputy Secretary Treasurer

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the year ended December 31, 2025

|                                                                          | 2025<br>Budget<br>(Note 10) | 2025<br>Actual      | 2024<br>Actual      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                          | <u>          </u>           | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u>   |
| <b>REVENUES - Schedule 1</b>                                             | <b>\$ 995,385</b>           | <b>\$ 1,421,753</b> | <b>\$ 1,288,123</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                                          |                             |                     |                     |
| Advertising and promotion                                                | 1,500                       | 514                 | 4,093               |
| Amortization                                                             | -                           | 1,042               | 398                 |
| Audit                                                                    | 22,500                      | 20,750              | 22,600              |
| Fees and dues                                                            | 30,000                      | 14,966              | 17,580              |
| Bookkeeping                                                              | 25,000                      | 27,599              | 26,993              |
| Canada Legal Information Institute                                       | -                           | 19,497              | 19,581              |
| Insurance                                                                | 15,000                      | 20,295              | 16,415              |
| Interest and bank charges                                                | 14,500                      | 23,669              | 20,673              |
| Investment management fees                                               | 13,000                      | 17,255              | 16,480              |
| Liability insurance                                                      | 152,000                     | 120,856             | 164,155             |
| Information technology                                                   | 20,000                      | 6,360               | 13,251              |
| Lawyer assistance program                                                | 1,000                       | 5,891               | 447                 |
| Office and miscellaneous                                                 | 8,950                       | 13,862              | 16,633              |
| Professional development & recognition                                   | 74,500                      | 110,585             | 46,690              |
| Professional fees                                                        | 55,000                      | 137,009             | 124,441             |
| Rent                                                                     | 113,000                     | 103,577             | 101,553             |
| Office software                                                          | 200,000                     | 71,462              | 75,205              |
| Spot audit                                                               | 10,000                      | 2,925               | 24,465              |
| Communications                                                           | 5,000                       | 4,549               | 3,898               |
| Travel                                                                   | 38,000                      | 44,968              | 52,366              |
| Wages and benefits                                                       | 325,000                     | 470,061             | 428,888             |
|                                                                          | <u>1,123,950</u>            | <u>1,237,692</u>    | <u>1,196,805</u>    |
| <b>(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER<br/>EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b> | <u>(128,565)</u>            | <u>184,061</u>      | <u>91,318</u>       |
| <b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>                                            |                             |                     |                     |
| Gain (loss) on sale of investments                                       | 50,000                      | 1,679               | (2,864)             |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments                                    | -                           | 21,496              | 139,480             |
|                                                                          | <u>50,000</u>               | <u>23,175</u>       | <u>136,616</u>      |
| <b>(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER<br/>EXPENSES</b>                 | <u>\$ (78,565)</u>          | <u>\$ 207,236</u>   | <u>\$ 227,934</u>   |

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended December 31, 2025

|                                     | 2025                |                      |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | General<br>Reserve  | Assurance<br>Reserve | Total               |
| <b>BALANCE, opening</b>             | \$ 2,014,221        | \$ 1,920,206         | \$ 3,934,427        |
| Excess of revenues over expenses    | 207,236             | -                    | 207,236             |
| Transfer investment income (note 4) | (59,615)            | 59,615               | -                   |
| Transfer of Spot audit fees         | 2,925               | (2,925)              | -                   |
| <b>BALANCE, closing</b>             | <b>\$ 2,164,767</b> | <b>\$ 1,976,896</b>  | <b>\$ 4,141,663</b> |
|                                     | 2024                |                      |                     |
|                                     | General<br>Reserve  | Assurance<br>Reserve | Total               |
| <b>BALANCE, opening</b>             | \$ 1,895,746        | \$ 1,810,747         | \$ 3,706,493        |
| Excess of revenues over expenses    | 227,934             | -                    | 227,934             |
| Transfer investment income (note 4) | (133,924)           | 133,924              | -                   |
| Transfer of Spot audit fees         | 24,465              | (24,465)             | -                   |
| <b>BALANCE, closing</b>             | <b>\$ 2,014,221</b> | <b>\$ 1,920,206</b>  | <b>\$ 3,934,427</b> |

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Law Society of the Northwest Territories (the "Society") is the governing body established in 1978 for the legal profession in the Northwest Territories. The Society was created by and operates under the *Legal Profession Act* of the Northwest Territories. The Society is a not-for-profit organization and accordingly is exempt from income taxes under paragraph 149(1)(l) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The significant accounting policies are detailed as follows:

#### (a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less from their date of acquisition, which are readily convertible into a known amount of cash, and are subject to an insignificant risk to changes in their fair value.

#### (b) Financial instruments

##### (i) Measurement of financial instruments

The Society initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value, except for redeemable preferred shares further detailed in the related policy. Financial assets and liabilities originated and exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Society is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost. The cost of the financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. The cost of a financial asset or liability in a related party transaction that has repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, its cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Society in the transaction.

The Society initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value, except for redeemable preferred shares further detailed in the related policy. Financial assets and liabilities originated and exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Society is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost. The cost of the financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. The cost of a financial asset or liability in a related party transaction that has repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, its cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Society in the transaction.

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (b) Financial instruments, continued

The Society subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in (deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses in the period incurred.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost on a straight-line line basis include cash, term deposits, accounts receivable and notes receivable.

Investments in preferred shares of a private company are recognized at cost.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost on a straight-line basis include the bank overdraft, the bank loan, accounts payable, amounts due to directors and officers and long-term debt.

Financial assets measured at fair value include quoted shares.

#### (ii) Impairment

For financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Society determines whether there are indications of possible impairment. When there is an indication of impairment, and the Society determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows, a write-down is recognized in (deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses. A previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The carrying amount of the financial asset may not be greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in (deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses.

#### (iii) Transaction costs

Transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in net income in the period incurred. Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at amortized cost are included in the original cost of the asset or liability and recognized in net income over the life of the instrument using the straight-line method.

#### (c) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The Society provides for amortization using the declining balance method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the tangible capital assets over their estimated useful lives. One half of the year's amortization is recorded in the year of acquisition. No amortization is recorded in the year of disposal. The annual amortization rates are as follows:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Office equipment   | 20% |
| Computer equipment | 45% |

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (d) Website development costs

Website development costs are expensed in the year incurred.

#### (e) Professional liability insurance levy

The levy and premium expense for insurance coverage for the policy year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 is included in the 2024 fiscal year. The expenses are recognized in the current period to match the expenses to the revenues collected from members.

