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NUNAVUMI MALIGALIUQTIT
NUNAVUT LAW FOUNDATION
LA FONDATION DU DROIT DU NUNAVUT

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Inception The Nunavut Law Foundation (the “Foundation”) came into being on or about January 12, 2001 upon the transfer of the Nunavut share of capital assets of the Law Foundation of the Northwest Territories

Authority The Foundation is established by and derives its authority from Part VII of the *Legal Professions Act*, RSNWT 1988, and c. L-2, (the Act”) as amended for Nunavut pursuant to section 76.05 of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada).

Directors Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, the affairs of the Foundation are governed by a Board of Directors composed of four persons appointed by the Law Society of Nunavut (the “Society”) from among its members and one person who is not a member to be appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut. Under the Act, the Directors have the authority to decide all aspects of its governance and are required annually to report on their activities to the Society.

The Directors of the Foundation at December 31, 2015:

Appointed by the Law Society:	Cindy Kieu - Chair (since August 2015), Edmonton Marie Belleau - Director, Iqaluit Thomas Lemon – Director, Toronto Mandy Sammurtok – Director, Rankin Inlet (Past Chair until July 2015)
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Appointed by the Commissioner:	Vacant
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Auditors The auditors of the Foundation are Lester, Landau, Chartered Accountants, Iqaluit.

Contact Persons interested in information about the affairs of the Foundation or about applying for a grant from the Foundation may direct enquires as follows:

Nunavut Law Foundation

P.O. Box 69

Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Attention: Nalini Vaddapalli

Tel: 867-979-2330

Fax: 867-979-2333

e-mail: administrator@nulf.ca

MANDATE

The Nunavut Law Foundation provides grants for the purpose of encouraging and supporting projects and initiatives that generally serve to advance greater awareness of the law and promote greater access to justice in Nunavut.

Pursuant to section 57(2) of the Act, all members of the Society are legally required to maintain an interest bearing trust account in a bank which is to hold monies held in trust for clients related to legal transactions in the Territory and to instruct the bank to remit interest earned on such trust monies to the Foundation. However, since the Foundation was established there have been very few Nunavut practitioners who remitted interest accruing from a trust account. The Foundation is taking steps to ensure members with a trust account in Nunavut are receiving the necessary information and documents to properly set up the transfer of IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Account) revenues.

As a necessary alternative, the Society collects from all of its members a special levy (Trust Account Levy) which currently represents the source of the Foundations revenues. The interest and capital from its fund are used for:

- I. conducting and contributing to research into law reform and improving the administration of justice,
- II. contributing to the establishment, maintenance and operation of law libraries,
- III. contributing to the legal education and knowledge of members and of the people of Nunavut and providing programs and facilities for that purpose,
- IV. awarding bursaries and scholarships for the study of law or related subjects, and
- V. providing assistance to legal aid programs, restorative justice programs and programs of a similar nature.

A) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the Nunavut Law Foundation I am pleased to report that we continue to actively fulfill our mandate in keeping with our guiding principles to advance awareness of the law and promote access to justice in Nunavut through creative partnerships and community involvement.

In 2015, the Foundation awarded grants in the amount of \$43,500; an increase of approximately \$5,000 from the total amount granted in 2014. Although we received only \$34,500 in levies from the Law Society of Nunavut (LSN), the Foundation determined that given the merits of the grant applications deserving of our support, it was appropriate to draw on our revenues carried over from previous years and our reserve fund in order to make up the difference. Currently, our assets total approximately \$286,000.00 in reserve.

The Foundation awarded six **Lucien Ukaliannuk Awards** for Law or Law-Related Studies, which provides awards to students wishing to pursue law-related studies and who qualify on the basis of need and a commitment to Nunavut. Three of the recipients were enrolled in law school; one recipient was a Nunavut-based articling student; one recipient was enrolled in a Masters of Law program; and one recipient was entering her final year in legal studies. All except one recipient were residents of Nunavut at the time of their application. The amounts of the Awards were \$1050, \$2500(2), \$3000 (2), \$3500 (2).

Lucien Ukaliannuk was a respected Inuit Elder, who passed away on September 29, 2007. Prior to his passing, Mr. Ukaliannuk worked as the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Advisor to the Department of Justice in Iqaluit. He had also been the Inuit Law Instructor and Mentor to the first cohort of Akitsiraq Law Students. Mr. Ukaliannuk shared his wisdom with a new generation – a generation committed to fulfilling the promise of Nunavut and to meeting the standards and ideals of the Law Society of Nunavut.

2015 was a remarkable, successful, and busy year for the Foundation. In addition to an unprecedented number of deserving applications for both the Lucien Ukaliannuk Award and **the General Grant Award**, the Foundation provided support to numerous community-based initiatives and projects, including a grant to the Law Society of Nunavut's professional development activities, which offered valuable training opportunities to members of the Nunavut Bar; funding for access to justice related activities in the communities, such as the Nunavut Status of Women's access to knowledge initiatives about family issues and family violence and the Nunavut Disabilities Society's Celebrate Elders Day event; and funding to a rights based claymation workshop, which was offered during the Iqaluit youth art month which produced a DVD containing short animation created by young Iqalummiut.

(Excerpt from the Elders' rights info sheet)

ELDERS HAVE RIGHTS

Caring for our Elders
is a shared responsibility
Everyone can do their part



Thank you to the Nunavut Law Foundation and the Government of Canada (www.esdc.gc.ca/seniors) for their financial support

Images– Department of Education, Government of Nunavut



Elders' Celebrations in Iqaluit


*And Raising Awareness
and Prevention of Abuse*

November 2015 - Inuksuk High School

An evening of entertainment, games and country food prepared by the dedicated volunteer team from the Qayuqtuvik Society which runs the Iqaluit Soup Kitchen in Nunavut. The celebrations were attended by special guests Minister of Justice Paul Okalik , Mayor Madeleine Redfern, MLA George Hicks and Cpl. David Lawson who spoke to Elders and took questions from the audience



The Foundation was especially pleased to be a major funder of the access to justice initiative to enhance public awareness and experience with the legal system through the making of the video *Understanding the Nunavut Court Process* project. The video is a first step to help Nunavummiut understand the criminal court process and for complainants and other witnesses who may be called to court to testify.



