

Law Society of Yukon  
ANNUAL REPORT  
December 31, 2020

*#304 – 104 Elliott Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 0M2*

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Financial Statements  
Year Ended December 31, 2020

## 2020 EXECUTIVE

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President:	Mark E. Wallace
Past-President:	James R. Tucker
Vice-President:	Marlaine Anderson-Lindsay
Secretary:	Meagan Lang
Treasurer:	Keith Parkkari
Member-at-Large:	Bruce Warnsby
Public Representatives:	Chris Butler Melissa Carlick

# 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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## CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE

As you are aware, there have been significant changes to the executive since we last met. In February of this year, I gave notice of my decision to resign from the president position effective April 7, 2021. I first joined the executive in 2015. In my first three years on the executive, I held the positions of treasurer and secretary. I have had the privilege of being your president for the last three years. As is the custom, I will remain part of the executive as past president.

Meagan Lang was appointed to president by the executive to ensure that the Law Society had knowledgeable leadership and stability until the next general election for president in May 2022. Meagan was first elected in May 2019 when she served as treasurer. Last year she became secretary of the Law Society

Jim Tucker who has sat on the executive since 2010, first as vice-president, then president, and finally, since 2018 as past-president, is no longer on the executive. Jim continues to serve on the Access to Justice Committee.

Keith Parkkari, who has served the Law Society in multiple roles over a number of years, most recently as first vice president-discipline, then treasurer, resigned from this position effective April 7, 2021. Keith will continue in his role as CIC chair, chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Compensation Fund Committee, for which we are grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Law Society, and myself, to thank Jim and Keith for their time and commitment to the Law Society. I am happy that they are both continuing on in their other roles with the Law Society.

## COVID-19

In February 2020 the new *Legal Professions Act 2017* and the Rules of the Law Society came into force. The Law Society has been updating its systems and operations to reflect the changes brought about by the new Act and Rules. The most significant changes are in the areas of discipline and the executive will be adapting its procedures to reflect the Act and Rules.

Within a month following the introduction of the new Act and Rules, Covid-19 impacted the world, the Yukon, and the Law Society. The operations of the office of the Law Society were able to carry on and the office remained open. You may remember that our 2020 AGM was delayed due to Covid-19 until August 2020. The May 2020 Law Society elections were able to proceed as scheduled; meetings and in-person events have either been cancelled or modified and we are all looking forward to a return to

“as normal” as we are going to get. We remain optimistic that we will be holding our Christmas cocktail party in December 2021.

## **RULE AMENDMENTS**

In August 2020 the Law Society approved rule amendments to the client identification and verification rules. These changes are based on the Federation of Law Societies’ model rules which deal with concerns raised internationally as well as by the Federal Government over a perceived concern that Canadian lawyers are a weak link in the money laundering and terrorism financing protections. These rules took effect September 1, 2020.

In August the Law Society put on a CPD to explain these new rules. This CPD remains available on-line. Any members with questions about the rules about anti-money laundering and client identification and verification should contact the Law Society office.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

The executive will be looking at its operations and systems to see where it can improve services and work towards a 3-year strategic plan. It is also looking at creating rules to address limited liability partnerships. Naturally, the Law Society of Yukon, along with all jurisdictions, continue to work on responding to the calls to action set out in the TRC report. To this end, the executive has created the TRC Advisory Committee to provide the executive with recommendations to move forward.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a privilege to act as your president for the last three years.

Mark E. Wallace  
President (Past)

# CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

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Section 8(1) of the *Legal Profession Act, 2017* requires the Society to establish a Credentials Committee consisting of the Executive Director and a member of the Executive at a minimum. Under s.8(2) of the Act, the Executive has discretion to appoint one or more members of the Society to the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee for 2020 was the Executive Director, Linda Doll and Meagan Lang, Secretary.

The Credentials Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving applications for membership and Certificates of Permission to Act.