#### (f) Reserves

The General Reserve accounts for the Society's program delivery and administrative activities. This reserve reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

The Assurance Reserve reports only internally restricted funds to be used in conjunction with any defalcation claims which may be made against a member and expenses related to the assurance of compliance.

#### (g) Revenue recognition

Membership fees are the annual fees for membership in the Society. Fees paid by members cover the fiscal year. Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registration and renewal fees are due by December 31 and include the next fiscal year. These revenues are recorded in the period they are paid.

Interest income is recognized as it is earned.

All other revenues such as levies, application and admission fees, restricted appearance fees, grants, miscellaneous income, and discipline cost recoveries are recognized when earned if the amount receivable can be reasonably estimated and its collection is reasonably assured.

#### (h) Contributed services

Volunteers contribute their time to assist in the Society's activities. While these services benefit the Society considerably, a reasonable estimate of their amount and fair value cannot be made and, accordingly, these contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

#### (i) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Significant areas requiring the use of estimates include: allowances for doubtful accounts, and the useful lives of tangible capital assets. Actual results may differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 3. RESTRICTED CASH

Restricted cash comprises unclaimed trust money held by the Society. The legislation provides lawyers with the option to forward money held in trust that has not been claimed to the Society to be held in trust until the amount is claimed or settled by the legislative process, under the policy.

### 4. INVESTMENTS

The following table presents the fair value of the Society's restricted investments at December 31, 2025, along with the change in fair value from their cost base. The fair value of the Society's investments was determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

|                                   | 2025                |                     | 2024                |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                   | Cost                | Market              | Cost                | Market              |
| <b>General Reserve</b>            |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| CIBC Bonds                        | \$ 1,536,126        | \$ 1,518,425        | \$ 1,309,275        | \$ 1,292,988        |
| CIBC Mutual / Segregated<br>Funds | 227,193             | 235,675             | 411,828             | 416,865             |
| <u>CIBC Cash</u>                  | <u>203,293</u>      | <u>203,293</u>      | <u>187,431</u>      | <u>187,431</u>      |
| Subtotal                          | 1,966,612           | 1,957,393           | 1,908,534           | 1,897,284           |
| <b>Assurance Reserve</b>          |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| RBC Bonds                         | 1,805,577           | 1,836,292           | 1,792,696           | 1,816,098           |
| RBC Mutual Funds                  | 72,000              | 72,000              | 61,000              | 61,000              |
| <u>RBC Cash</u>                   | <u>33,667</u>       | <u>33,667</u>       | <u>5,664</u>        | <u>5,664</u>        |
| Subtotal                          | <u>1,911,244</u>    | <u>1,941,959</u>    | <u>1,859,360</u>    | <u>1,882,762</u>    |
|                                   | <u>\$ 3,877,856</u> | <u>\$ 3,899,352</u> | <u>\$ 3,767,894</u> | <u>\$ 3,780,046</u> |

Payments of spot audit fees and defalcation claims are made from the General Reserve bank account and charged to the Assurance Reserve. As a result, an inter-reserve balance exists between the two reserves. Investments held in the Assurance Reserve are reconciled to the net asset balance in Assurance Reserve as follows:

|                                     | 2025         | 2024         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Assurance Reserve investments | \$ 1,941,959 | \$ 1,882,764 |
| Balance owing from General Reserve  | 34,937       | 37,442       |
| Net assets - Assurance Reserve      | 1,976,896    | 1,920,206    |

The excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses during the year for the Assurance Reserve is derived from internally restricted investments as follows:

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 4. INVESTMENTS, continued

|                                      | <u>2025</u>      | <u>2024</u>       |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Interest income                      | \$ 58,718        | \$ 51,508         |
| Investment management fee            | (9,562)          | (9,165)           |
| Realized gain/(loss) on investment   | (20,674)         | 3,808             |
| Unrealized gain/(loss) on investment | <u>30,715</u>    | <u>87,773</u>     |
|                                      | <u>\$ 59,197</u> | <u>\$ 133,924</u> |

### 5. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

|                    | <u>2025</u>      |                                     | <u>2024</u>     |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                    | <u>Cost</u>      | <u>Accumulated<br/>amortization</u> | <u>Net</u>      | <u>Net</u>      |
| Office equipment   | \$ 39,865        | \$ 32,254                           | \$ 7,611        | \$ 852          |
| Computer equipment | <u>20,258</u>    | <u>20,134</u>                       | <u>124</u>      | <u>226</u>      |
|                    | <u>\$ 60,123</u> | <u>\$ 52,388</u>                    | <u>\$ 7,735</u> | <u>\$ 1,078</u> |

### 6. CONTINGENCIES

The Society has arranged a joint bonding with two other corporations. Under the terms of the contract the Society and the other corporations are jointly and severally liable for any claims made against the bonding company.

The Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association is a reciprocal insurance exchange established to provide professional liability insurance for the legal profession. The Society's share of these retro-assessments is included in the financial statements when known.

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 7. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES

|                                                            | <u>2025</u>       | <u>2024</u>       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Certificates of Standing                                   | \$ 8,095          | \$ 5,895          |
| Change in status fees                                      | 1,545             | 1,820             |
| Reinstatement fees                                         | 3,900             | 3,255             |
| Professional corporation/LLP registration and renewal fees | 15,510            | 18,715            |
| Travel Reimbursement                                       | 6,364             | -                 |
| Professional development & support services                | 7,409             | 36,321            |
| Government of Canada - Estates Management                  | 199,600           | -                 |
| Government of Canada - Rural Wills Project                 | 32,084            | 75,640            |
|                                                            | <u>\$ 274,507</u> | <u>\$ 141,646</u> |

### 8. COMMITMENTS

The Society's total commitments under various agreements for rent, office equipment, software, and services, exclusive of occupancy costs, are as follows:

|      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| 2026 | \$ 307,252        |
| 2027 | 152,831           |
| 2028 | 154,371           |
| 2029 | 111,988           |
| 2030 | <u>114,227</u>    |
|      | <u>\$ 840,669</u> |

### 9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Transactions in financial instruments may result in an entity assuming or transferring to another party one or more of the financial risks described below. The required disclosures provide information that assists users of financial statements in assessing the extent of risk related to financial instruments.

#### (a) Credit risk

The Society has credit risk in accounts receivable. Credit risk is the risk that one party to a transaction cannot discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025

### 9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, continued

#### (b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

The Society's investments in publicly traded securities expose the Society to market risk since these equity investments are subject to price fluctuations in the open market. The Society is exposed to market risk for investments of \$3,899,352 (2024 - \$3,780,046).

#### (c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Society's interest-bearing financial instruments include fixed-rate bonds within investments. The fair values of fixed-rate financial instruments vary as market rates of interest change.

