



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year for PLEA has been quite the whirlwind! Although this year has been a very successful and busy one, at the time of this writing, COVID-19 has resulted in many PLEA staff working from home. So first of all, I wish to commend and thank the excellent PLEA staff for their diligence in continuing to provide the people of Saskatchewan with the important and necessary legal information that they need during this unusual time.

As President of the Board, it has been very exciting this past year to see all of the new PLEA projects come to fruition. With the completion of the revised PLEA website (plea.org) including optimized search functions and a complete overhaul of the design and style and mobile optimization, quality legal information is even more accessible to people in need.

PLEA has also been active this past year on many fronts; continuing their successful Listen project for survivors of sexual violence, working with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation in producing interesting and informative learning resources for Saskatchewan students and working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, along with Pro-Bono Law Saskatchewan in the development of Saskatchewan's first Online Dispute Resolution tool. All of these projects, as well as all of the other traditional methods of service that PLEA provides could not have been done without the excellent

staff and their amazing Executive Director, Joel Janow – Thank you everyone!

I'm sure I speak for the entire Board when I express our thanks and appreciation for all of the volunteers who continually step up and generously provide their time and knowledge to meet the needs of those most requiring legal information. This organization would not be what it is today without our excellent volunteers from the legal community and other service sectors. I also personally wish to thank my fellow Board members for generously providing their time and energy in ensuring that PLEA continues to operate for many years to come.

Last, but certainly not least, I wish to express our gratitude to the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for their continued financial support of PLEA. The important and valuable work of PLEA could not happen without your contributions. I also wish to thank the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and the Department of Justice Canada for their continued contributions, particularly in allowing PLEA to pursue much needed special projects.

Allison Katarey

OUR MISSION

The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA) is a non-profit, non-government, charitable organization which exists to educate, inform, and empower through law-related education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT PLEA.ORG.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In 2019, PLEA enjoyed one of its most active and successful years in memory. Through our phone lines, websites, email, print material, and volunteer presenters, countless people were reached. Many special projects allowed us to reach specific vulnerable populations. No PLEA Annual Report message can begin without recognizing the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for making all of this work possible. The support of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and the Department of Justice Canada continued to assist our efforts, particularly with respect to special project funding.

Perhaps the chief highlight of 2019 was the launch of PLEA's completely re-engineered primary website, plea.org, written entirely for the web. The information is easily accessible, and utilizes optimized search functions and adaptive web design. Our sector-leading *Family Law Saskatchewan* website was also enhanced in 2019. An Agreement-Maker component was added to the site providing a tool for self-represented individuals to construct family law agreement documents on their own. With Justice Canada's support, we were very pleased to be able to translate site content into French, with added French interactive tools for arriving at a Petition for

Divorce and an Application for Judgment. In addition, PLEA received Justice Canada funding to update our family law print and web-based information over the next two years to reflect changes to family laws.

A further highlight of 2019 was the continuation of our successful *Listen* project for survivors of sexual violence. Formal evaluation of the project was very positive, and feedback sessions for lawyers were held during the year. We are pleased that this program may serve as a model for a new major project approved by Justice Canada in 2019 – our multi-year *Addressing Workplace Sexual Harassment* project. The new project will result in legal information specifically for workers, as well as the provision of free legal advice and information from lawyers.

We were grateful in 2019 to be invited by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, along with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, to contribute to the province's *e-Justice Project* in the development of Saskatchewan's first Online Dispute Resolution tool.

PLEA's Teachers and Schools Program continued to provide educators, administrators, and students with topical, engaging, inspiring, and practical legal resources. A major highlight was working

with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to produce an updated and expanded *Treaties and the Law* issue of *The PLEA* newsletter. Other highlights included the learning resource *Direct Democracy* and accompanying issue of *The PLEA*, and the continuation of the *Consent & the Law* presentations to high school students in cooperation with Pro Bono Students Canada.