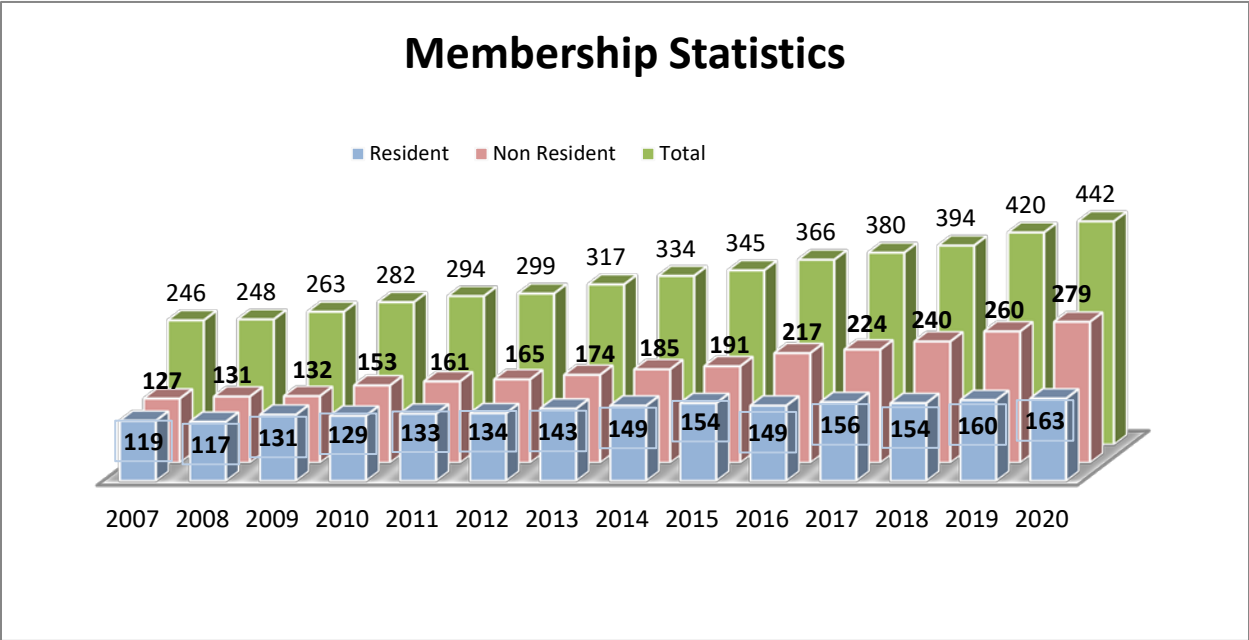
In 2020, the overall membership of the Society as of December 31, 2020 increased to 442, compared to 420 members as of December 31, 2019.

Of the 442 members as of December 31, 2020, 364 were active and seventy-six were non-practising, retired or administratively suspended for failing to pay fees. Eight members resigned their membership in 2020.

## **New Members in 2020**

As of December 31, 2020, the following individuals were admitted to the Law Society of Yukon as active members:

<p><b>Resident</b>            Craig, Renée            Dezan, Alexander            Dragoman, Stephanie            LaPrairie, Sean            Linklater, Erin            MacPhail, Rowan            Malouin, Cynthia            Mauro, Arthur            Nasager, Alexandra            Veinott, Rebecca</p>	<p><b>Students-at-law</b>            Tlen, Helena            Wiens, Ryan</p> <p><b>Non-Resident</b>            Bourgeois, Donald            Bradley, Michelle            Brown, Susan            Cavouras, Gregory            Choi, Carmen            Coady, James            DeGrave, Alana            Dittrich, Geoffrey            Fadden, Lorna            Grover, Steven            Harlingten, Alandra</p>	<p>Howell, Ann            Hughes, Leah            James, Meredith            Jensen, Jeremy            Lewsaw, Jeremy            Macleod, Christopher            Major-Hansford, Jeffrey            Peterkin, Aaron            Rafter, Gregg            Reedman, Cody            Rhaintre, Therin            Rhodes, Brian            Rhone, Christopher            Tate, Shledon            Westmacott, Angela</p>
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**Articling Student**

In 2020, the Law Society of Yukon admitted two articling students:

- Tlen, Helena
- Weins, Ryan

**Change of Status to Active Member from Non-practising**

In 2020, the following members changed their membership from non-practising to active:

- Dezan, Alexander
- Kovac, Naomi
- McRae, Leslie
- Olynyk, John
- Paulus, Journey
- Seiling, Margaret
- Thompson, Jessica

**Change of Status to Non-Practising Member**

In 2020 the following members changed their membership status to non-practising:

- Bougie, Terri, Lynn
- Cherkewich, Teri
- Good, Mathew
- Gutman, Rachel
- Hakim, Christine
- Kirk, Jenna
- Nasager, Alexandra
- Orr, Karen

## Retired Members

In 2020, the following members changed their membership status to retired:

Hoskins, Jeffrey	Slemko, Anthony	Snow, Rodney
MacFadgen, Heather		

## Resignations

In 2020, the following members voluntarily resigned their membership:

DeRijcke, Izaak	Kellgren, Kristjana	Rohani, Sara
Hardwick, Grant	Morgan, Sonya	Williams, Robert
Hough, Maegan	Prud'homme, Hugo	

## Suspensions

In 2020, the following members were suspended for non-payment of fees:

Burchill, Frank	Montrose, Laurel
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## Certificates of Permission to Act in the Yukon

Under s.38(1) of the *Legal Profession Act, 2017*, the Credentials Committee may authorize lawyers licensed to practice law in another province to provide legal services in Yukon as an interjurisdictional practitioner. A Certificate of Permission to Act is limited to a particular matter and expires one year from the date issued unless renewed.

In 2020, sixty-four new Certificates of Permission to Act were issued and sixty-two Certificates were renewed. Comparatively, eighty-one new Certificates were issued in 2019 and twenty were renewed.

