



Canadian Bar Association
Nunavut Branch
Summer/Fall 2014

President's Report	3
National Aboriginal Law Conference	5
- <i>Coming together for Iqaluit's Niqinik Nuatsivik Food Bank</i>	
CLC 2014	9
- <i>Few words from the Executive</i>	
- <i>Our very own Teena Hartman speaks on Enacting Empowerment</i>	
Wellness Roundtable	12
NuLAP	12
Mock Trial	13
A sit down with Justice Stratas	15
Futures Initiative - New Report	16
Member Savings	18
Nakuurmiik! From Nalini Vaddapalli, ED	19



President's Message

By John L. MacLean

When I began my term as President in September 2013, I told you that my three top priorities were: Lawyer mental health and wellness; Continuing Professional Development; and implementing the Envisioning Equal Justice strategy. As my term draws toward its conclusion, here's an update on what the Branch has been doing to address these priorities, and to deliver programs and services for you:



Lawyer Mental Health and Wellness

CBA Nunavut Branch members qualify for a discounted corporate membership with Atii Fitness in Iqaluit. About 20 members, including your President, are participating in this program. There is a direct link between regular exercise and maintaining good mental health. I have been especially pleased to see our members working out together as friends.

On June 18, the CBA Nunavut Branch, in partnership with the Law Society of Nunavut and the Nunavut Law Foundation, hosted a roundtable discussion on mental health and wellness. Our guests were the Honourable Judge Robert Philp of the Alberta Provincial Court, Marian De Souza QC, President of CBA Alberta Branch and Executive Director of the Alberta Lawyers Assistance Society, and Darrel Pink QC, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society. The presentations generated good discussions, and received positive coverage in the local news media.

If you are living with a mental illness, help is available. The Nunavut Lawyers Assistance Program (NuLAP), through its service provider, the Alberta Lawyers Assistance Society, provides free, confidential counselling and support services to Nunavut lawyers and their families. Alberta Assist has also offered to train Nunavut Branch members in peer support. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Professional Development

The CBA Nunavut Branch was proud to sponsor the 2014 National Aboriginal Law Conference, which was held June 19-20 in Iqaluit. This sold-out conference featured prominent speakers, including Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Bob Rae, and former Auditor General of Canada Sheila Fraser. I was proud to represent the Branch on the organizing committee, and moderated a panel on ethics, conflict of interest, and wellness. This conference would not have happened without the vision and drive of Conference Co-Chair and Aboriginal Law Section Co-Chair Cindy Kieu, and without the support of our many volunteers.

The Branch has held professional development sessions throughout the winter, both live and via teleconference. We have also extended an invitation to our sessions to our friends in the NWT and Yukon branches.

I presented a CLE entitled “5 Things Every Lawyer Should Know About Privacy” on March 27. We’d like to make “5 Things Every Lawyer Should Know” a regular program, so if you’d like to present on a topic in your practice area, please speak with a member of the Executive.

Envisioning Equal Justice

The CBA’s landmark report on access to justice, and its recommendations, was adopted by the CBA National Council at the Mid-Winter Meeting in February. A key recommendation in the report is the promotion of law as a life skill. The CBA has developed 5 legal health check brochures designed to assist Canadians assess their legal health. The CBA Nunavut Branch has translated these brochures into Inuktitut, to compliment the products already available in English and French.

The CBA Nunavut Branch is a partner in the Law Society of Nunavut’s access to justice initiative. Members of the Branch Executive participated in a stakeholder consultation session on May 29.

National Activities

The Executive members of the three northern branches have initiated a regular monthly teleconference to discuss issues of common concern. Our Branch has assisted Yukon Branch’s efforts to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to allow for assessment and treatment of FASD in adult offenders.

I have attended the Board of Directors meetings in February and June, and participated in a special Board meeting via conference call in May. Branch Past-President Mark Mossey and Treasurer Philip Grassie joined me at the Mid-Winter Meeting of Council in February, and Vice-President Mandy Sammurtok and I attended the June Board Meeting. We will also attend the August Board Meeting and Council Sessions in St. John’s, NL.

Mock Trial 2014

This year’s mock trial was a big success, thanks in no small part to the dedication of our volunteer coaches and summer students. More than one parent has stopped me to personally thank me for the Branch’s commitment to the mock trial program. We are already in preparation for Mock Trial 2015, with Justice Karakatsanis of the Supreme Court of Canada presiding.

