

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan

20 20 ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I must start by expressing our gratitude for the ongoing extraordinary support for our work that we receive from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. As well, we remain very grateful for tremendous support from the Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice.

One would be hard-pressed to find a 2020 Annual Report from a business or organization anywhere that does not talk about effects of the pandemic that has gripped the world. PLEA's will be no exception.

If ever a person questioned the importance, value, or need for public legal education and information in our society (and I believe there would be very few of these people), the year 2020 and beyond has resoundingly confirmed this value and necessity. Daily life was affected in ways most of us have not experienced. Along with necessary adjustments and the reality of dangers to physical health, came additional difficulties—many of them related to the law. Among other things...with job and income losses, came debt and housing problems; with lockdowns and home confinement, came more examples of family violence and family breakdown; and with an increased need to “have one's affairs in order”, came more interest in wills, estates, health care directives, and related matters. PLEA could help, and did so, by unwavering provision of the legal information and referrals required to help people deal with these and many other legal concerns. PLEA also created and maintained a page with specific information about the pandemic and the law to help people navigate ever-changing public health orders and the myriad of programs and services available to support people and businesses during the crisis.

PLEA's mandate to educate, empower and inform through plain language legal information continued uninterrupted in 2020. Virtual offices were set up in our homes, telephone lines were forwarded, and online access to PLEA went unchanged. The pandemic also made it necessary for us to consider more virtual methods of meeting and information delivery, which will serve us well going forward. Many ways of doing business have changed for good.

In the face of many hurdles, the incredible PLEA team continued to deliver excellent core services, along with key resources resulting from several important projects.

Justice Canada provided funding to create new video and online tools for dealing with family breakdown and violence, as well as to revise our *Family Law Saskatchewan* website and Form Wizard, and to create a comprehensive *Family Law Handbook*, both integrating changes to family law legislation.

Our federal-provincial *Listen* project, offering free legal assistance for survivors of sexual violence, carried on very effectively over the year. The Justice Canada-funded *Shift* project, addressing workplace sexual harassment, was launched with a dedicated website and a virtual training session for legal and employment professionals as well as a targeted promotional plan.

We continued our involvement with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice in working towards guided pathways for the province's first Online Dispute Resolution mechanism and the related Legal Information Portal Project. We were also very pleased to finalize plans to work with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in bringing their *Know Your Rights* project to Saskatchewan. This project will help individuals who are blind, partially sighted, or Deafblind to better navigate the legal system and represent themselves in exercising rights.

Schools, of course, were greatly affected by the pandemic, and our Teachers & Schools programming deftly adapted and innovated as necessary. Exceptional, sparkling resources were produced, including editions of *The PLEA* schools newsletter; full-length learning resources on direct democracy, provincial government and elections, and municipal government and elections; and online French translations of many teaching materials. PLEA's important place in schools was also reinforced through innovative participation at virtual teachers' conferences. And again, working with Pro Bono Students Canada, the ever-popular *Consent and the Law* presentations, along with a newly-developed presentation on cyber-bullying, were delivered to many classrooms and hundreds of students via virtual means in a year of great challenge in this respect.

The year 2020 did not stop PLEA from our involvement in the work of our many provincial access to justice project partnerships, working groups, and committees, who are listed under Partners in this report. We missed the in-person meetings and interactions, but online video conferencing managed to prove itself an efficient, at times even enjoyable, alternative.

As 2021 arrives, people know they will continue to be disrupted in day-to-day living by the pandemic. But we also know that the challenges this brings in the delivery of public legal education and information will be faced head-on and overcome by PLEA so that at least some of the disruptions people face will be less troublesome. We will 'keep calm and carry on'.

Joel Janow



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.

"Hi! I love the work PLEA does in Saskatchewan."

"Thank you very much. I appreciate the information."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well this has definitely been a different and challenging year. As I write my last year end message as President, I reflect on the fact that access to legal information has never been more necessary than it was this past year. Whether it be information regarding navigating an unexpected hospitalization or death, dealing with rental issues or family issues arising from enforced closeness, the ability of Saskatchewan's people to access this necessary legal information through PLEA was invaluable.

