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NUNAVUMI MALIGALIUQTIT  
NUNAVUT LAW FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION DU DROIT DU NUNAVUT

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

For the year ending December 31, 2016

## INTRODUCTION

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*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, 2016:

**Appointed by the Law Society:**

**Cindy Kieu - Chair (since August 2015), Edmonton**  
**Marie Belleau - Director, Iqaluit**  
**Thomas Lemon – Director, Toronto**  
**Mandy Sammurtok – Director, Winnipeg**

**Appointed by the Commissioner:**

**Public Representative - Vacant**

*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  
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## MANDATE

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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 the Foundation adopted its **first strategic plan** in order to translate our mandate into meaningful and measurable goals and objectives. We believe that our initiative has proven to be effective in assisting us to better align our limited resources to carry out the Foundation's activities throughout the past year.

In particular, the Foundation's strategic plan sets out the following four key areas to prioritize our efforts:

- 1) Maintain and improve Law Foundation Finances;
- 2) Continue providing Law Foundation Grants;
- 3) Research and address gaps in access to justice in Nunavut;
- 4) To assist libraries and resource centres to establish and maintain a basic legal materials section.

With these priorities to guide us, we effectively managed our funding activities to continue offering all level of grants within the means of our annual income. At the same time, we leveraged our reserve fund to invest in laying the necessary foundation to achieve our long-term projects.

Regarding our funding activities, in 2016, the Foundation were pleased to provide the following grants and awards:

We provided three **Lucien Ukaliannuk Awards** for a total amount of \$5,550 given to 3 applicants who are residents of Nunavut and are pursuing law or law related studies. All three applicants demonstrated a strong commitment to Nunavut and we wish them the best in their academic endeavours: Jennifer Hunt-Poitras, law student attending the University of Victoria, Alyssa Spence-Flaherty, articling student and Sarah White, articling student.

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.

We provided \$5,300 in **General Grants** to the Law Society of Nunavut in our efforts to assist the members of our Bar to attain and benefit from Professional Development that is tailored to the needs of practicing in Nunavut.

We also provided approximately \$1, 600 in **Upinnaqtuq Awards** to a remarkable group of young Nunavutmiuts who demonstrated a commitment to leadership, peacemaking or rehabilitation. The recipients of the 2016's award were nominated from the communities of Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet and Iqaluit.

The Upinnaqtuq Awards were created in honour of 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.



**January 26, 2017 Taryn Lavallee from Iqaluit (Left)** - A deserving Upinnaqtuq Award recipient for her exceptional achievements both in sport and at school and for the important contributions she has made as a Junior Coach Assistant ( Speed Skating). Her coach John Maurice states that she is "a great ambassador for Nunavut with a very promising future ahead of you". Well done Taryn ! A role model and inspiration for future generations to come! Congratulations!



**On December 19, 2016 Foundation Director Marie Belleau welcomed Colby Hickey from Iqaluit (right)** to hand over his Upinnaqtuq Award. Colby's nomination letter from John Maurice stated "you are a great ambassador for Nunavut with a very promising future ahead of you. Not only have you demonstrated exceptional achievements both in sport and at school, you have made important contributions as a Junior Assistant Coach for which you should be proud of. You are a role model and an inspiration for future generations to come". The Foundation wishes you the best for the future. Congratulations!



Just in time to celebrate the new year, **Nolan Sammurtok, of Rankin Inlet** (left), received a gift of his choice for the under 14 category as one of the 2016 recipient of the Upinnaqtuq Award.

The Foundation was delighted to learn from his Inuktitut cultural teacher, Maryann Issakiark, that Nolan has been “working toward the common good” of all including by “supporting his fellow students so they could also achieve their personal goals”. A truly inspiring young man! The future looks bright. Congratulations!



**November 2016 - Jillian Kyak from Pond Inlet.**

Jillian is a deserving recipient for being “an insightful, compassionate, and positive student that has a beneficial impact on classroom dynamics and energy”. Her teachers, Jay McKechnie & Anisa Suno, have told us that “Jillian exemplifies many qualities that make her a strong student, but the kindness and respect that she shows to her peers is what makes her a leader”. You are without a doubt an exceptional inspiration for being a “true ambassador of peace and leadership”. Congratulations!

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The Foundation continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to the **Official Languages of Nunavut** through our increased spending on official languages translation services. We spent approximately \$1,500 to ensure that our public communication and documents are available in the Inuit language and French.

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The Foundation also provided financial support to send one of our Directors, Marie Belleau and our Executive Director, Nalini Vaddapalli to attend the **Annual Association of Canadian Law Foundations (ACLF)** Meeting in Saskatchewan. As an organization, we believe in the importance of investing and developing the capacity and expertise of our Board Members and human resources.



September 2017 - An inspirational visit for Marie Belleau (Director - right) and Nalini Vaddapalli (Administrator -left) at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and Native Centre on Saturday September 17,2016 Thank you to the Saskatchewan Law Foundation, Dean Martin Phillipson (College of Law) , Acting Director Chris Lafleur ( Native Law Centre) and everyone from the College and Centre who came out to welcome provincial and teritorial staff and trustees from the various law foundations accross the country reunited at its annual meeting in beautiful Saskatoon!

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2016 was a critical year for us in laying the foundation for the implementation of our initiative to provide a basic **legal materials section in public libraries** and other resource centres in Nunavut. In particular, we provided financial support to hire a casual staff in early 2015 to support the Administrator to research and compile a list of legal materials that would meet the needs of members of the Bar as well as the broader public readers.

We have developed a list of legal materials based on the suggestions and comments from a varied and diverse group of stakeholders in Nunavut, including members of the Judiciary and the Law Society of Nunavut, Academia, Nunavut Tunngavik Inuit, etc. With the list in place, our intention is to procure a basic legal materials collection to be donated to existing public libraries in Nunavut. This legal materials collection is the first step for the Foundation to establishing and maintaining legal materials in Nunavut. The completion of this exciting initiative is scheduled for early 2018.

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Finally, a couple of highlights about 2017, which is shaping up to be an exciting year. We are very pleased to welcome our new Public Member to the Board of Director, Lisa Tootoo. Lisa was appointed to the Foundation by the Minister of Justice in February 2017. She brings to her role a wealth of experience as a Community Justice Specialist. I am confident that her background and working experience with restorative justice issues in Nunavut will assist the Foundation to advance and promote its mandate. I am also very excited to announce that 2017 will be the first year that Nunavut will host the annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Law Foundations. The Foundation looks forward to this meeting and to providing our report in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kieu, Chairperson



**B) SUMMARY - GRANTS MADE**

General Grants	\$5300.00
Lucien Ukaliannuk Award for law or law related studies	\$5,550.00
Upinnaqtuq Awards	\$1,629.66
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12, 479.66</b>