



**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Council of the Canadian Bar Association**  
**New Brunswick Branch**  
**September 22, 2016**  
**Delta Beausejour Moncton**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Scott Britain called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Moncton. He indicated that he and Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C. would take the opportunity to make a presentation to Deloras O'Neil. Scott noted that typically, the presentation would occur at the Midwinter but this was not possible this past year. Scott said that it had been an absolute pleasure working with Deloras on the Executive and that she had served as a mentor to him. He noted that Deloras always used a collaborative and common sense approach in solving issues. Scott spoke about the challenge to Universality that occurred during Deloras' tenure as President and the retention of Universality was a major accomplishment during her term.

Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C. took a few moments to share her appreciation of all the efforts of Deloras and recalled that when assuming the role of President last Fall she felt that she had big shoes to fill. She expressed her appreciation for Deloras work that helped guide CBA-NB through a difficult time and that all members of CBA-NB benefited from her guidance.

A certificate and gift were presented to Deloras on behalf of CBA NB.

**Consent Agenda**

**Motion to adopt the CONSENT AGENDA including the minutes of June 24, 2016 meeting of Council in St. Andrews, NB, Executive Director Report and the Professional Development Report**

**Moved by Kevin Haché**

**Seconded Isabelle Lavoie Daigle**

**Motion carried**

**Reports of Table Officers**

*Treasurers Report*

Tina Lagacé-Rivard presented the Treasurer's Report using a power point presentation and the actual statements were circulated prior to the meeting of Council. The presentation included fiscal year 2015-2016 and financial to date for 2016-2017.

**Motion to adopt the financial statements for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017**

**Moved by Tina Lagacé-Rivard**

**Seconded by Maya Hamou**

**Motion carried**

*Approval of Signing Officers for 2016-2017*

The approval of signing offices is reflective of the transition that happens with the council each year. There needs approval to change signing authorities. It should be noted that each cheque requires two signatures from the signing authorities.

**Motion to approve the following as signing officers**



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**President Scott Brittain**

**Past President Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C..**

**Vice President Tina Lagacé-Rivard**

**Treasurer Justin Robichaud**

**Executive Director Denise Cameron**

**Moved by Brian Maude**

**Seconded by John Logan**

**Motion carried**

#### *President's Report*

Scott Brittain stated that he attended the UNB law school orientation on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 and Justin Robichaud will be attending the Université de Moncton orientation session later in the month. He spoke about the great opportunity to engage young members and to speak of CBA Connect. Furthermore, these occasions are great ways to improve and foster communication with Law students, which CBA Connect, of course, facilitates.

Scott also stated that he attended the National Board meeting in Ottawa where the final recommendations for CBA Rethink were brought forward. He wishes to recognize Denise Cameron's work with the integration team of the CBA Rethink project since, he states, she committed to more than what her mandate required.

#### *Vice-President's Report*

Tina Lagacé-Rivard stated that Midwinter planning is going well. She shared that they only have a few midwinter sessions to confirm. She spoke of the composition of the MW committee, which is composed of 5 lawyers from the northern region, 6 lawyers from Grand Falls and 6 lawyers from Fredericton. The entertainment for the event has been chosen and Tina noted that it should bring a Northwestern flair. Overall, she indicated that everything is on schedule.

Kevin Haché asked about the changes to Saturday afternoon midwinter course programming and lunches.

Tina responded that no public forum will occur and there will be boxed lunches to take away so participants can get on the road. However, the condensed midwinter course programming will still offer the same amount of credit hours than in previous years.

Scott Brittain spoke about the inconveniences of having a Public forum during the Midwinter conference. There is significant money that is spent on advertising. In addition, it presents an issue with accreditation since it needs to be a topic that is general enough to be relevant to the public but also provides a legal education for participants. The benefit of the condensed midwinter is that members will still be able to obtain the required amount of credits like previous years.

Denise Cameron made a comment, that we may want to begin to think about the challenge of hosting our MW in Moncton in 2018 as space will pose a challenge until a time that the new center is complete which likely means we will return to holding Saturday afternoon sessions in



order to provide the complete program to participants.

#### *Past President Report*

Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C. stated that she had a busy year as President taking into account the CBA rethink initiative. One of her intentions as President had been to address the problems that lawyers who practice in rural areas face. As President, she attended the Rethink meetings in Ottawa she added that regional representation for Atlantic Canada was a tense issue during rethink discussions Those in Atlantic Canada fought hard for their representation.