PLEA remains true to traditional methods of service that are still very much required for many segments of our society – telephone, presentations, in-person visits, and print. We are also very excited to embark on, or continue with, our many, crucial new projects and modes of information delivery coming in 2020. Such projects have allowed us to keep the core funding provided by the Law Foundation under 70% of our total revenue over the past two years (from previous highs near 80%), while still maintaining previous projects and increased core services. With all of this, we look forward to continuing to address the never-ending public need for legal information and education in our province for decades to come.

Joel Janow

86,463

PRINT PUBLICATIONS
DISTRIBUTED

474,412

WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS

PUBLISHED

Booklets

A Death in the Family

Assault

Babysitting

Power of Attorney

Saskatchewan Income Support: Applying

Sexual Assault

Small Claims Court

Wills and Estates

Newsletters

38.3 Treaties and the Law

39.1 Cats and the Law

39.2 Direct Democracy

PARTNERS

- Libraries, including courthouse, public libraries, and the College of Law Library
- Pro Bono law groups including Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada (national and local offices) and CLASSIC
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, including the Family Law Information Centre and the Family Matters program
- College of Law
- Canadian Bar Association – Saskatchewan Branch
- Saskatchewan Access to Justice Working Group
- Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network
- Dean’s Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution
- Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project
- Self-represented Litigants Working Group
- CREATE Justice
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Association des juristes d’expression française de la Saskatchewan

AGREEMENT MAKER

now available on familylaw.plea.org

Many people with legal issues arising from family breakdown would like to resolve them by agreement but are not sure where to start. PLEA's Agreement Maker guides people through the process with simple interview style questions. People can deal with a wide range of issues using the Agreement Maker – from custody, child support, spousal support and family property to consent orders.

- Saskatchewan-specific plain-language legal information is integrated into each step.
- Users select issues they want to deal with from a wide-range of options.
- Provides the flexibility for users to write their own clauses but also provides extensive options for users to choose from if they need guidance.
- Alerts users to issues they may want to deal with but also allows users to choose not to cover these issues in their agreement.
- Creates an easily editable Word document for users to further refine if they choose.
- Includes an easy-to-understand explanation about next steps including signing and witnessing requirements, when legal advice is required and options for using the agreement to ask for consent orders.

The PLEA Newsletter,
Vol. 39 No. 1

CATS AND THE LAW

*“The easiest way to be popular,”
Homer Simpson’s sister-in-law
Patty reminded us, “is to leech off
the popularity of others.”*

Because few things today are more popular than cats, PLEA created *Cats and the Law*. This cleverly-designed resource fast-became a celebrated reminder that the law is all around us. From the requirements and limits of Saskatchewan’s *Animal Protection Act*, to the rightful ownership of stray cats, to some truly head-scratching bequests for cats in wills, *Cats and the Law* helped people become better pet owners, better neighbours, and better citizens.

1,161

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
HANDLED

83%

RATED THE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITES
HELPFUL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2019 is Saskatoon lawyer Mr. James D. Steele.

James has volunteered his valuable time for PLEA from the time he was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in 2015. He has presented public legal information sessions throughout the community, without hesitation, whenever asked, and he is a great pleasure to work with for our *Request a Speaker* program.

James is an associate lawyer with one of the province's leading and most long-established law firms, Robertson Stromberg. Before earning his Juris Doctorate of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, also from the U of S, graduating with Great Distinction. While in law school, James was a Student Editor of the *Saskatchewan Law Review*.

James focuses his skills on civil litigation in all areas of law, with concentration on estate litigation, insurance law, and municipal law. He appears before all

levels of court in Saskatchewan, and many administrative tribunals.

He is greatly committed to legal education, both for his profession and for the public. Already in his legal career, he has published 16 articles in his areas of expertise, for the profession, for the academic study of law, and for blogs presenting important case comments. In addition to his volunteer presentations for PLEA and the Saskatoon Public Library, James has made several presentations at professional seminars and continuing legal education events. He is also a member of the Board of Editors of the Canadian Bar Association publication, *Bar Notes*. Like his firm, James is clearly committed to serving his community.

