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LISNS Board of Directors 2007-2008:

Sean Layden – President
 Tanya Jones – Secretary
 Clarence Beckett, QC
 Aleta Cromwell
 Marian Fortune-Stone
 Raphina Ghosn
 Tammy Manning
 Nichole Pickard
 Grace Vos
 Terry Yeadon

Sadly, we say goodbye and many thanks to:

Maeve Baird, Vice President
 Lisa McIntosh, Treasurer
 Judge William Digby
 Justice Kevin Coady
 Kathy Sutherland
 Cesar Rincon

And a warm welcome to new Board Members:

Toni Goree
 Brenda MacDonald
 Andrew Rankin
 John Underhill

Thank you to Nicole Close – extraordinary organizer who volunteered hours and hours to help LISNS re-organize 25 years worth of legal information, publications and files. We couldn't have done it with out her!

A special "shout out" to Gesso Communications for all their help with creative design on posters, and website!

President's Report, 2007-2008

Our 2007-2008 fiscal year was highlighted by a series of captivating, innovative and unusual events for LISNS, a most worthy not for profit organization which continues to make legal information and education accessible and affordable to Nova Scotians.

In April 2007 guest speaker and adventurer Bruce Kirkby helped us deliver a very successful Law Day Lunch at the World Trade and Convention Centre. If you have any ideas on who would make excellent guest speakers in the future, please let us know.

In September we launched our inaugural Play in a Day fundraiser at Neptune Theatre. Everybody is working in earnest as I write this report to provide a second annual Play in a Day fundraiser on September 6, 2008. If you are or know of prospective sponsors, prospective performers or prospective audience members, please let us know.

The people who participated in Play in a Day have commented that it was very satisfying and fun to be involved in such a unique fundraiser in the form of having only 24 hours to produce, direct and act out a play for a theatre audience. The uniqueness of the event made up for the fatigue that some of the participants experienced (smile).

A couple of weeks later LISNS hosted the national PLEAC (Public Legal Education Association of Canada) conference at the

Lord Nelson hotel. I very much enjoyed going to the reception that we hosted at this conference and meeting other public legal education providers from across Canada.

Finally, leading up to Christmas we had a nice Christmas reception at McInnes Coopers' new office in Purdy's Wharf Tower II. Again thanks to McInnes Cooper for providing the venue.

In conjunction with the above-noted events we continued to recognize and celebrate LISNS 25th Anniversary during this fiscal year and again my sincere thanks to Justice Elizabeth Roscoe and Justice Nancy Bateman for being honorary co-chairs of the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Turning to board development, we had a two-day strategic thinking session in December 2007, which session was facilitated by a very well read and engaging facilitator by the name of Pol Vincter. Mr. Vincter assisted us with some 25th anniversary renewal, in terms of examining and carrying out our mission statement, etc. More recently one of the end results of this "retreat" is a new fund development model, which we believe will allow for more successful fundraising.

Of course none of the above would have been possible without a dedicated paid staff, our three major funders (the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia,

Department of Justice Canada, and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice), various sponsors (corporate and non-corporate) and various volunteers at all levels in and outside the Board of Directors.

I would like to specifically recognize Board Member, Raphina Ghosn who recently won a philanthropic award given out by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Keep up the great work Raphina.

I would also like to specifically recognize our outgoing board members and executive members Maeve Baird, Lisa McIntosh, Justice Kevin Coady, Judge Bill Digby and Kathy Sutherland,

Last but not least a profuse thanks to our Executive Director, Maria Franks, who continues to ably serve the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia and all the staff at LISNS who provide excellent service to LISNS and the people of Nova Scotia.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President and I will continue to do my utmost to lead the rest of you in the noble pursuit of "helping Nova Scotians understand the law".