The following individuals were granted Certificate(s) of Permission to Act in the Yukon in 2020:

Armstrong, Shelley	Gregory, Rodney	Rai, Jaia
Ashcroft, Stanley	Hall, Jessica	Renouf, Simon
Aytenfisu, Dib	Hill, David	Rhodes, Brian
Bayer, Audra	Holmes, Robert	Roberts, Peter
Boctor, Andera	Holthe, Chase	Sahota, Sonia
Boyer, Craig	Jeffries, Tevia	Sassi, Monique
Bryant, Danielle	Jensen, Jeremy	Semonava, Anastasia
Caliskan, Taylan	Kaneen, Megan	Sigurdson, Elin
Chow, David	Keating, Bernard	St. Germain, Casey
Chu, Lydia	Klassen, Zoe	Staunton, Amelia



Coady, James  
Cunningham, Sandra  
De Vita, Bruno

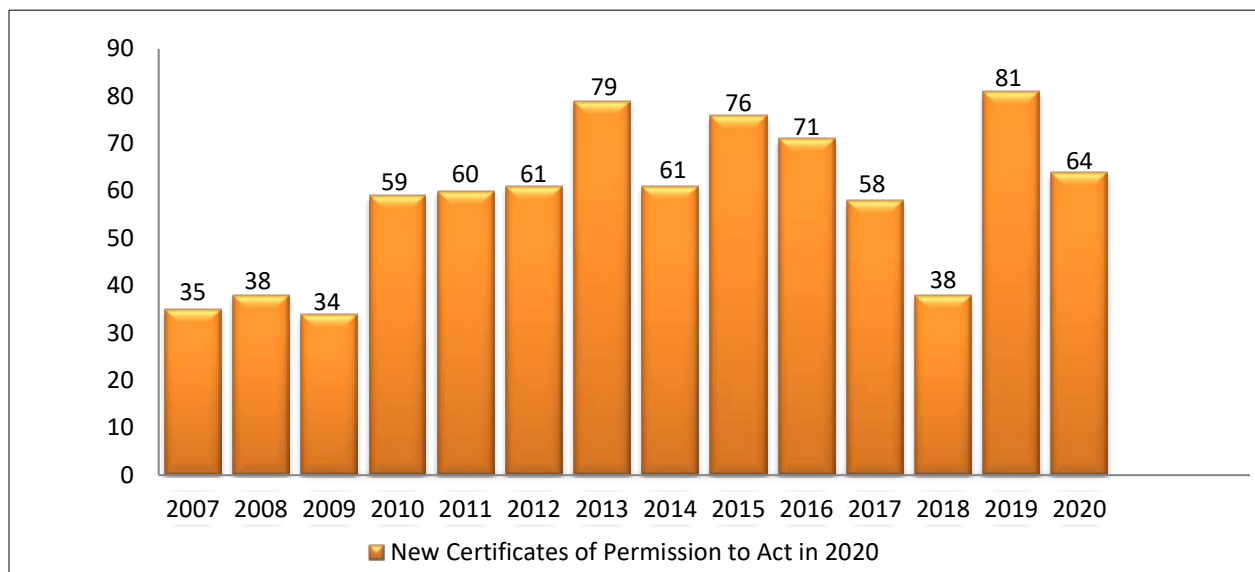
Kolers, Eliot  
MacKenzie, Sandra  
Mackie, Taryn

Suppa, Olivia  
Taylor, Sean  
Taylor-Pickering, Nadine  
(x2)

Delaney, Harvey  
Dieno, Raymond  
Dineley, Luke  
Dunlap, Timothy  
Filips, Brian  
Finn, Forrest  
Fong, Andrew  
Forhan, Meghan

McAllister, Darcy  
McConchie, Rebecca  
McLean, Jana  
Muenz, Richard  
Newbery, Emma  
Piché, Annie  
Purtzki, Eric  
Rafter, Gregg

Tobias, Cheryl  
Van Netten, Jonathan  
Watt, Alexander  
Wehrle, Devin  
Whitten, Heather  
Wolson, Richard  
Yang, Teresa  
Zatlyn, Lawrence



## Website

The name and contact information for all lawyers licensed to practice in Yukon and all lawyers holding a Certificate of Permission to Act are available on our website under "Find a Lawyer".

Because a lawyer may have more than one Certificate of Permission to Act and the matter is not disclosed on the website, the Law Society may be contacted to provide clarification, subject to privacy concerns, on the exact matter for which the lawyer is permitted to act.

Meagan Lang  
Secretary

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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This report is intended to highlight various matters of significance as outlined in the Law Society's financial statements accompanying this report. The Law Society's auditors, Crowe Mackay LLP, have audited the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared using the fund accounting method of reporting. The consolidation of statements provides a Combined Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances, together with a breakdown that includes separate statements for each of the General Fund (day-to-day operations), Liability Insurance Fund and Compensation Fund (formerly called the Special Fund). This allows each fund's management to be viewed in a clearer format, with a more transparent accounting of the day-to-day operating costs of the Society. Budget figures are also included in the General Fund Statement of Operations.

