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Board of Directors 2006 – 2007

Daniel MacRury, Q.C. (Pres)
 Barry Burke (Treasurer)
 Maeve Baird
 Clarence Beckett, Q.C.
 Aleta Cromwell
 Justice Kevin Coady
 Judge William Digby
 Marian Fortune-Stone, Q.C.
 Raphina Ghosn
 Tanya Jones
 Sean Layden
 Tammy Manning
 Nichole Pickard
 Thilairani Pillay
 César Rincón
 Kathy Sutherland
 Lisa Taylor
 Rick Woodburn
 Terry Yeadon

Thank you retiring Board Members



Retiring Board Members at LISNS AGM: Lori Duggan, Yvonne LaHaye, Fred Colaiacovo, and Justice Leslie Dellapinna (Not pictured: Ann MacDonald & Judge Marc Chisholm)

President's Message

The Board started its year with a strategic planning session where we looked at the Society's profile and awareness, our operations and our programs. It was an interesting and fun process. What was very interesting is, for the most part, we all identified the same short and long-term priorities. The top four were outreach programs, accessibility, recognizable image and a presence throughout the Province.

From there, the committees prepared their annual plans. The PR and Communications Committee immediately got started on the recognizable image. And we now have our Legal Seagull and our new tagline: Start Here. Learn More.

We had a significant change in Board operations this year in that the Board assumed responsibility for fund development which previously had been a function of the Fund Development Committee. The Board determined that by taking on the fund development role, it will give weight to the

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia Mission

The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS) will enable Nova Scotians to:

- have access to legal information
- solve legal problems with informed choices
- act on their rights & responsibilities

issue and ensure that we move forward.

We were thrilled in April this year to receive the Canadian Bar Association Nova Scotia branch's 2006 Law Day Award.

As always, there is a huge demand for our legal information programs. But it has also been a busy year on many other fronts. The sponsorship of the Dial-A-Law program is continuing to grow. The Law Day Lunch and Auction was a big success. The revisions to the website look great and make it more accessible and used friendly. Overall, it was a busy year for the Executive, Board and Committees – but most of the work is done by the staff. It takes a lot of work and dedication to offer such quality programs and projects.

Thank you to Maria and all the staff members that I've enjoyed so much working with over the last two years as president. Huge thanks to the Executive, the Board and committee members who volunteer so much of their time. Especially it has been my pleasure to work with Dan as Vice-President and Fred Colaiacovo, who has been the LISNS Treasurer for the past six years.

It's been a pleasure serving as President the last two years and to volunteer for this small but vital organization.

Lori Duggan
 Past President, LISNS

Wanted

Lawyers are needed in all areas of law and from all regions in Nova Scotia for the LISNS **Lawyer Referral Service**.

"The beauty of **LRS** is you get \$20.00 plus tax which is enough for a pizza or a good lunch or a couple of beer or a couple hours of pool and that is just for a half hour.... and more often than not, it turns into a client. I make much more money from the service than it costs. It is an awesome and reliable source of new clientele. Wicked!"

Tanya Jones, Bailey & Associates – Lawyer Referral Service Member

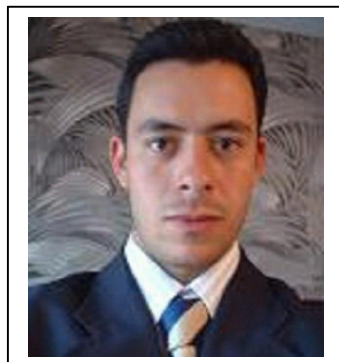
Call **454 – 2198** or go to www.legalinfo.org to get signed up



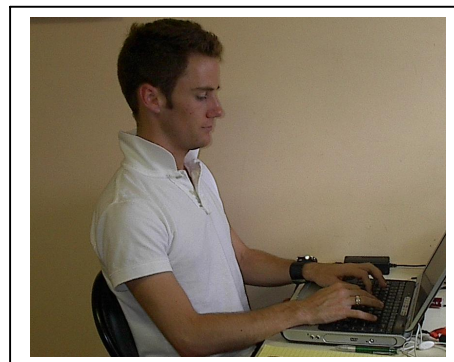
Thank you Volunteers:

Jim Crane
 Donalee Moulton
 Barbara Fickes
 Lisa Taylor
 Natalie Ghosn
 Colleen McElman
 Nicole Close
 Jim Musgrave, QC
 César Rincón
 Raphina Ghosn
 Nichole Pickard
 Barbara Baker
 Justice Glen McDougall
 Chief Justice Michael
 MacDonald
 Denise Smith
 Tricia Avery
 Lisa Neily
 Matt Walker
 Tiffany Robertson
 Lisa MacIntosh
 Christine Freake
 José Montes
 Sanaz Gerami
 Daniel Wallace

Pro Bono Students
 Canada
 Leah Anderson
 David Dow
 Mark Bailey
 Jenne Lau
 Laura Brazil
 Melanie Carroll



Legal Information Line Volunteer
José Montes



Summer PR & Marketing Assistant
Ben Boudreau

Executive Director's Report

The Society provides service to tens of thousands of Nova Scotians each year. Many have limited resources with which to access legal information and services while many others can afford to hire legal representation but they may want information first or choose not to hire a lawyer. Yet others just want to be better informed about the law. As well as helping those who have legal problems, we very much want to encourage all Nova Scotians to seek information about the law whether or not they have a legal problem so that they improve their understanding of the justice system. We are unique in that we are the only sole purpose legal information provider that opens its services to all Nova Scotians regardless of income, legal issue, location, age, sex or other demographics.

