



Federation names new President for 2019-2020

**For Immediate Release
November 15, 2019**

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is pleased to announce that Morgan Cooper of St. John's has been elected President for 2019 - 2020. Mr. Cooper joined the Federation Council in 2016 as the nominee of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. He previously served as an elected Bencher, then as President of the law society.

Mr. Cooper is General Counsel for Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's. He previously held the position of Associate Vice-President Academic (Faculty Affairs) from 2013-2015 and was Director of Faculty Relations at Memorial University from April 2008 to April 2013.

Prior to his appointment at Memorial, Mr. Cooper practiced law with an emphasis on employment and labour law, including advocacy before administrative tribunals and courts, collective bargaining support and strategic advice to corporations. Morgan has held positions as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Labour Relations Board with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for a combined period of five years. From 1994-2001, he was an Assistant Professor at Memorial's Faculty of Business Administration, and has also been a sessional instructor for the Faculty of Business since 2001.

Morgan holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Memorial, a Master of Industrial Relations from the University of Toronto and an LL.B. from Dalhousie University. He also holds the designation of Certified In-House Counsel (CIC.C) from the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association.

The Federation President says a key priority will be setting the Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, including moving forward with important ongoing projects. "The business of delivering legal services continues to undergo significant change and legal regulators have taken notice particularly with regard to how new technologies may help address access to justice challenges. Our members see the Federation as their vehicle to share information, facilitate dialogue and explore opportunities for collaboration on important issues such as this one. A recent Federation conference on well-being and mental health in the legal profession has also struck a chord with our members, so we will be looking at that issue as well."

Ongoing projects will also be a priority. "The Federation will continue to develop tools for law societies to help educate the legal profession about the risks of money laundering and rules designed to mitigate those risks. We will also press ahead with our work in response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they relate to the legal profession."

In addition, the Federation has embarked on a project to modernize the assessment of credentials of National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) candidates. The NCA is tasked by Canada's law societies to certify the credentials of internationally trained law graduates who wish to practice law in a Canadian common law jurisdiction. "The modernization project involves developing a competency-based assessment system for NCA applicants" the Federation President notes.

The Federation is the national coordinating body of Canada's 14 law societies, which are mandated by provincial and territorial statutes to regulate the country's 125,000 lawyers, Quebec's 3,800 notaries and Ontario's nearly 10,500 licensed paralegals in the public interest.

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The Federation speaks out on issues critical to safeguarding the public's right to an independent legal profession, the protection of solicitor-client privilege and other issues relating to the administration of justice and the rule of law. For more information on the Federation, please visit our web site at www.flsc.ca.

For more information about this release, or to acquire a high resolution photograph of the Federation President, please contact:

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