The risk has not changed significantly since the prior year.

### 10. BUDGET AMOUNTS

The 2025 budget amounts on the Statement of Operations and the Schedules to the Financial Statements, are presented for information purposes only, are unaudited and not covered by the audit report of Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd., Chartered Professional Accountants, dated March 1, 1900.

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2025

### SCHEDULE OF REVENUES

### Schedule 1

|                                | 2025<br>Budget<br>(Note 10) | 2025<br>Actual      | 2024<br>Actual      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                | <u>          </u>           | <u>          </u>   | <u>          </u>   |
| Membership fees                | \$ 720,260                  | \$ 835,976          | \$ 812,485          |
| Application and admission fees | 30,000                      | 51,333              | 58,375              |
| Levies                         | 115,000                     | 120,153             | 135,870             |
| Miscellaneous                  | 35,125                      | 274,507             | 141,646             |
| Discipline cost recovery       | 1,000                       | -                   | -                   |
| Interest income                | 50,000                      | 114,477             | 77,608              |
| Restricted appearance fees     | 44,000                      | 64,297              | 61,800              |
| Unclaimed trust money          | -                           | 185                 | 339                 |
|                                | <u>995,385</u>              | <u>1,460,928</u>    | <u>1,288,123</u>    |
| Transfer to deferred revenue   | <u>-</u>                    | <u>39,175</u>       | <u>-</u>            |
|                                | <u>\$ 995,385</u>           | <u>\$ 1,421,753</u> | <u>\$ 1,288,123</u> |

# LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2025

### SCHEDULE OF RURAL WILLS PROJECT

**Schedule 2**

|                                                      | <u>2025<br/>Budget</u> | <u>2025<br/>Actual</u> | <u>2024<br/>Actual</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                                       |                        |                        |                        |
| Department of Justice                                | \$ -                   | \$ 32,084              | \$ 75,640              |
| Interest                                             | -                      | -                      | 18                     |
|                                                      | <u>-</u>               | <u>32,084</u>          | <u>75,658</u>          |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                      |                        |                        |                        |
| Professional Fees                                    | -                      | -                      | 134,001                |
| Travel                                               | -                      | 378                    | 18,143                 |
| Program Delivery                                     | -                      | -                      | 3,548                  |
|                                                      | <u>-</u>               | <u>378</u>             | <u>155,692</u>         |
| <b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b> | <u>\$ -</u>            | <u>\$ 31,706</u>       | <u>\$ (80,034)</u>     |

### SCHEDULE OF ESTATES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Schedule 3**

|                                         | <u>2025<br/>Budget</u> | <u>2025<br/>Actual</u> | <u>2024<br/>Actual</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                          |                        |                        |                        |
| Government of Canada                    | \$ -                   | \$ 199,600             | \$ -                   |
| Transfer to deferred revenue            | -                      | (39,175)               | -                      |
|                                         | <u>-</u>               | <u>160,425</u>         | <u>-</u>               |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                         |                        |                        |                        |
| Wages and benefits                      | -                      | 33,490                 | -                      |
| Legal fees                              | -                      | 112,325                | -                      |
| Travel                                  | -                      | 14,500                 | -                      |
| Other                                   | -                      | 110                    | -                      |
|                                         | <u>-</u>               | <u>160,425</u>         | <u>-</u>               |
| <b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b> | <u>\$ -</u>            | <u>\$ -</u>            | <u>\$ -</u>            |

Motion Number: 5

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
- 2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Secunder.
- 3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secinded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To approve the Audited Financial Statements for 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder

Motion Number: 6

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
- 2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Secunder.
- 3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To appoint Avery Cooper & Co. Ltd. as the Auditor for the Law Society of the Northwest Territories for the year ending

December 31, 2026.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder

# Executive Director

Jeff Round

While it has only been 6 months since the last AGM, there has been a lot of activity at the LSNT offices.

The 2026 renewal period was as busy as expected with renewal, status change and/or resignations of 682 members. The staff and I express our appreciation for those who responded to our request to complete their renewals early as it assisted in balancing the workload. Excellent teamwork by all staff ensured that members inquiries and renewals were processed with minimal delay throughout the renewal window. The next renewal will be performed in our new membership management software and members are encouraged to complete the process early in order to avoid last minute complications.

We have undertaken a small number of initiatives to improve business continuity to enhance our ability to respond to a forced evacuation (of our building or Yellowknife) and ensure continued service. Those are:

- Replacement of the office phones with Microsoft Teams Phone. The office phones were antiquated cordless phones that were connected to cell phones. The arrangement was not user friendly or easy to use. Teams Phone is cloud based, less expensive and can be accessed from anywhere using our existing computer hardware. This was completed in late May 2026.
- We have taken initial steps towards the creation of a records retention policy and schedule. This will document the voluminous paper records that exist which include membership, financial and administrative records and determine how long all records types must be stored whether in hard-copy or digital. The goal of this initiative is to destroy any hard-copy records that are no longer required and to preserve all hard-copy records with significant retention periods digitally to ensure safekeeping and accessibility from any location.
- Staff desktop computers are being replaced with laptops for enhanced portability.
- Cloud storage for all digital records is being investigated.

In addition to the everyday business of membership, insurance and the work of the various committees, LSNT staff and I are preparing for a number of changes in the coming year:

- We have been working with the Softworks Group since January to implement the Alinity membership management software. Roll-out of Phase 1 is scheduled for September 2026 and will include membership and RAC applications, changes of status, entity (Firm/Responsible Lawyer, LLP and LPC) applications, member profile update and more). Information about member access to the new system will be circulated once dates are known with more certainty. All members will be requested to log in to Alinity in order to confirm their information once the portal is live.

- As we move into Alinity, the LSNT will move to credit card payment only. Alinity facilitates easy credit card payment and does not store credit card information for

security purposes. This change will reduce administrative burden associated with receiving and tracking payments for any service or event as all payments will be receipted and accounted in real time. Any activity that incurs a fee will generate an invoice from within Alinity that will prompt the applicant/member for payment. The application or action will not be considered complete until payment is received and a receipt is issued.

- We are supporting the development of new Rules through the work of the Rules Committee and Conway Litigation who are under contract to research and provide recommendations for new *Rules* under the new *Legal Profession Act*.
- In response to the Financial Action Task Force Evaluation of Canada in which the Federation of Law Societies and Canadian Law Societies participated in mid-November 2025, the LSNT has developed a suite of material that is now available to members on our website. The material includes new information guides on Trust Accounting and Anti-Money Laundering as well as tools for practitioners and delivery of CPD sessions. All practitioners who work with trust money are encouraged to review the material and CPD sessions which will be placed on our YouTube channel. The CPD sessions will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Anti-Money Laundering) and July 21, 2026 (Trust Accounting). Additionally, the annual s.48 reporting forms have been updated and placed online.