## Financials

Our Combined Statement of Financial Position shows a net assets value of \$5,121,755. This represents an increase of \$145,112. This increase is primarily due to increased revenue for memberships and Certificates of Permission to Act and decreased spending, partially due to the impacts of COVID-19. The securities are recorded at fair market value (FMV), as this is a Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) requirement. Note 4 in the Audited Financial Statement breaks down the cost, as well as the unrealized gain/loss, to give fair market value.

The net asset value of the General Fund is \$1,430,387. This represents an increase of \$7,055 from last year's value. The General Fund Statement of Operations shows a surplus of \$7,055. The surplus represents increased revenues and reduced expenditures as projects were delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 and spending in some areas reduced.

The net asset value of the Liability Insurance Fund is \$881,130. This represents an increase of \$39,391. from last year's value.

The per lawyer rate levied by the Law Society to its insured members for mandatory professional liability coverage is the same rate per lawyer that the Society is charged by CLIA.

In October, 2019, the Executive made adjustments to its financial policy for the Liability Insurance Fund. In 2020, the cost of the Lawyer's Assistance Program was transferred from the Liability Insurance Fund to the General Fund. This reduced expenses and increased the net asset value of the Fund.

The net asset value of the Compensation Fund is \$2,810,238. This represents an increase of \$98,666 from last year. The Compensation Fund is currently invested in marketable securities through RBC Dominion Securities.

As noted at Note 2 of the financial statement, the global outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in governments worldwide enacting emergency measures to combat the spread of the virus. These measures have caused material disruptions to business, governments and other organizations resulting in an economic slowdown and increased volatility. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is unknown.

At this time, as the Financial Statements indicate, the finances of the Law Society continue to be in a state of financial stability. The Executive will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 but does not anticipate any change to its operations.

Keith Parkkari  
Treasurer

# COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

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## Mandate

The Law Society of Yukon is responsible for administering complaints about lawyers who are members of the Law Society.

The Law Society is also responsible for investigating concerns about the unauthorized practice of law in the Yukon.

## Complaint Statistics

This past year the Law Society closed one complaint file that had been opened in 2019. The disposition was a dismissal.

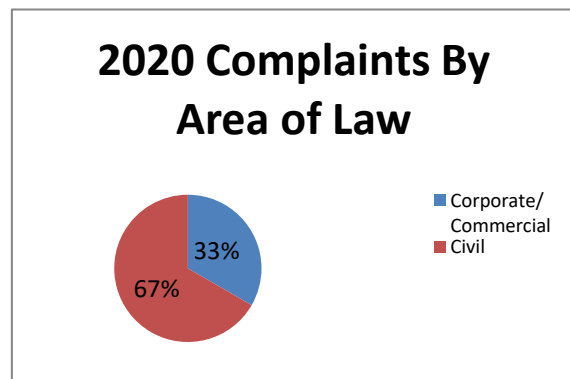
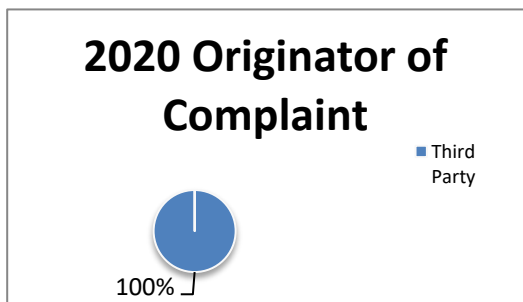
In 2020 we received three new complaints.

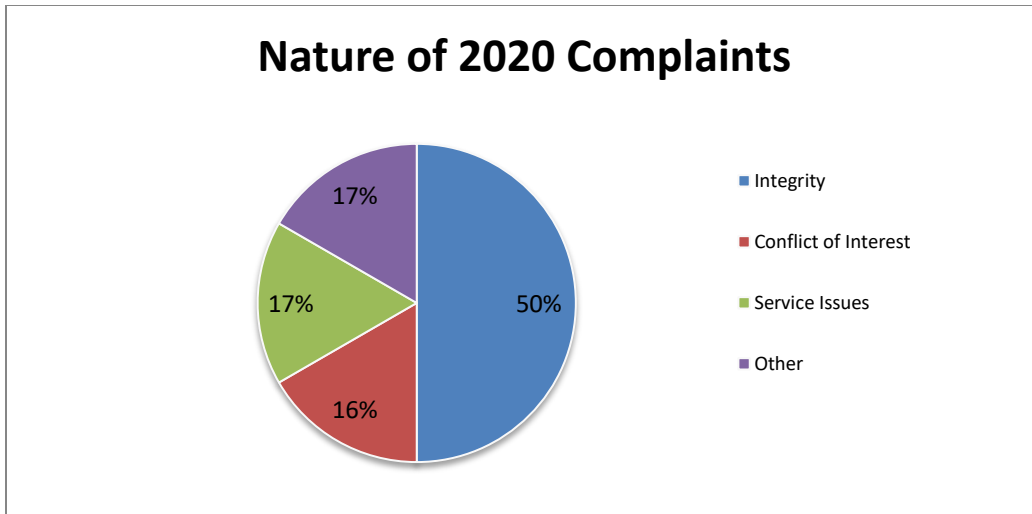
One of these files was closed and two remained open. Of the two complaints that remained open at the end of 2020, decisions were made in early 2021 and both those decisions have been appealed.