Team Efforts

We are the CBA’s smallest branch, but we are able to bring a higher-than-average number of events to our members. This is in no small part thanks to the dedication of our many committed volunteers. This has been a great year for the CBA Nunavut Branch, and on behalf of the Executive,

I thank you for your hard work and dedication. It’s been a lot of fun working with you!

2014 National Aboriginal Law Conference

By Gloria Song

Nunavut's young capital saw an influx of lawyers from across the country when Iqaluit hosted the Canadian Bar Association's National Aboriginal Law Conference on June 19 and 20.

Held at the Frobisher Inn, the conference was attended by over 140 participants from all Canadian provinces and territories. In addition to practicing lawyers, the conference also featured high-profile participants and speakers, including judges from the Federal Court and the Nunavut Court of Justice, Senators, politicians, and prominent Aboriginal leaders. Some of the notable speakers included Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come of the Grand Council of the Crees, BC Treaty Commission Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Nunavut the Honourable Paul Okalik, former Auditor General of Canada Sheila Fraser, and the Honourable Bob Rae.



Cindy Kieu and Katherine Deo, NALC co-chairs enjoying a beautiful day in Iqaluit

The Honourable Paul Okalik, Nunavut's Minister of Justice, made a statement to the Legislative Assembly about the conference on June 12. "This year marks the 15th anniversary of the creation of our Territory," Minister Okalik announced. "It is very fitting that the Canadian Bar Association should choose to hold this conference in Nunavut."

It was from this 15th anniversary that the organizers developed the theme of the conference, "Nation-Building under Land Claims Agreements, Treaties and Self-Government Agreements". "The story of Nunavut is but one of the many examples of how Aboriginal groups in Canada are pushing the envelope in developing and shaping the relationship between the Crown and its First Nations," remarked program co-chairs Cindy Kieu (Department of Justice, Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit) and Kathryn Deo (Arbutus Law Group LLP, Victoria). "With this backdrop, we developed a conference agenda that would look at nation building through the challenges and achievements of numbered treaties, self-government agreements, and modern treaties." The conference covered a diverse range of timely topics in Aboriginal law, including the Nunavut Land Claims agreement, social issues, revenue generation, governance, ethics, and resource management.



[Top] W. Thomas Molloy, The Honourable Paul Quassa, and Guy d'Argencourt [Bottom] Aaju Peter, Caleb Christie, Bob Rae and Johnny Isaluk try one of the Arctic Games competitions; Lawyers attend one of many great panels during the conference

working organizing committee made the conference a reality. Thanks to funding from the Nunavut Law Foundation, the committee managed to raise funds to assist eight students to attend the conference at a subsidized rate.

“Given the CBA’s recent commitment to improving equality and diversity in the legal profession and within the organization, this conference is an example of how to effectively put these principles into practice,” commented program co-chairs Cindy Kieu and Kathryn Deo.

Also unique to the conference was the decision to package it as part of a travel experience for those who had never visited the Canadian Arctic, partnering with experienced local organizations such as the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and Alianait Arts Festival, and featuring cultural events, entertainment, and tours. “It was important and necessary for the conference attendees – many of whom are Canadians – to gain exposure to the reality of living in remote and northern communities,” explained program co-chairs Cindy Kieu and Kathryn Deo.

The conference also raised close to \$11,000 and over 400 pounds of donations for the Nunavut Food Bank, allowing the conference attendees and law firms to give back to the community.

According to program co-chairs Cindy Kieu, the conference took three years of planning, as the organizing committee faced intense challenges in making the first national aboriginal conference in Nunavut happen. These challenges included funding, such as finding the funding necessary to assist many of the speakers to come to the conference. According to the program co-chairs, the cost for the conference was double or triple the price of a conference in any other major centre in Canada. In the end, the majority of the speakers and moderators attended on their own or through the support and contribution of their employers, and fundraising efforts made by the hard-





[Left] Nalini Vaddapalli, Elder Eenoapik, and Marie Belleau light the traditional qulliq at the beginning of the conference

[Bottom, Left - Right, CW] Merrilee Rasmussen, Catherine Bell, Keith Bergner, and John Donihee sit on a panel at the conference; speakers Bob Rae and Sheila Fraser; Jeff Harris, Judge Judy Elliott, Aimee Craft, Elizabeth Mullayley, Darrel Pink, Sacha Paul, Justice Tony Mandamin, and Mark Mosey outside the Nunavut Court of Justice. Many Lawyers took the opportunity to get called to the Nunavut Bar while attending the NALC in Iqaluit this year.