I will conclude by taking this opportunity to thank the small but mighty team at the LSNT and to recognize their dedication to the service of members and the public.

Our team expanded in early 2026 and now includes a full-time administrative assistant who will be the first point of contact for incoming calls and email, and has a number of responsibilities including records management work. The expanded team provides for better coverage and distribution of duties, and will allow for greater support to LSNT Committees in their work. The team now consists of myself and

- Liz Jackson, Membership Coordinator
- Chelsey Zurkan, Finance and Engagement Coordinator
- Helna Poruthur, Administrative Assistant

Members are encouraged to stop in at the office to meet the team, ask questions, browse our modest lending library and have a coffee or tea. No appointments necessary.

# Access to Justice Committee

Keelen Simpson

## **A2J Committee Meeting Highlights**

The A2J Committee has not met again since the last report provided in December 2025.

## **National Engagement**

I attended a portion of the in-person meeting of the Action Committee on Access to Justice's Provincial/Territorial Collaboratives Committee in January 2026. The meeting focussed on understanding Collaborative structures in Canada, identifying funding barriers and opportunities, and advancing a Collaborative toolkit.

## **Listening Tour by Justice Karakatsanis**

Work will begin to prepare for Justice Karakatsanis' visit to Yellowknife in September 2026 for her Listening Tour. Further details will be provided to membership once confirmed.

# Admissions Committee

Kelly McLaughlin

I am pleased to provide the Report of the Admissions Committee for the Law Society of the Northwest Territories Annual General Meeting. The Admissions Committee is mandated under the Rules of the Law Society. The responsibilities of the Committee are to examine applications for admission and to make recommendations on other matters relating to admissions that come within the Executive's jurisdiction.

This report covers the activities since the report prepared for the November 29, 2025 AGM. For this period I have continued to serve as Admissions Committee Chair, and Alison Lewis and Jessi Casebeer have continued as Vice Chairs.

There are currently 40 members on the Committee. Thanks to Committee members as well as the team at the Law Society for all the time needed to keep Committee running.

## **Committee Activity**

In addition to the routine business of the Admissions Committee in reviewing admissions applications and grading bar admissions exams, the Committee has worked on a number of projects. The member statistics for the 2025-26 membership year are attached.

## Admissions Exam

As noted in the 2025 report, the Admissions Committee has been directed to undertake a review of the requirement for and the format of the admissions exam. A subcommittee made up of four members (Alison Lewis, Chair, Sarah Arngna'naqq, Rohan Brown and Andrew Fox) has commenced this review and has made a recommendation to the Law Society Executive that the current bar admissions exam should be abolished and replaced with a mandatory CPD program which covers materials unique to the practice of law in the Northwest Territories. Until such program is developed, the current exam would remain in place.

The subcommittee has proposed the establishment of a Task Force to consider the content and format of the new program and has requested guidance from the Executive as to the funding that may be available to develop such a program.

## Student-at-Law Education Plan

As noted in the 2025 report, the Admissions Committee recommended to the Executive changes to the Student-at-Law Education Plan to allow flexibility in identifying practice areas that the student-at-law will experience under the direct supervision of a principal. These changes were approved and the [updated and reformatted form](#) is now in use.

## Application Memorandum

The Executive Director initiated adjustments to the Application Memorandum for regular membership to clarify common issues with application materials (specifically, deficiencies in the provision of notarized copies of identification) and to improve on wording. The Executive Director engaged with the Committee Executive to finalize the [updated memorandum](#), which is now in use.

## Rules Alignment for Implementation of New *Legal Profession Act*

To facilitate implementation of the new *Legal Profession Act*, the Law Society has engaged Conway Litigation to review the existing Rules and identify required or recommended amendments to them. The Admissions Committee has been asked by the Chair of the Rules Committee to review and comment on those identified recommendations relating to admissions matters. Jill Andrews and I make up the subcommittee reviewing the materials, which work is underway.

## Membership Statistics\*

The membership statistics below reflect the **April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026** membership period and include comparative figures for the April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 period.

| <b>MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY</b>                  | <b>2025/2026</b> | <b>2024/2025</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Full Applications Reviewed                  | 76               | 88               |
| Student-at-law Applications Reviewed        | 4                | 4                |
| Examinations Reviewed                       | 6                | 4                |
| Restricted Appearance Certificates Reviewed | 67               | 73               |
| Status Changed (Active to Inactive)         | 20               | 29               |
| Status Changed (Inactive to Active)         | 8                | 9                |
| Administrative Suspensions                  | 21               | 17               |
| Reinstatements                              | 11               | 7                |
| Judicial Appointments                       | 0                | 5                |
| Resignations                                | 15               | 28               |
| Deaths                                      | 3                | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>                     |                  |                  |
| Active Residents (insured)                  | 52               | 65               |
| Active Residents (uninsured)                | 99               | 87               |
| <b>Total Active Resident</b>                | <b>151</b>       | <b>152</b>       |
| Active Non-Resident                         | 395              | 377              |
| <b>Total Active</b>                         | <b>546</b>       | <b>529</b>       |
| Inactive Resident                           | 13               | 15               |
| Inactive Non-Resident                       | 96               | 84               |
| Open Restricted Appearance Certificates     | 140              | 131              |
| Suspended                                   | 43               | 33               |

**Note:** Effective this reporting year, membership statistics are presented based on the Law Society's April 1 to March 31 membership year rather than the previous November 1 to October 31 reporting cycle.

## Continuing Professional Development Committee

Blair MacPherson

The CPD Committee is on track to fulfill its mandate in 2026. The core goal of the CPD Committee is to provide or make available at least twelve hours of continuing professional development. A total of 14.5 hours of CPD programs are expected to be provided or made available at no cost. An additional 11 hours of CPD will be provided in the context of the Bench and Bar Learning Event. There is a fee associated with this event.