The complaint that was closed was summarily dismissed under the *Legal Profession Act, 2017*. It was examined by the Complaints Investigation Committee Chair to determine whether it was dismissible on a limited basis (essentially, does not meet the threshold of a 'complaint'). The act defines "dismissible" as follows:

- is outside the jurisdiction of the Society;
- does not allege facts that, if proven, would amount to conduct unbecoming of a member, professional misconduct or incompetence of the member;
- does not include enough information to allow the processes under the Act to be initiated;
- is frivolous, vexatious or moot; or constitutes an abuse of process

The percentage breakdown of the source of the complaints and their subject matter is set out in the charts below.





## 2020 Committee Members

The Law Society relies heavily on our resident and non-resident members who generously donate their time and expertise to administer complaints.

As I highlighted in last year's report, the *Legal Profession Act, 2017* sets out the requirement for a Complaints Investigation Committee, a Complaint Dismissal Review Committee, a Discipline Committee and a Fitness to Practise Committee. The Minister of Justice has a requirement to appoint non-lawyers to sit on the Complaint Dismissal Review Committee and the Discipline Committee. To populate the statutory committees with members, the Executive has appointed members to a Register of Qualified Members from whom committee appointments will be made on an as-needed basis.

### Complaints Investigation Committee

Keith D. Parkkari, Chair  
 Sharleen Dumont, Vice-Chair

### Complaint Dismissal Review Committee

Kathleen Kinchen, Chair  
 Paula Pasquali, Public Representative  
 Noreen McGowan, Public Representative

### Discipline Committee

Victoria Chan, Public Representative  
 Laura MacFeeters, Public Representative  
 Dan Robinson, Public Representative

## Register of Qualified Members

### Resident Members

Battin, Paul  
Benitah, Alex  
Buchan, Rick  
Cairns, Elaine  
Kinchin, Kathy  
Lamarche, Serge  
Lang, Graham  
Leask, Monica  
McWhinnie, David  
Morris, Lenore  
O'Mara, Heather

### Non-Resident Members

Bennett, Daniel  
Bois, Charles  
Flavin, Tom  
Hoffman, Debbie  
Leas, Daryn  
Martin, David  
Niblock, Scot  
Preston, Michael  
Vilvang, James  
Whittow, Jean

## Concluding Remarks

The administration of complaints and discipline by the Law Society is a necessary function of being a self-governing profession. No matter how competent and professional our members are, there will always be complaints. The members of the various committees under the *Legal Profession Act, 2017* should be commended for their commitment and service to the Law Society and the legal profession.

Keith Parkkari  
Chair, Complaints Investigation Committee Chair

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Continuing Professional Development Committee [CPDC] provides legal educational programs to members of the Law Society. The Committee focuses on programs that will assist members to increase their legal knowledge and practical skills, remain aware of their professional obligations, and provide better client services.

Members consisted of David Christie – Chair, Lauren Whyte – Vice Chair, Bhreagh Dabbs, Mike Reynolds, Leo Lane, Cathy Rasmussen and Amy Steele. In December 2020 David Christie resigned as Chair and stayed on as a member of the committee. Thank you to David for his work in his role as Chair. The CPDC welcomed Bruce Warnsby as Chair in February 2021.

In 2020 the CPDC switched events to a Zoom live-webinar format at no charge to members. This format change was due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. The events are recorded and available to members on the Law Society of Yukon's [website](#) for viewing and CPD credit.

The CPDC offered the following events in 2020:

- Anti-Money Laundering and Client Identification Verification with Frederica Wilson and Chioma Ufodike;
- *Mental Health Act: Overview & Practical Tips* with Jim Tucker, Mike Reynolds and David Christie;
- Applying a Child's Rights Lens: Lessons from the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate with Annette King and Shaunagh Stikeman
- Yukon First Nations 101 presented by Yukon University [not recorded].

The Committee encourages members to bring forward topic ideas for future CPD events.

## COMPENSATION FUND REPORT

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The Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances indicates that revenue in 2020 included member's assessments in the amount of \$29,705 and revenue from investments in the amount of \$62,630 for total revenue in the amount of \$92,335, a decrease of \$885 from 2019.