Food Bank

On behalf of Cindy Kieu and Kathryn Deo, Co-Chairs, 2014 National Aboriginal Conference, Iqaluit, NU

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer. It's been two months since we met in Iqaluit when it was still light out at 2 AM. We are still overwhelmed and humbled that so many of you made the long trek north to Iqaluit, making the conference a sell-out and a great success.

Despite the tropical temperatures in many of the rooms at the Frobisher, black-out blinds that didn't black out anything, the "remote-northern" version of internet connections, and the cozy layout of the conference rooms, it seems that a great time was had by all. With guest speakers including Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre, The Honourable Paul Okalik, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, John Amagoalik, Sheila Fraser, the Honourable Bob Rae, Tom Berger, and many more, the presentations were excellent and the panels were very well-attended. Papers and presentations are on the USB key that you all received; they are also available on the conference website.

We were fortunate to have many fantastic performances throughout the conference, including singing and story-telling by Aaju Peter, drum dancing by David Serkoak, throat singing by Kathleen Merritt & Marie Belleau, and a fantastic demonstration by Inuit Games champion Johnny Issaluk. Many of you were also able to enjoy country food in Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park, hikes to Apex, and the bonfires and amazing panoramic views at Upper Base.

We are grateful to our many conference sponsors, whose support and funding far exceeded our expectations. We couldn't have done it without you.

Perhaps the greatest success of the conference, however, is the incredible generosity of the conference attendees. As became clear over the course of the conference, the cost of living in Nunavut is very high, particularly the cost of food which is often at least 2-3 times higher than anywhere else in Canada.

We initiated a food drive to support the local food bank, and we were very moved by your response. The Nunavut Food Bank received boxes and boxes of food that people schlepped to Iqaluit in their suitcases, as well as cash donations of almost \$5000 from conference attendees. Another \$6000 was donated through the CBA, who used the money to purchase about 1900kg (!) of food at Loblaws. MLT sent an additional 11 boxes of food. First Air shipped all of this food to Iqaluit at no charge. As you will see from the photos, the shelves at the food bank were completely bare the day the shipment arrived, but once the pallets were unloaded the shelves were fully stocked. We can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. For more information about the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank, please contact them by email at nunavutfoodbank@gmail.com.





It was my pleasure to represent the Nunavut Branch, as our Branch Vice-President, at the Canadian Bar Association's annual Council Meetings and Legal Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. I was able to attend Board meetings as an observer on August 13 where I got a glimpse into what will be expected of me as President and our representative on the Canadian Bar Association's Board. On August 14 I attended Council meetings. These meetings were compressed from what was usually a one and a half day meeting into about 8-9 hours. During this meeting Council approved a resolution that would allow for bylaw number 1 to be amended, FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR, to allow for a deficit budget. This resolution was moved and passed. If any of our members have questions about this resolution or the subsequent budget please feel free to contact those members of the Executive who attended the meetings; John MacLean, Janet Rowsell, or myself. I attended my first Board meeting, as Branch President, on August 17. At that meeting I became the National Board's representative to the Law For the Future Foundation. I look forward to working with my fellow Branch Presidents and representing the Nunavut Branch in the following year. Please consider getting involved in our Branch and/ or if you have any PD suggestions or requests please pass them along to MSammurtok2@gov.nu.ca. Mutna.

- Mandy Sammurtok

This was my first year attending the annual Canadian Bar Association National Conference, which in the year 2014, took place in St. John's, Newfoundland. I participated and voted on resolutions introduced by various sections of the CBA in Council on Thursday, August 14, 2014. Among the resolutions that I voted in favour of was a resolution to urge the Canadian Government to review rules applicable to retirement savings and pension plans under the Income Tax Act and to make the necessary legislative changes to encourage greater retirement savings for all Canadians and not just those who can afford to save for their retirement; another resolution that I appreciated and that I offered my clear assent to was a resolution by the CBA to encourage the Federal Government to ensure that no proposed criminal justice legislation interfere with or erode prosecutorial independence; and another resolution which I strongly approved of was that the CBA resolve to work with interested justice sector organizations, service providers and community-based organizations to increase public awareness about the importance of legal aid and the costly personal and social consequences of inadequate legal aid and that the CBA equip its membership to raise legal aid as an election issue in upcoming federal, provincial and territorial elections.