| <b>Date</b>               | <b>Topic and presenter(s)</b>                                                                                                             | <b>Hours</b>                    |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 26-01-2026                | Property Registries—Land Titles (Brian Asmundson)                                                                                         | 1.5                             |
| 03-03-2026                | Mindfulness for Busy Lawyers (Paul Falvo)                                                                                                 | 1                               |
| 27-03-2026                | Contract Law Update (Lisa Peters, Catherine Whitehead)                                                                                    | 1.5                             |
| 28-05-2026                | Justice Navigator Pilot Program (Cait Ross, Matt Haughian)                                                                                | 1.5                             |
| 28-05-2026                | Challenging and Discharging Jurors (Brendan Green)                                                                                        | 1.5                             |
| <i>Still to come</i>      |                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| 11-06-2026                | Professionalism on Trial: The Rise of Incivility in Law (Craig Boyer)                                                                     | 1 (ethics)                      |
| 11-06-2026                | Trust Accounting 101 (Frederica Wilson)                                                                                                   | 1.5                             |
| 17-06-2026                | Anti-Money Laundering for Lawyers (Frederica Wilson)                                                                                      | 1.5                             |
| 18-06-2026                | Encampment Law (Peter Adourian)                                                                                                           | 1 (ethics)                      |
| 24-06-2026;<br>25-06-2026 | Bench and Bar Learning Event: Trauma and Reconciliation<br>(various presenters)<br><br><i>(There is a fee associated with this event)</i> | 11<br>(including<br>, 4 ethics) |
| 29-07-2026                | Examination of Bill C-14 (Charles Davison, Morgan Fane)                                                                                   | 1                               |
| 15-10-2026                | Fitness to Stand Trial (Hon. Justice Richard Schneider)                                                                                   | 1.5                             |

# Discipline Committee

Billi Wun

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Discipline Committee 2026 for your consideration at the Annual General Meeting. This report includes a brief overview of the mandate of the committee together with a summary of the main activities of the committee over the course of the past year. I have also included additional information on discipline trends and future recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the membership and the profession. The Law Society and the administration of justice continue to benefit from the generous contributions of members and I am grateful to all those who have volunteered their time towards the work of the Discipline Committee.

## **Mandate**

In accordance with the *Legal Profession Act*, the Rules and the policies of the Law Society, the Discipline Committee is appointed by the Executive to administer the disciplinary regime of the legal profession. The Discipline Committee (“the Committee”) receives complaints, conducts investigations, provides advice and direction to members and adjudicates allegations of unprofessional conduct. If found guilty, a member may be disciplined in accordance with the legislation.

The Committee is led by its Chairperson who is assisted by one or more vice-chairpersons. To ensure the independence of the Committee from the Executive and other branches of the Law Society, the Discipline Committee operates at arm’s length from the Executive and typically communicates through the Executive Director who is our staff liaison. Under the Rules, the Committee may engage independent legal counsel. For accountability, the Discipline Committee provides regular reports to the Executive through its Chairperson.

If a complaint is referred to adjudication, the Chairperson may appoint a Sole Inquirer or Committee of Inquiry to hear and decide the complaint. Any matter that is referred to adjudication is public unless the panel hearing the matter orders otherwise. Prior to the referral to adjudication, the discipline process is typically confidential subject to limited exceptions.

The Chairperson may delegate any power or duty to a vice-chairperson.

## **Discipline Files 2025 – 2026**

In 2025 – 2026, the Law Society received or initiated 16 new complaints and carried forward 8 complaints from prior years. In the same time period, the Committee resolved and closed 14 files. These closed complaints were either dismissed after investigation or dismissed without investigation because the alleged conduct, if proven, would not amount to unprofessional conduct. In addition to formal complaints, the Chairperson also

responded to several informal inquiries about members' conduct and, in some cases, took administrative action. The Chairperson continues to monitor the conduct of select members and will initiate appropriate regulatory action if necessary.

Out of the active files, three have been referred to a Committee of Inquiry and two are before a Sole Inquirer. The other active matters are either under investigation or engaging in a mediation process.

### **Committee Updates**

This year, the Executive Director, Jeff Round, attended the annual Discipline Administrators' Conference in Winnipeg. While I would have liked to attend, unfortunately, I had conflicting commitments. The Conference included sessions covering the impacts of emerging technologies, including AI, incorporation of restorative practices and Indigenous perspectives and right-touch regulation (referring to the level of regulation to effect the desired governance outcomes as opposed to under- or over-regulation), and self-guided pathways for complainants. Through the discussion amongst jurisdictions it was clear that the LSNT enjoys a modest number of complaints and disciplinary matters as compared to larger jurisdiction; however, still bears all of the same responsibility which largely rests with the volunteer committee. Additionally, there was discussion of reviving efforts to document the barriers to sharing discipline information between jurisdictions and a working group will be stood up.

As many may already know, the Law Society is undergoing an extensive Rules rewrite to modernize our regulatory processes and bring the new amendments to the *Legal Profession Act* into force. As part of this work, the Rules concerning discipline will have significant changes to align with the new discipline regime under the amended *Legal Profession Act*. In addition to separating the Discipline Committee into two independent bodies – the Complaints Investigation Committee and the Adjudication Committee, the new legislative amendments also provide for internal review mechanisms, summary discipline, the imposition of interim measures and expanded use of alternative dispute resolution processes, amongst other changes. These amendments are aimed at allowing greater flexibility and more robust regulatory processes in terms of how the Law Society handles issues arising from lawyers' conduct or practice. The Discipline Committee has been working diligently with the Rules Committee and external counsel to put forward recommendations for the Executive's consideration.

One area of particular interest to the Law Society is the use of practice management or conduct review mechanisms short of formal discipline. Other law societies have resources and policies in place to informally refer a lawyer's practice or conduct concerns to professional review and assistance without engaging the more punitive disciplinary process. This is an important method of regulating lawyers' practice and conduct in the public interest and generally encourages greater compliance and cooperation from members than a disciplinary hearing. The LSNT is in initial discussions with other law societies about the use of their practice advisors and how we can incorporate those

resources to benefit the LSNT membership. Further updates are expected once those discussions mature.

An area of continuing concern is the sharing of information. As a small jurisdiction with a large proportion of non-resident members, our Law Society faces challenges when members conduct business in the Northwest Territories while maintaining their primary practice and trust accounts elsewhere. As each Law Society is provincially regulated, there lacks a formal mechanism to share information about members who may conduct business or hold membership in multiple jurisdictions. This leads to gaps in regulation and difficulty applying disciplinary action. The LSNT is interested in pursuing Memorandums of Understanding with other law societies to promote and allow the sharing of information in respect of multi-jurisdictional members.

### **Recommendations**

The LSNT is expected to pass new Rules in 2026 to bring the new provisions of the *Legal Profession Act* into force. I urge the Executive and the membership to move forward with this issue with haste. The legislative amendments are crucial to ensuring that the LSNT has a modern disciplinary framework that can respond to evolving trends in the legal profession.

As discussed above, the lack of information sharing amongst Law Societies and the inability to regulate trust accounts outside of the Northwest Territories remains an important challenge for the LSNT. I would recommend that the Executive take appropriate action to explore avenues of cooperation with other Law Societies to ensure that the LSNT is able to regulate the profession with the most accurate information. It would also be appropriate to consider whether there should be changes to the Rules or local practice with respect to out-of-territory trust funds. Other Law Societies including Nunavut have developed certain ways of addressing this issue. It may be prudent for the LSNT to consider the same.