The Statement of Financial Position prepared by Crowe Mackay LLP indicates the net asset value at December 31, 2020 was \$2,810,238, an increase in value of \$98,666.00 over 2019. The increase in value reflects an excess of revenue over expenditures in the amount of \$63,542, before the loss on sale of investments and unrealized gains on investments are taken into account.

The market value of the investment portfolio, cash and prepaid expenses was \$2,811,622 whereas the market value at the end of 2019 was \$2,712,805.

The funds in the Compensation Fund are invested in marketable securities, principally Canadian GICs. Investment income has been re-invested on a conservative basis.

The Compensation Fund Committee is comprised of Chair, Serge Lamarche and Keith Parkkari.

Serge Lamarche  
Chair, Compensation Fund Committee



# Federation of Law Societies of Canada

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I am pleased to present my third annual report as the Yukon Law Society representative to the Federation of Law Societies.

At the time of my last report, the magnitude of the Covid-19 crisis was just beginning to be appreciated, particularly with respect to the changes in 'how' the business of the Federation would have to be conducted.

Like most, if not all organizations, the various Covid-19 control/suppression requirements have forced almost all the administration, meeting and program delivery activities of the Federation 'on-line'. Large in-person gatherings, such as the well attended National Criminal Law and National Family Law programs have simply proved impossible, and were cancelled both for 2020 and 2021. It is hoped these CLE programs can be resumed next July in Victoria and Whistler, BC, respectively.

All of the Federation Council meetings since my last report have been via tele-conferencing, as was the annual fall conference – which was much reduced in scope.

Even though I was not required to travel to attend these meetings, the advance preparation and material to be reviewed for each meeting is considerable, and I am always grateful for the assistance of Linda Doll and Shannon Kmyta in keeping me 'on track' and prepared.

An early and major change required by the Covid-19 crisis was the way exams are administered for foreign trained lawyers seeking to qualify to practice in Canada. Instead of groups of individuals writing exams together in various venues with a small number of proctors/observers, the entire exam process had to be converted to and administered/supervised on-line, with considerable increases in the cost to the Federation per student exam written.

It will surprise no one that the Federation encountered significant unanticipated and unbudgeted increases in communication technology costs to facilitate working from home and on-line meetings/conferences in addition to the above-mentioned administering of thousands of on-line exams.

In the end however, increased communication and technology costs were partly offset by a large reduction in travel expenditures. Combined with the (effectively) self-financing structure of the examination/accreditation process, the Federation was able to 'hold the line' financially. While there was a modest deficit related primarily to the examination process changes, and the cost charged per student/per exam written will necessarily increase in the coming year, the annual allotments ('dues' paid by the constituent Law Societies to fund Federation activities) will actually decrease slightly this year, by approximately 10 per cent.

It is intended that as the effects of Covid-19 abate, and business travel again becomes possible, a portion of the meetings/business of the Federation will remain permanently 'on-line', and it is anticipated that the reduced allotment level can be maintained for at least a further two years.

### **Ongoing Federation Activities:**

#### Model Code of Conduct

One of the key functions of the Federation is, in a consensus driven process, to develop and promulgate Model Codes of Conduct and Rules for Law Societies across the country.

Further to my last annual report, the process is well underway regarding two proposed *Code of Conduct* amendments – one addressing Chapter 6.3 of the *Code* ('Harassment and Discrimination'), the other to codify the principles governing *ex parte* communications with the Courts. Preliminary consultations have occurred, and detailed analyses are ongoing in light of the responses received. It currently appears we will have proposed final drafts by the coming fall.

#### Lawyer Well Being Study

The national wellbeing study jointly sponsored by the Federation and the Canadian Bar Association is mostly through the planning stages, and it is anticipated the process of surveying individuals will commence this coming summer. Several years ago a similar study of Quebec legal professionals identified troubling issues with respect to mental and physical wellness (including substance abuse concerns), similar to concerns identified with legal professionals in other countries. The ongoing national study should show whether the issues seen in Quebec are congruent with the national situation, and how they impact the proper regulation of Canadian lawyers and notaries.

#### Accreditation / Professional Standards

Accreditation of foreign trained lawyers who wish to practice in Canada continues to be a significant ongoing activity for the Federation. The current Federation initiative to modernize the process is at the stage of more precisely identifying/specifying the measurable competency standards against which foreign trained applicants will be assessed. The National Requirement, which serves essentially the same function for Canadian trained graduates - assessing whether such individuals will/can be presumed to meet the necessary competency standards – was due for periodic review next year. Given the commonality of issues between the two initiatives, it has been decided to start the National Requirement review a year early.

#### Public Advocacy / Case Intervention

When appropriate and necessary the Federation will take a public position or make submissions to legislators or other authorities on matters of general concern to

Canadian law societies. In some instances, the Federation will seek to intervene in court cases, generally at the Supreme Court of Canada level, where matters of particular concern to Canadian law societies are in issue.