Each year brings growth, change and new initiatives to LISNS. For example, this year, we went through a branding process and have a new fresh look with a key message - Start Here. Learn More - and our Legal Seagull. The Legal Seagull seems to resonate with the public and provides a friendly accessible image for LISNS. We hope to build on this brand over the next few years so that we will become recognized throughout Nova Scotia. The Legal Seagull is also the search assistant on our website.

We made a very important move in the area of fund development with the Board assuming the mandate of the Fund Development Committee and embracing the responsibility for taking the lead in ensuring that the fund development agenda moves forward.

This 'background work' and fund development is to enable us to provide programs, become better known, and improve access to legal information.

Programs and Projects

We continued to offer core programs which meet the increasing and popular demand for all forms of legal information. They include a Legal Information Line, Lawyer Referral Service, Website, Dial-a-Law, Publications and the Speakers Bureau. The Legal Information Line provides necessary one-on-one access to information on an individual basis. The website and Dial-a-Law are particularly useful in providing 24-hour access and can provide access to thousands more people.

In addition to core programs, we undertake a number of projects each year. They allow us to address particular issues or sectors of the community, develop innovative approaches to the delivery of legal information, and work with a variety of partners. They are highlighted in this annual report.

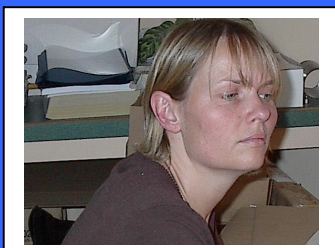
See **Thank You** / Pg 4



LEGAL SEAGULL



Kevin Harrison
Summer Research Assistant



Katie Sparks
CRA Project Officer



Tiffany Robertson
Millennium Scholarship



LEGAL SEAGULL

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 01, 2005 - MARCH 31, 2006

REVENUE

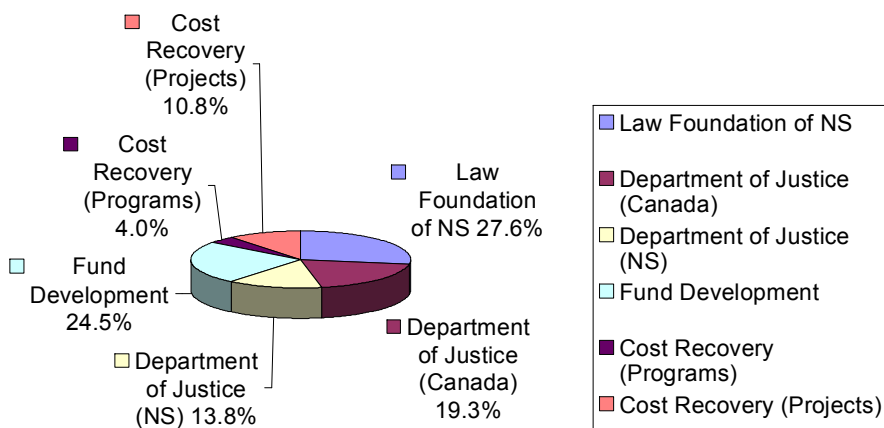
GRANTS	
Law Foundation of N.S.	\$100,000
Department of Justice Canada	70,000
N.S. Department of Justice	50,000
PROGRAMS	
Community Programs	50
Publication Sales	1,812
Lawyer Referral Service	9,275
FUNDRAISING	57,292
OTHER	898
SUB-TOTAL	288,927
PROJECTS	143,032
TOTAL	\$431,959

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	
Legal Info Line & Lawyer Referral Service	\$70,648
Dial-a-Law	11,395
Publications	14,878
Community programs	40,945
Website	10,665
COST OF RAISING FUNDS	21,545
PROJECTS	143,032
ADMINISTRATION	117,927
TOTAL	\$431,035
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 924

A copy of the audited statements is available upon request

LISNS Revenue Break Down 2006 - 2007



**Thank you
Law Day Lunch
Sponsors 2005**

The Printer



Thank You

Continued from / Pg 2

The Society has many dedicated volunteers on the Board and committees who devote many hours ensuring that the vital work of the Society continues and that funds are available to meet our goals and priorities. I thank the members of the Board, committee chairs and committee members for their contribution to LISNS.

The Society has four full-time and two part time staff. I thank them for their work throughout the year.

