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NUNAVUT LAW FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2011

## A) 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, c. L-2, 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 to be 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, 2011 were:

<b>Appointed by the Law Society:</b>	<b>Thomas Druyan, Iqaluit - Chair</b> <b>Andrew Campbell, Iqaluit</b> <b>Sandra Omik, Iqaluit</b> <b>Mandy Sammurtok, Iqaluit</b>
<b>Appointed by the Commissioner:</b>	<b>vacant</b>

*Auditors* The auditors of the Foundation are MacKay, Landau, Chartered Accountants, Iqaluit.

*Administration* In keeping with the modest size of the Foundation’s budget, the Foundation operates without an Executive or administrative officer. Accordingly the administrative affairs are being managed by the Board of Directors. The Board meets regularly throughout the year and applications for grants are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

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

Nunavut Law Foundation  
P. O. Box 69  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Attention: Thomas Druyan  
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E-mail: [tdruyan@gov.nu.ca](mailto:tdruyan@gov.nu.ca)

*Mandate* As in other jurisdictions the Foundation exists to receive interest accruing on monies held in trust by lawyers carrying on the practice of law in the Territory and thereby to establish and maintain a fund to be used to make grants for the purpose of encouraging and supporting projects and initiatives that generally will 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 this Territory and to instruct the bank to remit interest earned on such trust monies to the Foundation. Currently this is being done by only one Nunavut practitioner. As a necessary alternative at this time the Society collects from all of its members a special levy which represents the major source of the Foundations revenues at the present time.

The Foundation's legislated mandate is to use the interest and capital from its fund to:

- i) conduct research into and recommend reform of law and the administration of justice,
- ii) establish, maintain and operate law libraries,
- iii) contribute to the legal education and knowledge of members and of the people of Nunavut and provide programs and facilities for that purpose,
- iv) provide assistance to legal aid programs and programs of a similar nature, and
- v) assist all other endeavours that, in the opinion of the Board, are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects.

## B) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It is my privilege to submit another annual report as Chair of the Nunavut Law Foundation.

Over the past years, the members of the Board have worked hard to establish the Foundation as a viable and effective organization that succeeds in fulfill its statutory mandate of making grants. At the same time, our resources are modest and we must carefully monitor and manage those resources so that we can continue to meet our objectives in the foreseeable future. But, even modest grants can have a positive impact.

As stated previously, the Board continues to work to raise the Foundation's profile in Nunavut. This is a constant challenge because of several factors: the sheer size of the Territory; the small size of the resident legal community and its concentration in Iqaluit; and the precisely defined nature of our mandate. Fortunately though, our financial outlook remains stable. In brief, we awarded grants of almost \$30,000, while we received over \$25,000 in levies from the Law Society of Nunavut; our total assets now total approximately \$300,000. The audited financial statements for the fiscal year are set out in Part D of this Annual Report.

Several years ago, the Foundation decided to focus on investing in the future of this Territory by creating awards to assist Nunavummiut in furthering their education, and this continues to form the core of the Foundation's activities.

In 2007, the Foundation had established the *Lucien Ukaliannuk Award for Studies in Law*, which provides awards to students wishing to pursue law-related studies and who qualify on the basis of need and a commitment to Nunavut. I am proud to announce that awards totalling \$19,000 were awarded in 2011 to four deserving individuals to help them pursue or complete legal studies. We expect that these students will eventually become community leaders – indeed, they may already be leaders – and that they will make a significant contribution to the overall development of Nunavut. We are also working on developing strategies to notify more students about the availability of this award, and this has already borne fruit with the record number of recipients this year.

I am also proud to announce that in 2011 the Foundation made the inaugural *Upinnaktuq Awards*. The awards were given to 6 very deserving high school students; the students had been nominated by principals, teachers or counselors in recognition of their commitment to leadership and peacemaking or their significant efforts at rehabilitation. Awards were given to students in communities throughout Nunavut, and, although this wasn't one of the criteria, it turned out that there was equal representation of male and female students. The *Upinnaktuq Awards* had been established to honour Judge Beverley Browne's contribution to Nunavut and her passion and commitment to working with youth. So, as a result of happy coincidence and hard work, Judge Browne was able to participate in a ceremony here in Iqaluit giving the *Upinnaktuq Awards* to two local recipients. Although the amount of the Award is not large, it is likely to be the only Award that some of the recipients will ever receive, and they do deserve to be recognized – and encouraged.

The Foundation was also pleased to help fund research by the *Akitsiraq Law Society*; the *Society* was working on a public legal education project respecting bankruptcy and mortgages. The project was well-done and I understand that a public presentation on its results was well attended and well-received.

As mentioned in last year's report, the Foundation had encouraged the *Nunatta Sunakutaangit Museum* to bring the Legacy of Hope Foundation exhibit regarding the Inuit residential school experience to Iqaluit as a public legal education and healing event. This occurred in 2011 and the Foundation was pleased to make a grant to assist with events surrounding the exhibition, both at the public opening and at a special session for residential school survivors.

The Foundation also sent a letter of support to Nunavut Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. As a multi-stakeholder roundtable, the Foundation hopes to foster new collaborations and support community initiatives that are part of the Law Foundation's mandate.

Finally, capacity challenges arising from the lack of administrative staff were resolved in 2011. The Foundation appreciates the support of the Executive of the Law Society of Nunavut and, in particular, the efforts of Nalini Vaddapalli, the Law Society's CEO, and Lara Graves, Joan Christiansen and Zofia Przybytkowski, the Law Society's law students, who provided invaluable and enthusiastic assistance to the Foundation. This greatly assisted us in fulfilling our role without compromising our independence from the Law Society. We look forward to continue working with Ms. Vaddapalli and her staff to both achieve an efficient solution to our administrative tasks and to continue to explore new initiatives. I am confident that, with this assistance, administrative problems will not reoccur.

Respectfully

Thomas Druyan  
Chair

C) *GRANTS MADE*

Grants made during the calendar year are as follows:

1)	<i>Lucien Ukaliannuk Award</i>	\$ 7,500.00
2)	<i>Lucien Ukaliannuk Award</i>	\$ 5,000.00
3)	<i>Lucien Ukaliannuk Award</i>	\$ 5,000.00
4)	<i>Lucien Ukaliannuk Award</i>	\$ 1,500.00
5)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
6)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
7)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
8)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
9)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
10)	<i>Upinnaktuq Award</i>	\$ 500.00
11)	<i>Akitsiraq Law Society</i> -public legal education	\$ 1,500.00
12)	<i>Nunatta Sunakutaangit Museum</i> - Legacy of Hope Foundation exhibit	\$ 2,500.00
	Total	<u>\$ 26,000.00</u>