While navigating this new situation, the dedicated employees and volunteers at PLEA set up remote offices, had to learn new technologies for meetings and conferences and continued to provide an amazing resource for the many, many people that looked to them to provide legal information and assistance. I wish to thank all of them

for their commitment, perseverance and ingenuity over the last year!

With all of these challenges, PLEA was still able to create new resources and deliver their core services. The new PLEA core website has been an amazing success and has simplified PLEA's ability to make legal information easy to understand and accessible. The *Shift* project, addressing workplace sexual harassment, was launched and new online tools for dealing with family breakdown and violence were incorporated into the *Family Law Saskatchewan* website.

I wish to also acknowledge and thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for their continued financial support of PLEA, which allows PLEA to provide necessary legal information to the entire population of Saskatchewan free of charge. I also wish to thank the

Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice for their continued support.

While serving as President of the Board for the last four years, it has been my pleasure to work with my fellow Board members and our excellent Executive Director, Joel Janow, in assisting to provide this necessary service to the people of Saskatchewan. I want to thank you for allowing me to play this important role. Thank you all.

Allison Katarey



38,656
PRINT PUBLICATIONS
DISTRIBUTED

348,508
WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS

“This is SO exciting! Thanks so much for bringing these to my attention, I will be promoting them to my teachers and fellow library technicians.”

—
“Thank you. We are not a registered charity (yet). I found the website helpful.”

RESOURCES

Booklets & Pamphlets

- Abusive Relationships
- Arrest
- Being a Witness in Criminal Court
- Debts and Credit
- Joint Tenants or Tenants in Common
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Saskatchewan Income Support: Receiving
- Special-Care Homes

Newsletters

- 39.3 Reconsidering *A Modest Proposal*
- 40.1 The Mind of Machiavelli

Teacher's Resources

- Direct Democracy: Plebiscites and Referendums
- From Dream to Reality (reprint)
- Our Government Our Election

Online

- www.plea.org/covid-19-the-law
- shift.plea.org
- teachers.plea.org/resources/municipalities-matter

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 (SALI)
- Self-represented Litigants Working Group
- CREATE Justice, College of Law
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan (AJEFS)
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC)

THE Shift PROJECT

In 2020 PLEA launched the Shift Project. Shift provides support to individuals who have experienced workplace sexual harassment, as well as educational material for employers, employees and the general public about workplace sexual harassment.

The Shift Project includes:

- A dedicated website with plain language information about the law and workplace sexual harassment, including topics such as Occupational Health and Safety, Unions and Human Rights.
- A referral service to provide individuals who have experienced workplace sexual harassment with up to four hours of free legal advice from a private bar lawyer.
- Easy access to a referral by registering online, calling toll-free, emailing or texting.
- Training for private bar lawyers participating in the project on laws dealing with workplace sexual harassment.



DIRECT DEMOCRACY: PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS

"The real safeguard of democracy,"
said Franklin D. Roosevelt,
"is education."

In light of growing demands for constructive changes to our laws, PLEA created Direct Democracy: Plebiscites and Referendums. This in-depth learning resource examines Saskatchewan's history of plebiscites and referendums, and empowers young people with the knowledge they need to create change, by explaining how to launch a local referendum or provincial plebiscite campaign.



THANK YOU

First and foremost, we thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and its members for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. We are especially grateful this year for such strong support as we know pandemic effects have curtailed Foundation operations and available funding. 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—again during a year of uncertainty.

We thank the Saskatchewan legal community for its support from virtually all players. This includes the volunteer efforts of practitioners, as well as 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 (SALI), 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 opportunity to work with the national and provincial offices of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to bring their *Know Your Rights* project, piloted in Ontario, to Saskatchewan.

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 thank the PLEA Board of Directors and institutional member-appointing agencies for their tremendous support. We also thank the members of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada and the association's Project Coordinator, Hanna Kaploun, for their cooperative spirit, expertise, encouragement, and several online sharing and learning opportunities in 2020.