Lastly, it is recommended that the LSNT enact policies and procedures to allow for informal practice and conduct management reviews before members are referred to formal discipline. This will bring the LSNT in line with other law societies and allow for greater flexibility in how we regulate the profession in the public interest.

### **Acknowledgement**

The Discipline Committee is a volunteer group of lawyers and lay members who dedicate their time and effort to the governance of the profession. The public and the legal profession are well served by the generous contributions of these volunteers. I am grateful for their service and could not discharge my mandate under the legislation and Rules without their constant advice, diligence and professionalism.

# Insurance Committee

Jonathon Wescott

The Insurance Committee is formally created and appointed by the Executive of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, as authorized under Rule 31(d). The Committee's purpose is to "supervise and investigate all aspects of insurance for the Society, and to report and make recommendations to the Executive on matters of insurance".

Again this term, there are no resident insured members of the LSNT on the Insurance Committee. In recognition of the importance of insurance to resident insured members, it is strongly encouraged that resident insured members participate on this Committee. Current Committee members have expressed the importance of maintaining and developing a continued relationship with the resident community. Resident insured members should reach out to the Committee Chair if interested in contributing to the Committee's activities.

Activities over the past reporting period included:

- 1) Review and recommendation to the LSNT Executive that it vote in favour of a proposed change to the administration of the Mandatory Cyber Insurance Program administered by CLIA, which essentially allows CLIA to underwrite and administer this program in-house, as opposed to the status quo, which was through a third-party underwriter.
- 2) The Committee continued its exploration and understanding of the CLIA-related mandate, policies, procedures, and exclusions, and attended an update presentation from CLIA.
- 3) In August 2025, the Executive of the LSNT requested that each committee review and amend its mandates as a result of the disbanding of the Reconciliation of the Law Society Committee in March of last year.

It was recommended to the Executive that the Responsibility Statement in the Committee's mandate be updated as follows:

To review and provide recommendations on the Society's professional liability insurance program and related services such that they are structured and administered in a manner consistent with the relevant Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, with a focus on ensuring the program does not reinforce or create systemic barriers to Indigenous peoples' ability to access or exercise coverage or obtain the public protections the program is designed to provide.

The Law Society of the Northwest Territories and its members are insured through the Canadian Lawyers' Insurance Association. CLIA is a reciprocal insurance association, where the subscribing member law societies pool their risks and claims together to allow the member societies to effectively self-fund their insurance. CLIA has a board of directors overseeing the management of the association, and the subscribers of CLIA meet annually regarding the terms of the reciprocal agreement.

CLIA, in addition to providing mandatory insurance, also provides Voluntary Excess Insurance – coverage in excess of the mandatory insurance coverage. This coverage, which is provided at competitive rates, appears to be currently underutilized by firms in the NWT. This is one area that the Committee continues to investigate. CLIA also provides cyber insurance coverage. This is included as part of the mandatory insurance provided to all insured members.

In recent years, changes were made to the CLIA policy, to allow for members who were not otherwise insured to be insured for pro bono projects, provided that those projects are approved by the Law Society.

The Insurance Committee continues to have the Executive Director attend the CLIA AGM in order to remain informed of any changes that should be referred to the Committee or the Executive. I am also pleased to report that there has never been a claim under the voluntary excess insurance, cyber insurance, or directors' liability insurance.

***Finally, an annual reminder that as a claims-made policy, if you become aware of an error, a claim, or any circumstance that could reasonably lead to a claim, it must be submitted before the current policy expires on **June 30**. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a **denial of coverage** for that claim.***

I would like to thank the members of the Insurance Committee and Executive Director, Jeff Round, for his work with this Committee.

# Legal Ethics and Practice Committee

Jonathon Wescott and Brian Filips

The Legal Ethics and Practice Committee is formally created and appointed by the Executive of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, as authorized under Rule 31(1)(c). The Committee's purpose is to protect the public interest by ensuring practising lawyers maintain high ethical standards while preventing unlicensed operators from providing legal services.

The Committee met briefly this year, of interest was the appointment of the new Committee co-chairs and the following business:

- 1) In August 2025, the Executive of the LSNT requested that each committee review and amend its mandate as a result of the disbanding of the Reconciliation of the Law Society Committee in March of last year.

As a result, the Committee proposed and recommended the adoption of language additions under the "responsibilities" section of its mandate.

- 2) Model Code consultation on the duty to report closed in December or January, including some commentary concerns about the duty to self-report. These comments were forwarded to the Federation of Law Societies Model Code Committee.
- 3) Unauthorized practice reports come to the LEAP Committee Chair(s). These are typically resolved by letter requesting membership or a restricted appearance. There have been no cases reported since early 2025. The LSNT is not a participant in the National Mobility Agreement (NMA) and the Territorial Mobility Agreement does not recognize the temporary mobility provisions of the NMA. Therefore, any person looking to practise in the Northwest Territories for a temporary or indefinite period is recommended to contact the LSNT for more information.

## Rules Committee

Glen Rutland

As previously reported, the focus of the Rules Committee at this time is developing a new comprehensive set of rules based on the new Legal Profession Act, adopted during the 19th Legislative Assembly.

With the substantial changes made to our processes by the new Act, a full review of the rules is well underway. Conway LLP has completed its review of five of seven main areas of the Rules and Act. The Admissions Committee and the Discipline Committee have been engaged on key decision points and recommendations in their areas, and the Rules Committee is now reviewing their comments to prepare final recommendations to the Executive for approval.

As noted in last year's report, the Rules Committee will only bring forward substantive amendments that are necessary, pending the new set of Rules.

Thank you to all the members of the Rules Committee. They are taking on a large amount of work over the next several months and I am grateful for their continued contributions.

# Social Committee

Sukham Dhindsa

The Social Committee is currently seeking a new Chair to lead the team, as the current leadership wishes to step down from their roles. Interest has been informally gauged amongst the committee and membership; however, no member has expressed an interest in taking on the position at this time. In the absence of new leadership or increased participation, the Committee may become defunct.

In Fall 2025, the Committee modified its mandate to better align with membership interests and engagement.

The Committee also attempted to organize a Christmas event in Winter 2025, however, due to very limited registration and additional factors outside of the Committee's control relating to catering and logistics, the event was ultimately cancelled.

More broadly, membership engagement in both planning and attending social events has remained low.