In addition, his great passion for music and performing has led him to serve on the Board of Directors for the John Arcand Fiddle Fest. He is deeply involved in fiddle music throughout the

province. He performs regularly, and has been Canadian Grand Master Fiddle Champion, a six-time Grand North American Champion, and a nine-time Saskatchewan Champion.

James's tremendous experience, expertise and commitment to service have greatly enhanced public legal education, professional education, and the arts community for our province.

We are very grateful and privileged to know and work with a person such as James. We are honoured to be able to name him 2019's Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and thank you, James.

THANK YOU

Above all, we thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and its members for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. We are also very grateful for the support of the Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice for their generous core and special project funding.

The Saskatchewan legal community has always supported our work. This includes the volunteer efforts of practitioners, and collaboration with agencies such as the CBA, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, the College of Law, the U of S College of Education, the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution, the Self-represented Litigants Working Group, the Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network, CREATE Justice, the Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project, Law Society of Saskatchewan Libraries, the Saskatoon and Regina Public Libraries, virtually all provincial public libraries, and the College of Law Library.

We are very thankful for the support of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in the development of an expanded issue of the important learning resource *Treaties and the Law*.

We are again grateful for the extraordinary assistance of Blaine Korte IT Services in the production of web-based/electronic/interactive public legal education resources.

We also thank Towriss & Associates Workforce Solutions for their kind and

generous support as we placed our new Legal Program Coordinator position in 2019.

We thank the PLEA Board of Directors and institutional member-appointing agencies for their strong support. We also thank the members of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada for their cooperative spirit, expertise, and encouragement.

As always, special thanks go to the extraordinarily talented PLEA team. Their hard work, dedication, cooperative efforts, and pure belief in the need for and value of what we are doing continues to result in some of the most useful, usable, accessible, practical and appropriate legal information and services that can be found anywhere.

We thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support. PLEA does not exist without it, and your expanding use of our services to better negotiate everyday life.

Finally, we must thank Sharon Peterson, our Administrative Coordinator/Office Manager, who entered the well-deserved retirement chapter of her life in 2019. Sharon was with us for 13 years, and during that time PLEA enjoyed some of its greatest success ever. Much of this was due to her great dedication to the cause, her intelligence and extraordinary organizational and management skills, and the fact that she made our workplace an enjoyable and comfortable place to be on a daily basis. Thank you Sharon, for everything.

"Clear and easy to understand information."

"I have used the *Treaties and the Law* package several times in the past few years and find them to be an excellent resource in my classroom teachings."

"Excellent backgrounder and good, necessary links to further related information."

"Answered all my questions thank you."

"Very informative."

"I received your email! Thank you for all the information!"

"This was very helpful thank you."

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 3,436	\$ 1,758
Short term investments	433,239	369,318
Accounts receivable	37,341	-
GST receivable	3,092	1,656
Prepaid expenses	<u>11,190</u>	<u>8,567</u>
	488,298	381,299
Capital Assets	<u>6,303</u>	<u>5,560</u>
	<u>\$ 494,601</u>	<u>\$ 386,859</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 100,473	\$ 74,067
Deferred contributions	<u>205,332</u>	<u>158,997</u>
	<u>305,805</u>	<u>233,064</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	69,863	68,605
Internally Restricted Net Assets	112,630	79,630
Investment in Capital Assets	<u>6,303</u>	<u>5,560</u>
	<u>188,796</u>	<u>153,795</u>
	<u>\$ 494,601</u>	<u>\$ 386,859</u>