My experience of council in addition to my participation in CPD events attuned my notion of the manner in which the CBA plays a vital role in offering the Legal Profession a voice in the direction of Canada's policymaking, legislation, and as an intervener before the Supreme Court of Canada.

- Janet Rowsell

Enacting Empowerment

By Nalini Vaddapalli



Teena Hartman enjoying arctic life in Rankin Inlet with her son Will and their four labs Moose, Lucky, Riggs, Hunter

Our very own Teena Hartman speaks on Enacting Empowerment: Legal Communication Skills for Mental Health & Addictions, CBA Legal Conference (CLC), August 2014, St. John's, N.L.

This year, the CLC invited the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada (ALAP) to share legal aid experiences in working with clients who struggle with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Teena Hartman, CEO of the Nunavut Legal Services Board joined Legal Aid Ontario and the Nova Scotia Legal Aid in presenting *Enacting Empowerment: Legal Communication Skills for Mental Health & Addictions*. In sharing the northern perspective and challenges faced in over 10 years of practicing in Nunavut, Teena noted that “The need is great and the content of the tool box is limited. You must learn to challenge your own routine to improve communication and service delivery”.

Teena spoke with much sensitivity about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and provided various identifiers to improve communication. You can learn more about FASD by reading the John Howard Society of Ontario Factsheet Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the Criminal Justice System: A Poor Fit.

All too often a quick legal response trumps the medical needs of a person with mental illness in criminal courts and family law cases. In Canada, there is a growing awareness of the intersection between mental illness and the legal system's response. The over-representation of people struggling with mental health problems in criminal, family, child protection and cases involving Aboriginal persons can be a consequence of stigma rather than compassion.

Whether it's a client, colleague, family member or friend, few are untouched by mental illness in some way. Participants were able to learn how to be part of the solution by better addressing mental illness in the legal system, including:

- how to better recognize and respond to clients' mental health needs with practical tools;
- understanding judicial perspectives on fitness for trial, Not Criminally Responsible, custody assessments, evidence, sentencing and decisions; and
- using strategies to translate Mental Health Court learnings into general Provincial Courts.

Panelists agreed that we must build further competencies in the legal profession. How will our profession take the next steps to incorporate principles in every day practice not just limiting ourselves to a top ten lists of things to do.

As part of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada (ALAP), Teena was joined by the following panelists :

- Chief Judge Pamela Williams – Nova Scotia Provincial and Family Courts
- Judge Stanley B. Sherr – Ontario Court of Justice
- Ryan Fritsch – Legal Aid Ontario
- Karen Hudson – Nova Scotia Legal Aid.





Wellness Roundtable and NuLAP

By Philip Grassie

On June 18, the Law Society of Nunavut and CBA Nunavut Branch held their first Wellness Roundtable with the support of the Nunavut Law Foundation. Marian De Souza, the Executive Director/CEO of the Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society, Justice Robert Philp of the Provincial Court of Alberta and Darrel Pink, the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. Many members attended in person and over the phone. The roundtable received positive media coverage, and both Judge Philp and Marian De Souza were interviewed on CBC News: Northbeat.

At the roundtable, many participants showed interest in peer support training. Those interested in this training should contact myself or Marian DeSouza. CBA National President Michele Hollins has made mental health and wellness one of her presidential priorities for 2014-2015. Nunavut Branch has committed to supporting Michele's initiatives on this important subject.

In September, I will be attending a meeting of Directors of Lawyers' Assistance Plans. If any members have concerns that they wish me to raise at the meeting, please let me know. I look forward to reporting back in the next newsletter.

I encourage lawyers to call the free helpline on the back of your Law Society membership card when you need assistance, or need help assisting a colleague.

Alberta Assist
24 hours a day
1-877-737-5508
www.albertalawyersassist.ca



CBA Mock Trial

By Chloe Boubalos

The Canadian Bar Association (Nunavut Branch) organized another hugely successful Mock Trial with grade nine students from Inuksuk High School (IHS). Lawyers from Public Prosecution Services of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik, came together in support of an exciting learning opportunity that opened up a new understanding of the legal system for IHS students.