At this time, no additional social events are planned prior to the upcoming BBQ scheduled for June 24, 2026, following the Reconciliation and Trauma: A Bench and Bar Learning Event. The BBQ will be held at the Fred Henne Kitchen Shelters 1 and 3, located near the Fred Henne Boat Launch. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Details have already been circulated to membership by email blast.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the BBQ and for a new chair to take the reigns of this important and fun committee.

# Remote and Rural Wills and Estates Outreach Project

Pamela Naylor

The Committee for this project currently consists of:

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thomas Wallwork | Gillian Bourke                      |
| Laura Faryna    | Pamela Naylor – Project Coordinator |
| Erin George     | Keelen Simpson – Executive Liaison  |

Our project is into its 4th successful year, and since its inception early in 2023, we have provided wills, powers of attorney and personal directives to over 130 people in seven remote communities around the Northwest Territories.

We have secured funding once again this year from CIRNAC (Crown Indigenous Relations – Northern Affairs Canada) through its Estates Management Program. This funding will take us to the end of March 2027. Although the Committee is happy with the positive response and success over the years, the Law Society Executive has decided to terminate the Law Society’s involvement in this project at the end of March 2027, and it is hoped the project will be transferred to a competent successor starting in April of 2027.

A Request for Expression of Interest in search of a wills and estates lawyer for the current year was circulated in April, and the Executive is about to award the contract to a successful applicant.

We plan to send that lawyer to at least two communities this year for the preparation of wills and incapacity planning documents for residents, as well as conduct the virtual Estates Administration presentation in order to assist people in the communities dealing the estate of a relative.

This project has brought to light the need for wills and estate assistance for Indigenous communities. It has started residents talking about how they want their assets distributed upon their death and expanded their knowledge base in order to make informed decisions. Our hope is that this project will continue to grow, and lawyers will be motivated to provide the appropriate services to communities in need.

## **Legal Aid Commission of the Northwest Territories**

Tracy Bock, Executive Director

It is a pleasure to present the annual Legal Aid Commission report to the Law Society of the Northwest Territories.

Legal Aid is the heart of our justice system. Legal Aid provides hope! Legal Aid makes a difference! From our comprehensive coverage to our generous eligibility NWT Legal Aid remains one of the best providers of public legal representation in Canada.

Our staff remain deeply dedicated to serving the people of the NWT. Every day I see examples of our dedicated team of lawyers, court workers, and administrative staff going above and beyond to help people. Simply put: Legal Aid cares, and everyday we make a difference for our clients!

Legal Aid continues to be appreciative of the support and good working relationship with the Department of Justice. We also work closely with the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, especially on Access to Justice and Public Legal Education initiatives.

In short, Legal Aid is a vital part of a fair and functional justice system, ensuring that people can have their voices heard, rights protected, and legal matters addressed with dignity. Our staff and lawyers are committed to delivering timely, high-quality, professional legal services to the people who need these most, often during the most difficult times of their lives.

At times, we face great challenges in our efforts, particularly in the areas of recruitment, scheduling and capacity. With compassion, innovation, and cooperation we have, and will continue to overcome those challenges.

We always strive to do better. Legal Aid is always open to receive feedback on how we can best serve the residents of the Northwest Territories.

## **FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA (FLSC), 2025**

### **Margo Nightingale (Council Member for the Northwest Territories)**

I was appointed as the Northwest Territories Council Member to the FLSC of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) in November 2025. As a result, portions of this report are based on information from prior reports, Council materials, and publicly available FLSC resources.

#### **Role of the FLSC**

The FLSC is the national association of Canada's 14 law societies. The NWT is represented by a Council Member, the President of the Law Society, and the LSNT Executive Director. Through Council participation, the LSNT contributes to national policy development, regulatory initiatives, and governance discussions affecting the legal profession.

The FLSC works with the law societies to develop and harmonize rules of conduct and standards for the profession, undertake national legal initiatives, and share information to ensure law societies are up to date on important trends and issues. The FLSC is also the national and international voice of the law societies on the regulation and core values of the legal profession.

In 2025, the FLSC held two national conferences attended by LSNT representatives. The fall meeting focused on the rule of law and a governance review of the FLSC.

#### **1. Financial and Strategic Implications**

The FLSC continues to provide services and expertise that benefit from a national approach or that would be difficult and costly for the LSNT to undertake independently. These include:

- development and maintenance of the Model Code of Professional Conduct;
- accreditation of internationally trained lawyers;
- approval and review of Canadian law school programs;
- anti-money laundering compliance resources;
- national continuing legal education initiatives;
- national advocacy and constitutional litigation; and
- operation of CanLII.

This work allows the LSNT to have meaningful participation in these national initiatives while sharing costs, expertise, and resources with larger jurisdictions. This collaborative approach helps ensure that the interests and perspectives of the NWT are represented in national discussions.

## **2. Regulatory Developments**

### **National Committee on Accreditation (NCA)**

The NCA assesses whether internationally trained lawyers have the knowledge, competencies equivalent to graduates of approved Canadian common law programs.

One of the most significant developments in 2025 was Council's approval of a new assessment framework arising from the NCA Assessment Modernization Project. This framework was intended to ensure demonstrated knowledge of Indigenous legal orders, domestic and international laws related to Indigenous people, cultures and the realities of residential school, as well as competencies in English or French that are required for practice in Canada.

Responsibility for implementation has now shifted to NCA staff, who will develop, pilot, and implement new assessment tools in collaboration with various stakeholders.

### **Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing**

Anti-money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/TF) regulation remains a strategic priority for the FLSC.

In 2025, the FLSC participated in Canada's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual evaluation process, which examined the effectiveness of Canada's AML/TF framework and the legal profession's regulatory response to money laundering risks. The evaluation included technical reviews, effectiveness assessments, and an on-site evaluation completed in November 2025.

A final FATF report is expected in 2026 and may influence future regulatory expectations for law societies and legal practitioners across Canada.

The FLSC also continued to update educational resources, including enhancements to its online AML/TF training program and related compliance tools.

## **3. National Litigation and Advocacy**

### **Special Litigation**

The FLSC continues to challenge amendments to the *Income Tax Act* enacted in 2023 that may affect lawyers' professional obligations, particularly duties relating to confidentiality and loyalty to clients.

An injunction granted in November 2023 suspended the operation of the challenged provisions pending determination of the constitutional issues. The litigation remained largely dormant in 2025 while awaiting a response from the Attorney General of Canada.

The Canadian Bar Association has been granted intervenor status.

This litigation is funded through a separate levy from regular FLSC operation costs, using the same cost sharing formula.

