

1 Roman, and the rest of the staff for their support in
2 the development of this vision, and I want to also
3 thank my co-chair, Julian Falconer, for his dedication.

4 That's my presentation. Thank you very
5 much. I don't know if there are any questions arising.

6 TREASURER MINOR: Thank you very much,
7 Ms. Hare. Are there any questions or comments in the
8 room? Julian, Mr. Falconer.

9 MR. FALCONER: Thank you, Treasurer. I
10 like it when you call me by my first name.

11 Treasurer, through you to Ms. Hare, I
12 just want to, on a personal note, say that one of the
13 difficulties in this area is we, I believe, have to
14 acknowledge we are, to some extent, sadly operating in
15 the dark for a number of reasons. I'm not referring to
16 Ms. Hare, I'm talking about Convocation as a whole.

17 They're not all evil reasons that we
18 seek to suppress these issues. The reason is that it
19 takes time for us to evolve to a place where we're open
20 to learning.

21 I want to thank my colleague and
22 Vice-Chair, Ms. Hare, for the efforts she's making to
23 create some light and give us some guidance on basic
24 principles that we all -- we don't just benefit here in
25 Convocation.

1 I was very touched by the speech of
2 former Treasurer Conway when he talked about how what
3 he learned in Convocation actually impacted his
4 ceremonies for his father.

5 It's -- I have very similar feelings
6 about what I learn, whether it's from Ms. Hare or other
7 First Nations clients and colleagues. What I find what
8 I learn is I tend to learn things that are life
9 lessons, far from simply professional lessons, but I do
10 want to move to what sort of, to me, is a practical
11 level to these issues, and I do not intend to be long,
12 I intend to be short.

13 I see the Medicine Wheel and the
14 guidance Ms. Hare has provided us as very helpful. If
15 one starts the conversation around transparency -- our
16 CEO Robert Lapper attended at a NAN justice conference
17 last year and was very successful for a reason. That
18 is, imagine being at a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Justice
19 Conference in Thunder Bay where the chief sitting
20 beside you, the chief of Sandy lake, said he had never
21 heard of the Law Society.

22 Imagine that Mr. Lapper was able not
23 only to address that head on, but to leave with people
24 patting him on the back for his candour. He was able
25 to acknowledge the reality that the Law Society had

1 much work to do and to foster trust because of how
2 honest he was about it. I think he actually used the
3 words, "lost society" versus "Law Society" at one point
4 in his remarks. It was an effort to be respectful and
5 candid about the problem. So he dealt with the issue
6 of transparency, because the first question really is
7 are we accessible.

8 A lot of my work is in the north, so I'm
9 a bit myopic, but I say this to all of us. If we're
10 going to be transparent, it means we have to be
11 accessible. That means we have to make our presence
12 known.

13 The Treasurer marched in the rally, the
14 orange T-shirt rally. I was beside her. In addition
15 to bearing the burden of making the walk, she had to do
16 it beside me talking the whole time, which in and of
17 itself is special performance and warrants some expense
18 adjustments, I'm sure.

19 MR. SCHABAS: You were talking.

20 MR. FALCONER: That's right. But the
21 bottom line was each of these acts are acts of
22 engagement, but they're not enough. They're not
23 enough.

24 If we're going to be accessible, you
25 have to spend money on it, you have to spend resources

1 on it. We have to capacity build amongst our staff.

2 We have staff that are very dedicated to
3 doing better in this area, but they don't have the
4 capacity around them, we haven't put the money and
5 resources around them. Our presence in the north is
6 very limited. We have to spend money on this. That
7 means that we have to back this. That means we have to
8 create satellite offices. That means we have to invest
9 in what we're talking about.

10 When you move to the question of
11 respect, it means that when -- as I recall correctly,
12 you were talking the south quadrant. It means that
13 when we approach leadership, we're very good at
14 approaching leadership internationally. We get memos
15 on protocols, people's titles, all those things. We
16 know how to observe them.

17 We have to do the same thing
18 domestically with First Nations. Respectful
19 relationships means we as staff and Benchers learn how
20 to approach leadership in a way that keeps respect on a
21 certain level.

22 When we talk about this notion of being
23 proactive, it means we don't wait to be criticized on
24 the residential schools issues. We move out there and
25 manage the situation that's going on right now.

1 What I mean by that is, yes, we are
2 doing good work in managing a problem that has come to
3 our attention, but I say with respect to all those
4 making laudable efforts, we're not proactive, we're
5 reactive.

6 That west quadrant means something.

7 That means we're capable of figuring out where the
8 problems are and what we should be communicating about
9 the residential schools issues. We need to get out
10 there and do it as a regulator.

11 The issue of competence isn't just an
12 issue of competence of the bar. That is a factor. But
13 it's our competence and it goes back to this question
14 of capacity building. I believe whether as Benchers or
15 staff, we have to invest in developing ourselves, which
16 means we have to spend money on hiring people who are
17 First Nations background, who have First Nations
18 experience.

19 We don't use the word expertise anymore
20 because it tends to classify those who have lots of
21 money and develop nice CVs, versus elders, who you
22 wouldn't call experts, you call them elders, people
23 with background. We have to invest in them and bring
24 them in and pay them appropriately. Don't expect them
25 to donate free of their time, and actually develop a

1 notion, in my mind, of competence amongst ourselves.
2 I say all this because, of course, Ms.
3 Hare is the inspiration for this, but I call on us to
4 appreciate it's more than just platitudes now, that we
5 actually -- this is an opportunity for us to act.
6 Society expects no less, you can see it all around you,
7 not just within the profession, all around us, that the
8 time has come in terms of reconciling our obligations
9 to First Nations, much as they have to reconcile their
10 obligations to us. And I say and call on us to seize
11 the moment. Thank you.

12 TREASURER MINOR: Thank you, Mr.

13 Falconer. Any other comments? Mr. Evans?

14 MR. EVANS: Thanks, Treasurer. The more
15 I go on, the more I realize I, and all of us, are
16 lifelong learners.

17 I wish to pay attribute to Susan Hare
18 and also to Julian Falconer and others who have worked
19 so hard for this project. Susan, it's been a wonderful
20 education that you have given all of us.

21 I go back to the smudging ceremony last
22 month that you and your husband carried out and what a
23 great introduction to all of us the issues that you're
24 dealing with.

25 The ceremonies are important, but that's