Respectfully Submitted
 Sean. F. Layden
 President Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

LISNS Program Statistics 2007/08

Dial-a-Law

Calls: 9,563

of tapes accessed: 5,280

Top 10 scripts:

Separation 440
Child Custody & Access 311
Child Support 291
Divorce 281
Common law 219
Spousal Support 165
Probate 160
Grandparents' Rights 113
Termination of Employment 112
Personal Injury 96

List of topics accessed on the legalinfo.org web site 5,967 times

Outreach Displays & Presentations:

CBA Law Fair
50+ Expo
Intl. Women's Day Conference
Gerontology Association of NS
Scam Jam
VANISH – Musquodoboit Valley Women's Conf.
Teacher's Conference
Alzheimer Society Conference
Family Violence Prevention Workshop
Crime Prevention Conference

Speaker Requests:

11 Topics requested

Most popular topics:

Wills/health law 7
Elder Abuse 1
Youth Justice 1
Small Business 1
Law as a Career 1

Legal Information Line and Lawyer Referral Service

Calls answered: 7551

Emails: 234

Top 5 areas of law:

Family 3,391
Criminal & provincial offences 1,249
Court Procedures 1,138
Wills & estates 700
Torts 569

Number of referrals to lawyers on Lawyer Referral Service :
1,533

Origin of calls:

HRM 4,771
Northern 727
Cape Breton 624
South Shore 545
Valley/Digby 530
Out of Prov 255
Unknown 99

Referrals to Legal Info Line by:

Phone book 1,710
Legal Aid 1,273
Courts 960
Website 945
Gov't/Boards 877
Previous user/friend 742
Community groups 511
Bar Soc/lawyer 321
MP/MLA 109

Publications

Publications distributed:
9,639

Most popular Publications requested:

Youth Justice 3,663
General LISNS 3,025
Seniors' issues 1,082
Criminal 751

Website

Unique visitors: 72, 542

35% of visitors come back to the website more than once

Pages Viewed: 368,048

Most accessed "Legal Information" Pages:

Separation 8,659
Divorce 7,888
Custody 6,643



Projects in 2008/09

The Annotated T3010a Project (Charities Return)

We are now into the third year of this 3-year project. The project will continue with a survey of the charitable organizations who attended workshops in 2007 - 08 in each of the Atlantic Provinces. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that charitable organizations are able to fulfill their legal obligation to file the Return in a timely complete and accurate reports. This initiative is funded by the Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Family Violence Publications – Reprint and Distribution

LISNS has a number of existing publications in the area of Family Violence that are currently out of print. This project will see these reviewed and updated where necessary to bring them in line with current legislation; reprinted and distribution to local agencies and organizations that have found these useful. Funded by Justice Canada.

Positive Aging – Seniors and Pensions

LISNS will develop and distribute materials that will

inform seniors and those responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of seniors about the legal rights and issues associated with pensions. These would include Federal entitlements (OAS; CPP; and GIS); Provincial; and, in a general way, private pensions. It will also include information about dealing with RRSPs when the time comes to use them and issues relating to trusteeships associated with pensions will also be addressed. Funded by NS Department of Seniors.

Family Law Information Project for Abused Women (FLIPAW)

In partnership with the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia, the Women's Innovative Justice Initiative and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, we are developing a resource for women with children who are leaving and abusive relationship. The project is funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the IWK Health Foundation, Justice Canada, Status of Women Canada and NS Department of Justice.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 01, 2007 - MARCH 31, 2008

REVENUE

GRANTS	
Law Foundation of N.S.	\$100,000
Department of Justice Canada	70,000
N.S. Department of Justice	50,000
PROGRAMS	
Publication Sales	1,224
Lawyer Referral Service	7,750
FUNDRAISING	73,121
OTHER	1,747
SUB-TOTAL	303,842
PROJECTS	235,000
TOTAL	\$538,842

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	
Legal Info Line & Lawyer Referral Service	\$74,247
Dial-a-Law	11,656
Publications	13,195
Community programs	42,223
Website	9,534
COST OF RAISING FUNDS	50,857
PROJECTS	235,000
ADMINISTRATION	120,124
TOTAL	\$556,836
INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(\$17,994)

A copy of the audited statements is available upon request

Executive Director's Message

Thank you for helping Nova Scotians

Thousands of Nova Scotians seek basic legal information from us every year over the phone, on-line and in print. Thanks to your support we are able to provide them with a starting point to resolve their legal issue so that they can get on with their life. Often we are the first and only place they have to turn to.

What kinds of legal problems to people have? Here are some common questions: My mother has Alzheimer's, is it too late to get a power of attorney?

My insurance company has offered a settlement, how do I know it's fair? Can I force my ex to see the children when he's supposed to?

I can't get Legal Aid, can I go to court myself?