In August, she stated that she received a letter from Chief Justice Ernest Drapeau to attend their annual meeting. It was the first time that the Canadian Bar Association- New Brunswick Branch. She spoke about the presentation she made to the Court of Appeal Judges on what CBA planned to do and its future direction.. Ann stated that she and Scott have a meeting with Chief Justice Drapeau in the works. She mentioned the importance for the organization to have a good relationship with the judiciary.

#### *Communication Chair Report*

Justin Robichaud stated work continues with Forté Communications and results will then go to the Communications Committee. Justin added that they are currently searching for someone to fill the position of Communication Chair as Justin has been elected Treasurer.

#### *Section Activities Coordinator Report*

Scott Brittain stated that the executive is very excited about Brian Maude's new position as Section Activities Coordinator. He mentioned that resources have been added to the section coordinator budget.

Brian Maude stated that the goal is to coordinate multiple streams at the same time, so that we can concentrate on more than one area of law at the same time.

### **Discussions**

#### *Stipend for CBA NB President*

The first item presented was carry forward of discussion regarding an honorarium for CBA-NB President from June meeting of Council

Scott Brittain provided some context to the issue. He spoke that the commitments for the President of CBA-NB can be significant, especially for those that are in private practice. A consideration arose for an honorarium to the CBA-NB president to offset the cost of carrying out of CBA business

Denise presented statistical information on CBA branches that do have honorariums. See attached form.

Scott suggested that we refer this issue to the Governance Committee.

Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C. indicated that she had raised the issue in June because when she



began as CBA-NB President, she understood her time commitment to be finite. However, because of the fluctuating time commitment, it affected her financial year as a solo practitioner. The Governance Committee is in a position to take an objective look at an honorarium. She stated that she, however, does not regret her time as President and that the re-think initiative that occupied a great deal of her time taught her a great deal of patience.

Deloras O'Neil stated that she hopes that the governance committee studies this issue because she believes that this is a good idea in principle. She also mentioned that the Law Society of New Brunswick Presidency has a stipend and that as a Past President, she understands the amount of time that one has to commit to that role.

The council receives brief words of encouragement to carry out a study of the initiative by the Governance Committee by Hugh Cameron, André Daigle and John Logan.

Scott Brittain made a recommendation to have the executive refer this matter to the Governance Committee with the hopes to have a recommendation brought forward by summer 2017.

**Motion to have the issue of a stipend for the President of CBA NB be considered by the Governance Committee.**

**Moved by John Logan**

**Seconded by Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C.**

**Motion carried**

*CONNECT Initiative* (Mentoring Program for Young Lawyers & Law Students with Members)  
[http://www.cba.org/News-Media/News/2016/September/Spotlight-on-CBA-Connect?utm\\_source=cba&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.cba.org/News-Media/News/2016/September/Spotlight-on-CBA-Connect?utm_source=cba&utm_medium=email)

CBA Connect initiative is one of the things that Scott Brittain would like to focus on as President. He mentioned that there is a membership decline when law students migrate to students at law. The objective to this initiative is to make the organization more relevant to students and begin a relationship that would remain as they progress through their careers. In other CBA jurisdictions that do not have Universality and the rate of return from past student members is not significant. Scott states that what is of value to the Connect Initiative is that we will be able to engage with the two law faculties in order to put in place mentorship opportunities. Scott stated that he would like to establish a subcommittee with representation from both universities.

As a law student, Samantha Puchala states that student engagement is very important to her and that the subcommittee is a good idea. She believes that law students would be very interested by the idea of a mentorship program.

Scott Brittain mentioned that five other provinces have a mentorship program.

Fernand Devarennas. Une idée très intéressante, je pense que les universités doivent être



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impliquer, Il serait très intéressant de voir les programmes qui existe.

John Logan added that this is going to take a fair amount of work. He mentored three daughters through law school...lifestyle choice etc. he felt that is it important to have a good connection between lawyers and faculty or academics.

André Daigle spoke about his awareness of the initiative and said that this program is taking root on a national level. He added he is now a National Section Chair.

**Motion that Council establish a Committee that would include; One representative from each of the Law Schools, 1 representative from the Young Lawyers Conference, the student representatives on Council from each Law School, one members from the Executive and 2 members at large.**

**Moved by Samantha Pachula**

**Seconded by Fernand Devarenes**

**Motion carried**

*Forté presentation by Pascale*

See PowerPoint presentation document

**Motion to adjourn**

**Moved by Ann Whiteway Brown, Q.C.**