This year, the problem concerned a cyber-bullying incident that sparked enthusiasm and interest due to its relevance. The accused, Apex, was charged with criminal harassment after allegedly sending threatening Facebook and text messages to the victim, Arviat, after Arviat danced with Apex's girlfriend at a school dance. The students had different roles: Crown, defense, clerks, sheriffs, journalists, witnesses, accused, and victim. Lawyers coached the students in the weeks leading up to the mock trial; this involved rehearsing direct and cross-examinations, drafting opening and closing statements, and preparing witnesses. Both in the classroom and the courtroom, it was a treat

to hear the students engage with a legal problem with sound judgment and interest.

On May 24, 2014, Justice David Stratas from the Federal Court of Appeal arrived in Iqaluit to preside over the mock trial. The students' excitement was contagious at their dress rehearsal the following afternoon. On the day of the mock trial, the students arrived at the courthouse decked out in their finest attire to play their parts. Everyone in attendance was blown away by their performance, particularly their well-reasoned and logical responses to Justice Stratas' pointed questions. The Honorable Paul Okalik, Minister of Justice, shared words of praise for teachers, volunteers and students alike, who put together a memorable experience.

The Law Society of Nunavut is already looking forward to next year's mock trial, which will undoubtedly bring the legal community and its partners together for another important and incredible Access to Justice initiative – this time with Supreme Court Justice Andromache Karakatsanis!



Justice Stratas, Nunavut lawyers, and the grade 9 class of Inuksuk High working on and participating in the annual mock trial held at the Nunavut Court of Justice.

A sit down with Justice Stratas

By Chloe Boubalos and Gillian Cummings

To tell us more about his involvement with the mock trial and his time in Iqaluit, we sat down with Justice Stratas. The success of this event would not have been the same without him. A big thank you goes out again to him for his commitment to making this a truly unforgettable event.

> What was your experience with the mock trial like? Why are initiatives like this so important?

About 5 minutes in to it, I took off my glasses and rubbed my eyes, I was tearing up. I found it so inspiring to see how wonderfully well these students were doing, how much they were enthralled by what they were doing and to see their parents and members of the local bar that had volunteered their time; it was incredibly moving to see the look on their faces. The justice system prospers and thrives when the public has confidence in it, and the public has confidence in it only when it understands it. The mock trial is a unique opportunity for young people (grade 9), at a very formative stage of their lives, to be exposed in a very practical, upfront way with the justice system, to understand it, to see how it works, and to really interact in an active way with it. I have no doubt that as a result of this initiative I was looking at future lawyers, future judges, and future court staff. In a very real way the mock trial may have provided a spark to some of these young people to form the next generation of the justice system in Nunavut.

“I found it so inspiring to see how wonderfully well these students were doing”



> Has this sparked something in you? Would you like to come back to the North?

Oh yes! I was absolutely overwhelmed by some of the challenges that are present. The attempt to make the legal system work and work well in a territory where the population is so dispersed and largely aboriginal in nature poses challenges that are really unique in Canada and it extends beyond the court system to law enforcement and civil matters as well. It is truly interesting to be exposed to these challenges and I would like to come back. We are eligible after 7 years to apply for a sabbatical and I think it would be a marvelous thing to spend more time in examining what is going on and to formulate solutions to help some of the challenges that exist. You can't help but be really inspired by the dedicated efforts of so many people to make it work. It was truly inspiring.

> You have talked about breaking down the wall between the judges and the public and the use of technology. Can you tell us why this is so important to you?

In the 21st century courts are going to need public confidence, which ensures that orders and judgments are given respect, that we are given the resources we need to dispense judgment and dispense it well, and in the 21st century to get the public's confidence we have to be seen and be seen in the world. The online world is an important world, particularly for young people. If you aren't in the online world you aren't understood or relevant and we have to adapt and be more visible.

> Apart from being a judge, what else do you like to do? Spare time?

First and foremost I am a law geek. I have a fascination with my chosen profession, so when I am not preparing for the next appeals I am reading further afield – articles, blogs, etc. When real life cases come before me I have to draw upon everything possible to reach the right result. I also love teaching and speaking at conferences, which takes a lot of the time that would be considered “spare time”.

> Is there anything else you would like to share?

I was hugely impressed with the members of CBA that I interacted with. To give up their Sundays and other work hours to help these students in this really wonderful exercise was really inspiring. For practitioners it's easy to write a cheque. What is really difficult is to give up time because that is coming out of your busy practice or your precious time with your family. Work-life balance is hard enough and for these folks to give all the time they gave for this cause was really great and inspiring. The most magical moment was sitting on the bench and seeing the pride in the parents and lawyers faces.