As always, special thanks go to the exceptional PLEA team. It is difficult at the best of times to adequately express this gratitude, let alone in a year such as this. To see their brilliant hard work, dedication, cooperation, sharing and mutual support, and more, during such trying times, resulting in barely a disruption in production, defies description. This team has proven themselves before to be some of the best practitioners of PLEI in the nation. Now, if it was not already, this reputation is carved in stone.

Most importantly, we thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support. We felt it more than ever over the past year. We are proud and honoured that you continue to afford us the opportunity to try and help—through good times and bad.



"Thank you! This is a brilliant response. I totally forgot that we can make formal complaints about policing. You guys have really helped me."

—
"I appreciate your comprehensive and trustworthy information on non-profits."



1,242
INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
HANDLED

92%
RATED THE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITES
HELPFUL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2020 is Pro Bono Students Canada, University of Saskatchewan Chapter.

In a year like no other, our Volunteer of the Year is like no other. This time, it is not one or two individuals being honoured. It is a team being honoured—or more specifically, two teams.

Beginning out of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1996, where it is still housed, PBSC was at the time the first and only pro bono organization in the nation. The then Dean of the Law School, Ronald Daniels, as stated at the U of T Chapter website, “aimed to combine education and public interest volunteer work, with the goal of ensuring that each new generation of lawyers would enter the profession committed to pro bono philosophy and practice.”

Today, about 1,700 PBSC law student volunteers and their supervising lawyers work with almost 500 community partners to provide free legal information and services, and address access-to-justice issues for virtually every type of Canadian. Our province and our community are very fortunate to have benefited over the years from this extraordinary spirit of public service by having our own chapter of PBSC at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For close to ten years now, PBSC student

volunteers have engaged in project work with PLEA that will meet the goals of the movement.

Over the past several years, U of S law students have delivered vital information to hundreds of students in area high school and elementary school classrooms. The *Consent Project* has seen the creation of youth-oriented presentations on issues of consent, sexual assault, and other legal issues that may relate to relationships and dating violence. The past year proved to be extra-challenging in the face of restrictions caused by the pandemic. The PBSC teams were not deterred. In the 2020 school year, facing great obstacles in planning and delivery, 15 classes and over 200 students were reached during *Consent* presentations by virtual means.

We were additionally fortunate during this school year when the efforts of another PBSC team of students resulted in the development and delivery of a presentation for grade 6 classes entitled *Cyber-Bullying Prevention & Awareness*. This project addresses the legal ramifications of cyberbullying by researching and writing an accessible presentation on harassment laws, mischief, online threats, and other related topics in an attempt to educate and dissuade children from using the internet to bully one another. In 2020, the virtual presentations delivered by this team on this important topic reached 120 students in four classes.

PLEA’s role in all of this is to supervise and support the work however possible, including through the provision of pertinent print materials. However, due to the talents of the students working on the projects each year, little supervision is required. These dedicated, brilliant, and committed future lawyers are the true engines of the projects.

We are very grateful and privileged to know and work with a group such as PBSC. We are honoured to be able to name them 2020’s Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and thank you, teams!

Cyber-Bullying Prevention & Awareness Project Team: Celia Harradence, Jack Yuan, Natalia Montanez, Jared Lane, Meghan Shewchuk, and Jake Paczko. Special thanks to Mr. Arjun Shankar, initial Supervising Lawyer.

Consent Project Team: Gillian Harrington, Gabrielle Robitaille, Archer Bell, Shea Neudorf, Shawn Cassandra Ng, Taylor Roufosse, Paul Cavin and Amanda Yeager.

We must also express our deep gratitude to Victoria Dayman and McKenzie Parks, PBSC Saskatchewan Chapter Coordinators.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 149,191	\$ 3,436
Short-term Investments	569,624	433,239
Accounts Receivable	12,489	37,341
GST Receivable	4,545	3,092
Prepaid Expenses	<u>10,696</u>	<u>11,190</u>
	<u>746,545</u>	<u>488,298</u>
 Capital Assets	 <u>4,319</u>	 <u>6,303</u>
	 <u>\$ 750,864</u>	 <u>\$ 494,601</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 150,808	\$ 100,473
Deferred Contributions	<u>293,758</u>	<u>205,332</u>
	<u>444,566</u>	<u>305,805</u>
 NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	73,349	69,863
Internally Restricted Net Assets	228,630	112,630
Investment in Capital Assets	<u>4,319</u>	<u>6,303</u>
	<u>306,298</u>	<u>188,796</u>
	<u>\$ 750,864</u>	<u>\$ 494,601</u>