The Federation is currently considering seeking leave to intervene in the *Law Society of Saskatchewan v. Abrametz*<sup>1</sup> appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. At issue is whether and to what extent *Charter* based principles inform or limit the time frame for Law Societies to complete disciplinary proceedings addressing alleged member misconduct.

In addition to providing written submissions to, and testimony before the *Cullen Commission* inquiry into BC money laundering, the Federation recently filed a submission to the federal government regarding proposed regulations governing the College of Patent Agents. Inasmuch as a number of Patent Agents are also practising lawyers/notaries, there are concerns about 'duplication' of regulation. More importantly, certain aspects of the regulatory scheme implicate solicitor-client privilege in terms very similar to those declared to be constitutionally deficient by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Lavallee* case.<sup>2</sup>

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission

As anticipated, the report and recommendations from the Federation's TRC Advisory Committee were received last summer. That report included various recommendations, including a set of 'Guiding Principles' which were adopted by the Federation, and was ultimately followed by a formal statement of the Federation's Commitment to Reconciliation, which references those Guiding Principles.

A special meeting of the Federation Council, to address the ways and means of implementing the Commitment and Guiding Principles is scheduled for later this spring.

The Federation's Reconciliation Commitment, and links to final TRC Advisory Committee Report can be found at: <https://flsc.ca/federations-commitment-to-reconciliation/> .

### Further information

Of necessity, reports such as this can but scratch the surface of the ongoing activities and initiatives of the Federation. Their website (<http://www.flsc.ca>) is very user friendly, and contains a great deal of information of interest to practitioners.

David A. McWhinnie  
Federation Council Member for LSY

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1 *Abrametz v Law Society of Saskatchewan*, 2020 SKCA 81 (CanLII)

2 *Lavallee, Rackel & Heintz v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2002 SCC 61 (CanLII)

# MEET WITH A LAWYER PROGRAM

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This is the service operated by the Law Society of Yukon for members of the public. It is to help clients determine if they have a legal problem for which they require the services of a lawyer.

The Law Society Executive wishes to thank those lawyers who have agreed to participate in the Meet with a Lawyer Program. This service is much appreciated by members of the public. If you are not currently listed as accepting certificates and wish to do so, please feel free to contact the Law Society office to make the necessary arrangements.

In 2020 there were 117 certificates issued in the following areas of law:

Aboriginal – 1	Administrative – 4	Civil Litigation – 35
Conveyancing – 3	Corporate/Commercial – 4	Criminal – 13
Debtor/Creditor – 3	Family Law – 14	Labour/Employment – 25
Landlord/Tenant – 3	Personal Injury – 6	
Wills/Estates - 6		

## Guidelines for Meet with a Lawyer Program

- ✓ The client is responsible for contacting the lawyer of his/her choice from a list and making the appointment.
- ✓ When the client makes the appointment, they are to advise the lawyer that they have a certificate to meet with a lawyer from the Law Society and when they attend at the lawyer's office, they are to present the certificate to the lawyer at the beginning of the consultation.
- ✓ The lawyer will provide the client with some basic legal information and advise them whether or not they require a lawyer for their problem.
- ✓ The lawyer is not responsible under the program for doing any legal work or taking any further action on the client's behalf beyond the one half-hour consultation.
- ✓ If the client would like that lawyer to represent them after their meeting and the lawyer agrees to represent the client, the fee and retainer arrangements and instructions will be a private matter between the client and the lawyer.

The cost for the consultation is \$30.00 (inclusive of GST) and is payable directly to the lawyer.

# COMMITTEES

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In 2020 the following people volunteered their time to serve on Law Society Committees or as Law Society of Yukon representatives on the following boards and committees.

## **INTERNAL LAW SOCIETY COMMITTEES**

### **Audit**

Keith Parkkari – Chair  
Meagan Lang

Mark Wallace

### **Access to Justice**

Paul Di Libero – Chair  
Alex Benitah  
Robert Kilpatrick  
Mark Stevens

Eden Alexander – Vice Chair  
Cathy Rasmussen  
Jim Tucker

### **Continuing Professional Development**

David Christie – Chair  
Megan Whittle  
Mike Reynolds  
Cathy Rasmussen

Lauren Whyte – Vice Chair  
Bhreagh Dabbs  
Leo Lane  
Amy Steele

### **Conduct & Competence Committees**

#### **Complaints Investigation Committee**

Keith Parkkari – Chair  
Sharleen Dumont – Vice Chair

#### **Complaint Dismissal Review Committee**

Kathleen Kinchen – Chair  
Paula Pasquali, Public Representative  
Noreen McGowan, Public Representative

#### **Register of Qualified Members – Conduct & Competence**

##### **Resident Members**

Paul Battin  
David McWhinnie  
Rick Buchan

##### **Non-Resident Members**

Jean Whittow  
Daniel Bennett  
Charles Bois

Alex Benitah  
Lenore Morris  
Kathy Kinchen  
Serge Lamarche  
Elaine Cairns  
Heather O'Mara  
Monica Leask