In addition to our Board and committees members and volunteers, I'd like to acknowledge the support of:

- Members of the legal community who participate in our Lawyer Referral Service, our Speakers Bureau, and review publications and material for our Dial-a-Law program.
- Students from the Pro-bono Law Student Association at Dalhousie Law School and other volunteers who assist with our programs.
- Our core funders: the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Department of Justice Nova Scotia and the Department of Justice Canada.
- Corporate sponsors including: The Printer, major sponsor of

the Law Day Lunch Major and presenting sponsor Carlson Wagonlit Harvey's Travel; and Dial-a-Law sponsors: NS Legal Aid, Wagner and Associates, and Goodman Rosen

- Impact Communications
- Businesses that donated items to the Law Lunch auction.
- Donors who respond to our annual direct mail campaign and support our other fundraising activities.

Finally, I want to thank two of our long term Board and Executive members, Lori Duggan and Fred Colaiacovo, who are completing their terms and with whom I have had the pleasure to work over the past six years. I place great value on the leadership and support they provided throughout their term with LISNS.

Maria G. Franks
Executive Director

Thank you

Dial – a – Law Sponsors



Nova Scotia Legal Aid



LEGAL SEAGULL

New Projects for 2006 – 2007

- CRA: The Charitable Tax Return explained
- Environmental Law for the Agriculture Sector in NS
- Teachers' Rights in Nova Scotia



LISNS Projects 2005/06

Youth Justice Projects

- **Youth Justice webpages:** In 05/06 Revised to enhance understanding with the introduction of an annotated site map & a page that deals with “rights-based information”.
- **Teachers’ support:** An online support network for High School teachers to facilitate access to information about Youth Justice. Teachers may register to access an inventory of Youth Justice related materials and to share experiences with their peers.
- **Media Lunch & Learn:** LISNS organized a number of Lunch & Learn sessions for media to improve their understanding of the youth justice system.



Youth Justice Information Pamphlets:

Four pamphlets have been produced that cover various aspects of youth’s interaction with the justice system. Available in print (English and French) & online. There is also an online youth quiz.

Youth resources map:

LISNS prepared a graphic representation of resources to support youth throughout NS. Available online and in print in both English and French.

Projects in general:

LISNS undertakes projects each year providing a wonderful opportunity for us to target specific audiences and specific issues which may fall outside the reach of our core programs.

For instance, we have used project funding to develop new resources, expand our use of the Internet as a means to disseminate information, and translate materials into French.

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

5523B Young St
Halifax, NS B3K 1Z7

Administration Phone: (902) 454 – 2198
Fax: (902) 455 – 3105

Crime-proofing Businesses

LISNS was contracted by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to conduct a survey and assessment of the state of awareness regarding the vulnerability and resources available to small to medium-sized businesses to protect themselves from the intrusion of organized criminal activities.

The results indicated that, while there are a significant number of resources available, most small to medium sized (1-10 person) businesses in Nova Scotia either do not feel directly threatened by this kind of operation or feel that it is an inevitable and unavoidable element of carrying on business today.

LISNS is exploring possible further work in this area with PSEPC and other agencies.

Parents’ support:

LISNS has developed a searchable online resource to help parents of youth who are involved with the youth justice system find answers to their questions. Go to www.legalinfo.org to see more!

Dial – a – Law	Legal Information Line & Lawyer Referral Service	Publications	Outreach	Website
Calls: 12,973	Calls answered: 7,618	Publications distributed: 3,756	Displays & Presentations	Unique visitors: 80,042
# of tapes accessed: 6,674	Emails: 266	Most popular publications	CBA Law Fair: April 2005	Online Publications visited/accessed: 54,364
Top scripts accessed:	Top 5 areas of law:	Family: 1,362	Senior's Secretariat 50+ Expo: June 2005	Most popular information accessed:
Separation: 545	Family: 3,279	Criminal: 1,292	YMCA Newcomers Summer Camp: Summer 2005	Information for non – profits: English: 12,574
Child Custody & Access: 402	Criminal & provincial offences: 1,208	Seniors issues: 341	Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Nov. 2005	Information for non – profits: French: 6,038
Child Support: 364	Court Procedures: 1,032	Publications downloaded from the website: 54,364	Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Nov 2005	Common Law English: 8,018
Divorce: 328	Torts: 577		International Woman's Day Conference: Feb 2006	Divorce: 2,641
Common Law: 301	Debtor / Creditor: 559		Requests for speakers: 14	Making a Will: 2,599
Spousal Support: 213	# of referral to a lawyer on the LRS: 1,781		Topics:	Most popular referring domain: Google
Probate: 212	Origin of calls: HRM: 4,073		Wills / Estates: 5	
Bankruptcy: 174	Northern: 780		Youth Criminal Justice Act: 4	
Termination of Employment: 138	Cape Breton: 671 Valley / Digby: 574		Tax Law: 2	
Libel & Slander: 126	South Shore: 540			
Landlord Rights & Responsibilities: 126	Out of Province: 215 Unknown: 405			

Legal Information Line & Lawyer Referral Service

1 – 800 – 665 – 9779 (toll free in NS) or
455 – 3135 (in HRM)

Lines open weekdays: 10AM – 3PM

Tues. & Wed. Evenings: 5 – 7PM *

* September through May only

Check out the new LISNS website
www.legalinfo.org

The Legal
Seagull will
help you find
legal
information!



LEGAL SEAGULL