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 1,060	\$ 5,375
Grants (see breakdown below)	1,252,579	1,110,145
Interest	1,875	6,408
Memberships	100	40
Miscellaneous	13,062	5,867
Portfolio Program	-	120
Unrealized Gain (Loss)—Investments	<u>9,079</u>	<u>8,231</u>
	<u>1,277,755</u>	<u>1,136,186</u>
Expenses	<u>1,160,253</u>	<u>1,101,184</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	117,502	35,002
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	188,796	153,794
Allocation to Internally Restricted Net Assets	(116,000)	(33,000)
Internally Restricted Net Assets	<u>116,000</u>	<u>33,000</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 306,298</u>	<u>\$ 188,796</u>

PLEA is funded by:

- Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

With grants and assistance from:

- Department of Justice Canada
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

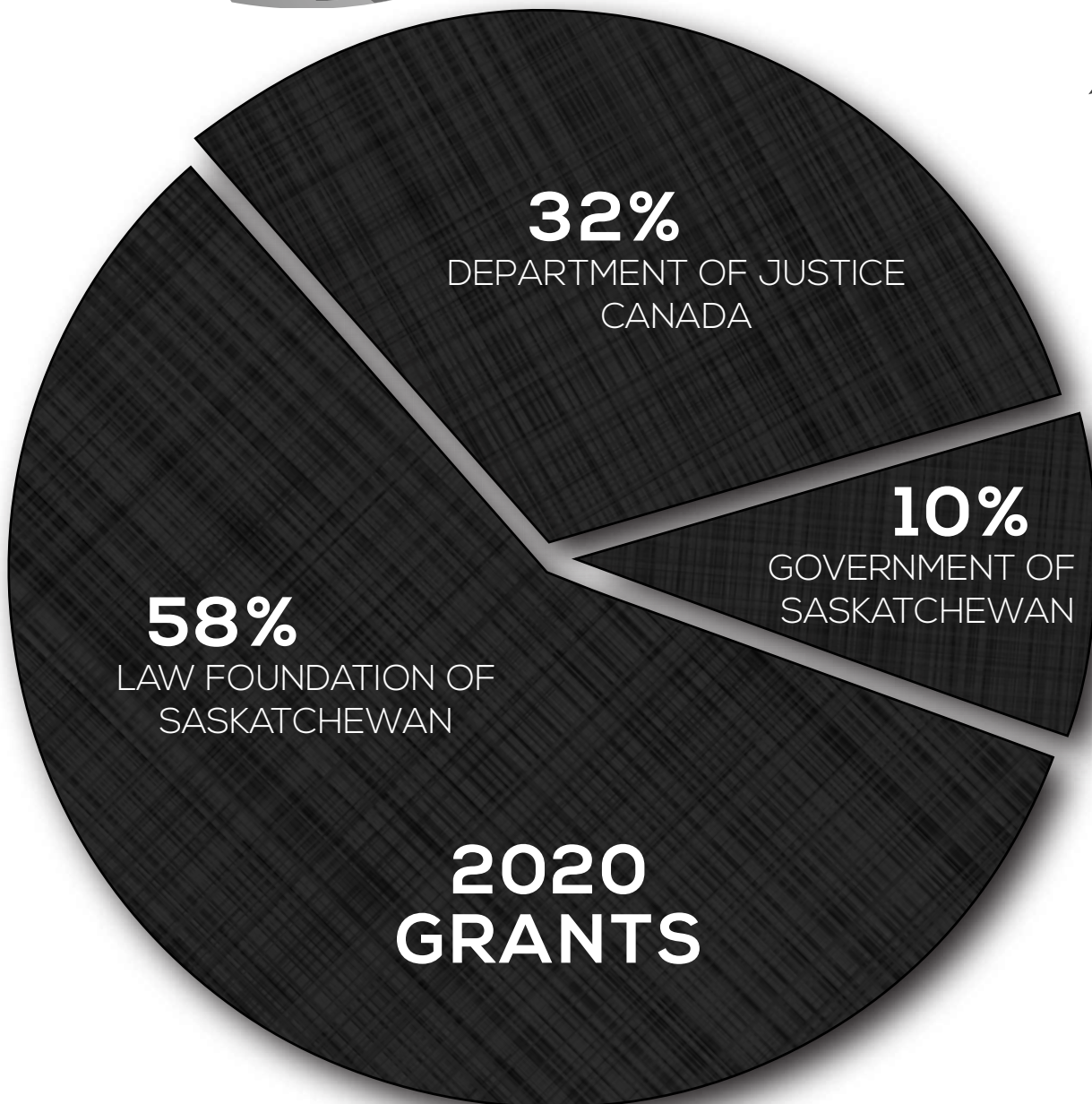
To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