Tom Flavin  
David Martin  
Michael Preston  
Scott Niblock  
Daryn Leas  
Debbie Hoffman

**Discipline Committee** – Appointed by the Minister

Laura MacFeeters                      Victoria Chan                      Dan Robinson

**Credentials Committee**

Marlaine Anderson-Lindsay [January 2020 – June 2020]  
Meagan Lang [June 2020 – present]

**Law Office Searches**

Rick Buchan                              Keith Parkkari

**Lawyers Assistance Program**

Megan Whittle – Chair              Stephen Walsh                      Kathy Kinchen

**Social Committee**

Kevin Gillespie - Chair                                              Joni Ellerton  
Rachel Gutman [resigned Sept. 2020]                              Cathy Rasmussen  
Lauren Whyte                                                              Vida Nelson  
Luke Faught [resigned Sept. 2020]                                      Paul Battin [resigned Sept. 2020]

**Special Fund**

Serge Lamarche, Chair                                              Keith Parkkari

**EXTERNAL LAW SOCIETY APPOINTMENTS**

**Federation of Law Societies of Canada**

Council Member: David McWhinnie

**Judicial Council of the Territorial Court**

Leo Lane

**Federal Judicial Advisory Committee**

Lynn MacDiarmid

**LTO Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

Kim Sova

**Yukon Foundation**

Kevin Gillespie  
Lauren Whyte [resigned April 2020]

**Yukon Law Foundation**

Paul Battin  
Alex Benitah  
Kelly McGill

**Yukon Legal Services Society Board**

Megan Whittle

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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2020 was the fourth year of operations for the Access to Justice Committee (A2JC)

Membership in 2020 consisted of: Paul Di Libero (chair) – Eden Alexander (co-chair); Jim Tucker; Alex Benitah; Mark Stevens; Robert Kilpatrick; and Cathy Rasmussen.

The work of the A2JC is supported by Lynn Pigage.

## **Committee Member Updates**

Cathy Rasmussen has joined the A2J Committee, and is acting as a liaison for the Supreme and Territorial Judges.

Former Justice Robert Kilpatrick also joined the Committee in early 2020, and has been instrumental in helping us move forward with work on the Community Visits Report. Robert has taken over Jim Tucker's role as the Yukon's National Access to Justice Committee on Civil and Family Matters representative.

## **Access to Justice Initiatives Fund**

The A2JC created a \$5,000 pilot fund with support from the Executive and invited Yukoners to apply for all or a portion of the funding with a project proposal that would improve access to justice in the Territory. Eden Alexander spearheaded the initiative, and marketed the fund's public invitation for application initiatives across the Territory in print (poster and bookmark advertising), on CBC radio, and through email with key contacts and distributors (e.g., Yukon Public Libraries, Community Centres). The application period closed on March 26, 2021, and the Committee received several applications for funding, from different areas in Yukon.

The Committee is currently in the process of reviewing applications that have been submitted, and contacting successful applicants. Notable applications included a proposal for wills and estates workshops in the communities, the production of a civil litigation self-advocacy guide, and training and legislative changes to increase the services that paralegals can offer Yukoners.

## **Community Visits Report Project**

As set out in the research proposal and work plan approved by the Executive, the A2JC continues to work on the "Access to Lawyers in Yukon" pilot report in a series of proposed reports derived from the original 2016 – 2018 Law Society community visits. In order to ensure that the A2JC can continue working on other projects in addition to the Community Visits Report Project, the A2JC has assembled a working group involving some members of the committee, as well as external individuals who are interested in working on the project.



Currently the working group consists of: Jim Tucker, Robert Kilpatrick, Paul Di Libero, Andrea Bailey, Lee Kilpatrick, David McWhinnie, Luke Faught, and Natalie Wing. The working group has met twice, and is ready to contact key organizations in Yukon with a request for data and information related to lawyer availability in Yukon. The hope is to gather data reaching back 5 years from the Yukon Courts, private law firms, the Law Line, Legal Aid, and the Law Society. The working group is reporting to the A2JC for approval as the project progresses, and late fall, early winter of 2021 is set as the target date for a finalized pilot report.

### **Plain Language Signage Initiative**

Mark Stevens has been working with Justice of the Peace Sharman Morrison to develop educational material for electronic display outside of courtroom 5 before and during Wednesday docket court. Content has been created in plain language format, conveying both procedural and substantive information to attendees. The next step in this project is to work with court services to arrange for the addition of a digital television display, and to convert the content into presentation slides. The A2JC is also looking into the possibility of partnering with YPLEA to produce pamphlet materials which contain the same content.

### **Other Work in Progress**

The A2JC has other projects in the pipeline, including a limited scope retainer guide for private practitioners, and an expected presence at future Whitehorse Connects events. We are also gathering information on the Law Library, as an increase in cost of subscriptions to online materials and resources has been brought to our attention.