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Revenue		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 5,375	\$ 1,385
Grants (see breakdown next page)	1,110,145	953,323
Interest	6,408	2,596
Memberships	40	60
Miscellaneous	5,867	78
Portfolio Program	120	360
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Investments	<u>8,231</u>	<u>(5,678)</u>
	1,136,186	952,124
Expenses	<u>1,101,184</u>	<u>916,841</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	35,002	35,283
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	153,794	118,511
Allocation to internally restricted net assets	(33,000)	(34,000)
Internally restricted net assets	<u>33,000</u>	<u>34,000</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 188,796</u>	<u>\$ 153,794</u>

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

2019 GRANTS

65% Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

27% Department of Justice Canada

8% Government of Saskatchewan

4,517

FAMILY LAW
ACCOUNTS

94

FAMILY LAW INFORMATION
SESSIONS THROUGHOUT
SASKATCHEWAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allison Katarey, B.Comm., LLB – Member at Large

President

Maya Scott, BA(Hons.), LLB – Law Society of Saskatchewan

Vice-President

Shaela Verma, BFA, JD – Member at Large

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Craig Goebel, B.Sc.(Hons.), LLB – Legal Aid Saskatchewan (CEO)

Kylie Head, QC, BA, LLB – Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice

Ian Hingley, B.Ed., M.Ed. – Member at Large

Theresa Slind, BA, M.L.I.S. – Saskatoon Public Library

Keir Vallance, BA, LLB, LLM – College of Law, University of Saskatchewan

STAFF

Executive Director	Joel Janow, BA, LLB
Legal Writer	Allyson Gagne, LLB
Legal Writer	Jocelyn Gagne, LLB, LLM
Legal Program Coordinator	Hilary Peterson, JD, LLM
Youth and Schools Coordinator	Jonas Kiedrowski, B.Ed., BA, M.Ed., MA
Financial Administrator	Sharon Mark-Chan, B.Comm.
Administrative Coordinator/Office Manager	Sharon Peterson, B.Comm.
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Doucette
Program Assistant	Shannon Lebalt

“Great site, good information, and great detail.”

“This is awesome info!! Thank you!”

“Thank you so much for your very prompt and informative response. I think I have enough knowledge to proceed.”

“Hello I am so happy I came across your services you are offering... I would like to become a member as soon as possible and learn more about my rights.”

“This has been extremely helpful.”

“Thank you so much for all of your help.”

YOU ASKED. PLEA ANSWERED!

- At what age can a child decide to not see the other parent even if there is a court order that sets out visitation?
- Hello, I was wondering when child support orders are made do they take into consideration other children?
- Is it mandatory or merely recommended that a condo corporation have a reserve fund equal to the amount recommended in the reserve fund review?
- Can I now enforce my judgment? Is there a waiting period before I can enforce the judgment?
- Could you please tell me, at the birth of a child (parents are not together) does the mother have automatic sole custody?
- If one spouse starts dating someone new does spousal support stop?
- I am a student at University and my parents are talking about divorce/separation these days. My concern is what would happen if they divorce? And what if I have nowhere to stay?
- Is entrapment a real issue or just a false belief from the public?
- Do you have any information regarding fraud? What is it, what are some examples of it and what are the consequences?
- I am looking for more information in regards to Child Support. At the moment I am a single mom with full custody of my 9-year-old son.
- What is the least expensive approach to a divorce?
- How long does a person need to keep the papers of a deceased?
- I would like to go back to my maiden name and change my first name. How would I do this?
- I am trying to learn how to navigate having a child with someone who I am no longer dating. We never lived together and only knew each other for 6 weeks before pregnancy. Can you help me with finding information about the process, options, etc.?
- I'm looking for information to point me in the right direction. My girlfriend is being denied access to see her son. She raised him for the first 10 years of his life.
- I am sending a demand letter to a corporation and need to know what I am legally required to include and what is also suggested.
- Can SAID withhold income - basic allowance - from a client on disability because they have not seen their addiction worker?
- I am trying to find out what the next steps are after making a separation agreement. Does that agreement get filed somewhere and if so, with who?
- Is inherited property or cash considered family property?