### **Access to Legal Services**

The FLSC supports law societies' activities in access to legal services through participation in two committees: the Action Committee on Access to Justice ("ACAJ", formerly "NAC") and the Law Societies' Access to Legal Services Exchange Group ("Exchange Group"). The Steering Committee is an external committee chaired by Supreme court of Canada Justice Karakatsanis. In 2025, the Justice participated in a series of "Listening Tours" that allowed cross-country input on relevant issues from across the country. The NWT will participate in September, 2026.

### **Rule of Law Initiatives**

The FLSC continued to support advocacy and public education efforts concerning the rule of law that was led by the Law Society of Manitoba. This initiative addresses the importance of various democratic norms and institutions.

## **4. Governance**

In fall 2025, Council began a comprehensive review of the FLSC's governance structure. The review is intended to ensure that the FLSC's governance model remains effective and responsive to the needs of member law societies.

## **5. Professional Wellness and Reconciliation**

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Following a national conference on lawyer well-being, the FLSC's Standing Committee on Mental Health and Wellness partnered with Université de Sherbrooke on a national study of legal professionals. The project received support from law societies across Canada and the CBA. FLSC Council reviewed and adopted the Committee's report in December 2025 and directed the Committee to develop a workplan and timeline.

## **Truth and Reconciliation**

The FLSC identified reconciliation as an ongoing strategic priority and marked the tenth anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report by highlighting initiatives directed toward implementation of relevant Calls to Action.

The FLSC continued its collaborative work with Canadian law schools, regulators, and Indigenous stakeholders to strengthen Indigenous legal education, cultural competency, and reconciliation within the profession.

The Indigenous Advisory Council, established in 2022, continues to provide advice to the FLSC Council and met regularly throughout 2025.

## **6. Technology**

### **CanLii**

The Federation takes an active role in overseeing the work of the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII), which provides free public access to Canadian legislation and case law.

In 2025, CanLII developed an AI-assisted search tool scheduled for public release in 2026. The initiative is intended to improve access to legal information and enhance search functionality for its users. The development and maintenance of CanLII continue to be funded through a separate levy from regular FLSC operation costs.

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LAW FOUNDATION**  
*43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT*  
*FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2025*



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LAW FOUNDATION**

## PURPOSE

The Northwest Territories Law Foundation was established pursuant to Part VII of the *Legal Profession Act* for the purpose of receiving the interest which banks must pay on client funds held by lawyers in mixed trust accounts. It operates in a similar manner to law foundations established in other provinces and territories

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Law Foundation are to use the funds collected to provide funding in the following areas:

- conducting research into and recommending reform of the law and the administration of justice;
- establishing, maintaining and operating law libraries;
- contributing to the legal education and knowledge of members and the people of the Northwest Territories and providing programs and facilities for that purpose;
- providing assistance to legal aid programs and programs of a similar nature;
- contributing to the Assurance Fund; and
- to do all other things that are, in the opinion of the board, incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects.



## ADMINISTRATION

The affairs of the Foundation are conducted by a Board of Directors comprised of five members, four being members of the Law Society and appointed by the Executive of the Law Society and one who is not a member of the Law Society and is appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. The Directors serve for a term of two years. The Foundation is presently without an appointee made by the Commissioner.

The Directors meet as required to deal with the general administration of the Foundation, and to decide on policy matters including policy for the collection and investment of funds. A “grant meeting” is held once a year to consider requests for funding for that fiscal year.

## BOARD AND MANAGEMENT 2024 - 2025

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| CHAIRPERSON: | MORGAN FANE      |
| DIRECTOR:    | LARRY INNES      |
| DIRECTOR:    | NICOLA LANGILLE* |
| DIRECTOR:    | MATTHEW YAP      |

*\*Resigned August 1, 2024*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Northwest Territories Law Foundation Graeme Garson Bursary Fund is available to assist law students in pursuing their legal studies and to encourage Northwest Territories graduates of law school to return to work in the territory after their law studies. Qualified applicants are eligible for a non-repayable award of \$2,000 for three years while attending law school. When the student secures an articling position in the Northwest Territories, and if they continue to work in the area of law in the Northwest Territories for an additional year after articles, the Fund will assist them for two years at \$7,000 per year, for an overall commitment of up to \$20,000 per student.

Scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year were awarded to;

Annalise Couturier  
Carter Stirling

Grants for graduates starting practice in the Northwest Territories were awarded to:

Cassidy Menard  
Paulina Ross  
James Thomas  
Liam Wilford

# GRANTS

## **CANLII ANNUAL LEVY**

CanLii makes case law and statutes available to all Canadians over the internet, at [canlii.org](http://canlii.org). The Canlii program is entirely funded by assessments on lawyers, and the Foundation paid a portion of that assessment so that the access to legal resources can continue to be maintained.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LAW FOUNDATION

June 10, 2026

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

To: The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, and  
The Executive, Law Society of the Northwest Territories

On behalf of the board of Directors of the Law Foundation of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to submit our 43<sup>rd</sup> annual report, for the year ending June 30, 2025 as per the *Legal Profession Act*.

The Law Foundation is one of the key features of the Northwest Territories legal profession's self-governing structure. It demonstrates the legal profession's commitment to help fund programs and services that contribute to the legal knowledge of people in the Northwest Territories.

The Foundation receives its chief source of revenue from the interest earned on lawyers' trust accounts. The trust accounts are accounts held by lawyers for their clients. The interest on those accounts is deposited to the Law Foundation. The Foundation has a reserve fund that also generates interest revenue which is used to supplement the Foundation's income when interest rates on trust accounts are low.

This year the Foundation provided scholarships to two law students with ties to the Northwest Territories and bursaries to four graduates starting their practice here.

The Foundation retained Lisa DeVlieger on a support services contract and looks forward to working with Lisa to modernize its grant application processes and revitalize its relationship with the financial institutions that remit trust account interest to the Foundation.

The Foundation also explored ways to disburse funds provided by the BC Law Foundation pursuant to a national class action *cy-près* award.

Respectfully submitted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026



Morgan Fane

Chairperson

Motion Number: 7

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
- 2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Seconder.
- 3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
- 4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To extend the terms of the current elected Executive members by 6 months to realign Executive terms with future June annual general meetings, thereby extending the terms as follows:

Sandra Mackenzie to June 2027,

Alex Godfrey and Sukhmanpreet Dhindsa to June 2028, and

Keelen Simpson and Brad Patzer to June 2029.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Seconder

Motion Number: 8

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Ensure that motions are legible, clear and concise.
2. Motion sheet must be signed by the Mover and the Secunder.
3. Amendments must be made on a separate Motion Sheet.
4. Motion Sheets must be returned to the Executive Director once voting is complete.

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secinded by: \_\_\_\_\_

To adjourn the meeting.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mover

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secunder