I've lost my job, can my ex stop me seeing the children if I'm behind with child support?

A collection agency is harassing me what can I do?

I need a lawyer, how can I find one?

With your support we are able to provide help when people turn to us for legal information. But with more support we could reach even more people. How? We could:

- * Keep the lines open longer
- * Extend the evening service
- * Go out into the community and reach people in rural areas
- * Improve service to all those seeking information on-line
- * Work with community groups to meet the legal information needs of their clients.

March 2008 saw the end of our 25th anniversary. There have been many changes to the Board, in demand for legal information and in technology since the Society's inception in 1982. This was a year to take stock and to appreciate how much we have accomplished. But we know that are services are needed more now, than ever.

We have embraced the many challenges we have in the context of growing demands, increasing costs and shrinking budgets. With your help we will be able to meet the new challenges and to ensure that when Nova Scotians need legal information to help them turn their life around, we'll be there for them.

Maria Franks

LISNS Board Member Honoured

Clarence Beckett was inducted into the Fellowship of the American College of Trial Lawyers during the 2007 Meeting of the College in La Quinta, California. Fellowship in the College is extended, by invitation only. to trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Congratulations Clary!



Clarence A. Beckett, Q.C.

Projects in 2007/08

Environmental Law for the Agriculture Sector in Nova Scotia

This project began in 2006 and wrapped up this year with the production of a manual on environmental law affecting the agricultural sector and a powerpoint to be used for training purposes. It was funded with the support of the NS Department of Agriculture; the Department of Environment & Labour; and the NS Federation of Agriculture.

The Annotated T3010a Project (Charities Return)

In the second year of this 3-year project, charitable organizations in each of the Atlantic Provinces were introduced to the annotated versions of the Charities Information Return through a series of workshops organized and delivered by LISNS and the other PLE organizations throughout the region. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that charitable organizations are able to fulfill their legal obligation to file the Return in a timely fashion and deliver complete and accurate reports. This initiative is funded by the

Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Web Portal Project

A new web resource was developed to connect social justice groups and agencies across the province. Direct marketing was carried out to introduce users to site and invite them to participate. This project was funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. www.yourlaw.ns.ca

Law Teachers Conference

In October, 2007, LISNS again delivered a number of information sessions to Law Teachers attending the annual Professional Development Day organized by the Social Studies Teachers Association. These focused on Teachers' Rights and Youth Justice issues.

Youth Justice Materials

LISNS received funding from Justice Canada to reprint and distribute the Youth Justice pamphlets produced in 2006/07.

For information about projects please contact Peter Mushkat, Project Manager at projectofficer@legalinfo.org

Legal Information Line Survey

Random survey of 100 callers to the Legal Information Line over a one week period indicated:

- * 44 callers were from outside the Halifax area and a further 7 were calling from other parts of Canada and beyond
- * 21 were referred to LISNS by Legal Aid; 6 by a lawyer in private practice
- * 87 were first time users
- * 68 got through on the first call
- * 79 were aged 19-55
- * 52 were female/48 male
- * First language: English 91; French 3; Arabic 2; Polish 1; Chinese 1; Japanese 1; Indonesian 1
- * 84 identified themselves as having Canadian origin
- * 60 had a household of 1-2; 22 had a household of 3; 15 a household of 4 or more;
- * 44 had a household income of less than \$25,000; 38 had an income between \$25,000-\$50,000
- * 65 had access to the internet at home or work
- * 26 had a family law problem; 17 a criminal law problem; 15 had questions about court procedure

Now Underway

Family Law Information Project for Abused Women (FLIPAW)

In partnership with the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia, the Women's Innovative Justice Initiative and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, we are developing a resource for women with children who are leaving an abusive relationship. This resource will focus on legal information vital for women in the post-separation stage as they move through the family law process to settle custody and access issues. This can be a very dangerous

time for an abused woman. The resource will provide information that she will need to safeguard herself and her children. As part of the project we held focus groups with women who have experienced an abusive relationship and the family court process. Funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the IWK Health Foundation, Justice Canada, Status of Women Canada and NS Department of Justice. The project will be completed in the fall of 2008 when we will hold a one-day workshop to launch the resource.

Thanks to our Dial-a-Law

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Thanks to our Law Day Lunch Event Sponsors

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