"Thanks so much for your quick reply! I was feeling overwhelmed and didn't know where to turn for advice. This is a great service you provide and very much appreciated!"

"Thank you! That is very helpful, & will definitely look into doing that."

216
LISTEN & SHIFT
REFERRALS CREATED

5,940
FAMILY LAW
ACCOUNTS



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	Secretary/Treasurer
Steven Dribnenki, BA, LLB, CIC.C	Canadian Bar Association	
Victoria Elliott-Erickson, B.Sc., B.Ed., LLB	Member at Large	
Craig Goebel, B.Sc.(Hons.), LLB	Legal Aid Saskatchewan (CEO)	
Candace Guist, BA (Sociology), JD	Member at Large	
Kylie Head, QC, BA, LLB	Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice	
Ian Hingley, B.Ed., M.Ed.	Member at Large	
Jeff Lubyk, BA(Hons), JD	Member at Large	
Theressa Slind, BA, M.L.I.S.	Saskatoon Public Library	
Doug Surtees, BA, B.Ed., LLB, LLM	College of Law, University of Saskatchewan	

"Thank you for clarifying this so succinctly."

"Thank you for getting back to me and for sharing the information. This is helpful."

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
Teachers and Schools Coordinator	Jonas Kiedrowski, BA, B.Ed., MA, M.Ed.
Financial Administrator	Sharon Mark-Chan, B.Comm.
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Doucette
Program Assistant	Shannon Lebalt

LOVE LETTERS

Thanks for all you working remotely from home. I hope you're all doing ok.

It's probably stressful and whatnot.

Sure appreciate that you guys are still helping people out in the community.

That's really great.

it was easy enough to do the application... actually meeting with ppl was hard due to the covid-19... overall I had my meeting over the phone... I learnt some things & I am moving forward....

I am once again so grateful for PLEA's work in education:

I have used several of your High School resources over the years (love the Lord of the Flies pkg, for example)...and I have never let anyone at your office know that you are very much appreciated. Thank you so much for this latest timely and relevant resource. It will become the framework for my election work in Grade 9 Social Studies next month around election time. You are doing excellent work, and I just wanted to say thanks for the material and the support!

I today received the print copies of Our Government Our Election resource, and wish to commend you and PLEA for yet another excellent publication for our youth. The sections which address Traditional Media and Social Media are particularly timely and important in our current societal context, and are very well structured for ease of use by teachers and students. As well, the true-to-life example of library protests in Saskatchewan in 2016 is excellent. The publication illustrates that political engagement does not equal partisan politics, and I commend you for the fair and unbiased approach of the resource.

Thank you for the work you do, for the current and engaging topics addressed in not only this publication, but in the many other offerings available through the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan. The creation of resources that specifically draw upon local examples and contexts helps to fulfill the need for our students to see themselves in

the resources available to support their learning. I know, from the conversations I have with Saskatchewan teachers in the course of my daily work, that PLEA is regarded as a trusted source for accurate and engaging instructional social studies resources.

This is important work, and I wish you and PLEA continued success.



It was very straightforward! I deeply appreciate this service. The initial advice I received was instrumental in helping me deal with this difficult situation.

I found that it was a great service that provided really good advice. I appreciated how I was treated. I really appreciated the professionalism and the openness from the lawyer.