[Left to right] Mandy Sammurtok, Philip Grassie, John MacLean, Justice Stratas, and Mark Mossey



Futures Report

After two years of study, national consultations, original research, and the contributions of Initiative members from across Canada and diverse practice settings, the Legal Futures Initiative is pleased to share its findings and recommendations in our comprehensive Report, Futures: Transforming the Delivery of Legal Services in Canada. Within the Report, the Initiative offers insights on the changing legal marketplace, the value that lawyers will bring to the future of legal services in Canada, and the opportunities that arise from lawyers choosing to adapt to change.

Take a look and tell us: do you see yourself reflected in the various possibilities that we have identified?



READ THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

http://www.cbafutures.org/CBA/media/mediafiles/PDF/Reports/FuturesExecSum_Recommendations.pdf

Contact Us

Karin Galldin
Project Director
karing@cba.org

Ashley Cochrane
Project Officer
ashleyc@cba.org

See more at:

<http://www.cbafutures.org/The-Reports/Futures-Transforming-the-Delivery-of-Legal-Service>

Membership Savings

By Michelle Hollins

Don't forget that all levels of CBA membership gives you access to exclusive discounts and services. Here are some of the most recent member offerings:

LexisNexis Canada is the CBA's newest Preferred Supplier for Content-enabled workflow efficiency solutions. What does this mean for CBA members? Exclusive deals and savings of up to 20% on products such as Quicklaw[®], PCLaw[®], Lexis Practice AdvisorSM Canada and LexisNexis CaseMap[®] or Concordance[®]. Visit the LexisNexis partner page for terms and conditions.

MBNA is offering members a new product, a CBA MasterCard with a 1.99% AIR[†] on balance transfers* and deposits* for the first full 10 months! MasterCard Platinum Plus benefits and no-annual fee are standard. Learn more!

First Data Canada, CBA's Preferred Supplier of credit card processing, is pleased to announce the launch of CustomerPerks[®] — a new complimentary customer discount program, where merchants will save more with significant savings on a wide range of products, services and experiences for home, work and play. There is no charge to enjoy the benefits of the exclusive First Data CustomerPerks[®] program. CBA members can combine special savings on processing rates and fees to make the CustomerPerks[®] even more rewarding. Sign-up with First Data today!

Rogers Communications offers CBA members savings of 15% off select wireless plans. With more plans now eligible for the CBA discount, practically anyone can save! Find out if your current Rogers plan is eligible or if you are new to Rogers, how to start savings today!

View these deals and more on the CBA Member Savings page.



Make sure to visit our Branch page on the National CBA website at:

<http://www.cba.org/nunavut>

Questions? Comments? Drop Nalini a line at ceo@lawsociety.nu.ca

Many thanks!

By Nalini Vaddapalli, ED NU Branch

It has been another great year for our small but very vibrant Branch! I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our dedicated Executive and our President John MacLean whose commitment to shedding light on lawyer wellness has created an invaluable stepping stone to facilitate further discussions and implement initiatives with the support of Alberta Assist and its Executive Director, our friend, Marian De Souza.

Meeting Justice Stratas who came up for the Mock Trial was simply a delight for his willingness to sit down with the high school students and hang out with our members and answer all of our questions. As our special employee Annie P. said to Justice Stratas : Good job – Thumbs up!

How great it was to have welcomed our CBA friends from across the country to our beloved Nunavut for the National Aboriginal Conference and collaborating with my northern colleague and friend Cindy Kieu who has managed a tour de force! It is for me such a joy to hear all the great comments when I met our CBA colleagues at the recent CLC in St. John's.

Finally, many many thanks to John Hoyles, National office staff and Branch Executive Directors who have welcomed me in their group (and made sure I was in the right place at the right time) and with whom I get to enjoy their wonderful company at each meeting and learn more about the CBA and how we work together to overcome challenges for the best interest of this great organization.

Like many of you are aware, I wear many hats. At the end of day, because of all the people I have the chance to meet and invest time and effort to do good in Nunavut and for the organization, this journey remains a splendid journey so nakuurmiik to all!



[Left to right] Nalini Vaddapalli; Branch Executive Directors Dinner – August 2014