Launch of video to understand Nunavut's court process
Start Date: November 5, 2015
End Date: November 20, 2015
Nunavut-wide **45 sec**

Victims, complainants and witnesses now have access to a video to help them understand Nunavut's court process.

The video is an educational tool to learn how the criminal justice system works, and is valuable for support workers who explain the court process to victims.

The video, released in all official languages, is a collaboration between the Nunavut Law Society's Access to Justice Program and the Department of Justice's Community Justice division. The initiative is also supported by the Nunavut Law Foundation, the Nunavut Court of Justice and many volunteers.

[...]

The Foundation was pleased to provide the Uppinaqtuq Awards to young Nunavummiut who demonstrated a commitment to leadership, peacemaking or rehabilitation in previous years. The Uppinaqtuq Award honours Justice Beverly Browne who was the first senior judge in the Nunavut Court of Justice. She demonstrated great leadership in the community and had a strong commitment and passion for working with youth. Depending on the recipient's age category, individual youth received an Award in the amount of \$500.00 or a gift of equal value in their choice. However, with a total of \$43,500 grant awarded in 2015, the Foundation was unable to provide funding for the Uppinaqtuq Award but looks forward to taking steps in 2016 to renew this initiative.

In addition to the various projects that we supported, the Foundation is proactively working with the Access to Justice Committee of the Nunavut Law Society to increase access to public legal education by offering a basic legal materials section that would be accessible by the legal profession and members of the public in communities across Nunavut. We are excited about the work accomplished to date and look forward to reporting on this initiative in our next report.

Association of Canadian Law Foundations (ACLF)

In September 2015, I had the pleasure of attending the ACLF annual meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. ACLF is a national body that is comprised of representatives from each provincial and territorial law foundation and the BC Notaries Society. ACLF meets annually which allows law foundations to exchange information about issues of common concern, discuss best practices and collaborate on national funding initiatives. I was pleased to share and discuss with law foundations across Canada about the exciting projects and initiatives that received financial support from the Nunavut Law Foundation. The Nunavut Law Foundation benefits from being a member of this national organization.

It was apparent that other law foundations receive substantially greater amount of revenues than Nunavut because their funding is based on the transfer of interest accrued on monies held in trust by member lawyers carrying on the practice of law in the particular jurisdiction. There are instances where accrued interests received by Law Foundations can add up to millions. In contrast, since the creation of the Nunavut Law Foundation in 2001, the Foundation has received remittance of interest earned from a trust fund from approximately two Nunavut practitioners, amounting to approximately a few dollars. Consequently, the Nunavut Law Foundation has a significantly smaller budget than law foundations in all other jurisdictions.

Despite the current funding limitation, the Foundation's proactive approach and successes in carrying out our mandate is demonstrative of our valuable expertise in identifying and supporting community based initiatives that promote access to justice and legal education to all Nunavummiut. To this end, we received positive and strong interest from other jurisdictions of potential partnerships on future initiatives and projects that advance and promote access to justice and legal education in Nunavut.

The Foundation's Strategic Plan and Reserve Fund Policy

As mentioned in our report during last year's Annual General Meeting, the Foundation recognized the importance of developing a strategic plan in order to meet all of its statutory objectives. In this regard, I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors met as a whole in May of 2015 for our first strategic discussions and developed a draft of a strategic plan. The final Strategic Plan 2015-2018 was adopted by the Board by way of a resolution on January of 2016.

In recognizing our legislative mandate, the Strategic Plan resolved that the Foundation will carry out our work with the goal of advancing the awareness of the law and promoting access to justice through creative partnerships and community involvement. The work of the Foundation is guided by a set of principles, including to encourage respect for Inuit values and knowledge and support culturally based legal programs and services; to support Access to Justice Initiatives that enhance public awareness and experience with the legal system; to support projects advancing the interests and legal knowledge of Elders, youth, and other identifiable community groups; and to demonstrate transparency and accountability both in the Foundation's own work and that of the organizations that it supports.

The Strategic Plan is in effect from 2015 to 2018, and during this period the Foundation is committed to advancing the following strategic priorities:

- Maintain and improve the Foundation's finances by, among other things, review current sources of funding and develop policies regarding surpluses and reserves;
- Continue providing Foundation grants by, among other things, improve the application process to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency;
- Research and address gaps in the access to justice in Nunavut by, among other things, increase public legal education and access to legal services in communities;
- Assist and support the maintenance of Law Libraries or permanent collection of legal materials in communities across Nunavut.

In keeping with the priorities as set out in our Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors adopted the Reserve Fund Policy on February 5, 2016. A copy can be obtained by contacting the administrator: administrator@lawsociety.nu.ca.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Members of the Board of Directors and the Foundation's Administrator for their hard work and dedication. I am proud of the progress that we have made together and the resulting positive impact from the grants and financial assistance that we have provided. I look forward to continue our hard work, proactive outreach, and strategic approach in carrying out our mandates as the Nunavut Law Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kieu, Chairperson



Cindy Kieu, Chairperson

B) SUMMARY - GRANTS MADE

Lucien Ukaliannuk Award for law or law related studies \$ 19,050.00

General Grants \$24,500.00

TOTAL \$43, 550.00