

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

PLEA extends special thanks in another year of pandemic challenges, to the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for the members' ongoing extraordinary support of our work. We of course also remain very grateful for the vital support of the Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice.

The year continued to present new challenges for PLEA due mainly to uncertainties brought about by the ongoing pandemic. As we write this Annual Report, it appears that the worst of this health crisis may be over, but we remain watchful knowing that outlooks can change at any time. The ways we live and work will likely never return completely to what was known pre-pandemic, but we now know how to face and overcome the challenges.

Through it all PLEA's work proceeded virtually uninterrupted. We are fortunate that our type of work - with its research, writing, electronic resource development and communications, as well as the seeking of project and other funding - can be conducted from almost anywhere. Home virtual offices and remote work have become the norm, and some of our team successfully maintain a hybrid work system. The year was another extremely busy one, with many proud accomplishments highlighted throughout this Annual Report.

There were many great achievements coming from our Teachers & Schools program.

These included issues of *The PLEA* newsletter, teaching guides, and online resources. Many of these could not have been more timely and topical as they were widely hailed as essential resources for learning about the origins of vaccines, public health law, and individual rights in relation to the collective good. In addition, the online Teachers & Schools French Language Learning Resource Portal was enhanced with further translations. And remarkable editions of *The PLEA* addressed foreign affairs, wartime, diplomacy, and general political studies. With Pro Bono Students Canada, presentations were delivered to dozens of classrooms and hundreds of students via virtual means.

Facing the difficulties of the times, the extraordinary PLEA team continued to deliver excellent core services, along with undertaking several important projects.

Justice Canada funding last year resulted in this year's revision of our *Family Law Saskatchewan* website and Form Wizard, and the publication of the comprehensive *Family Law Handbook*. Also, how-to videos were produced to guide folks in the use of the website, and an online safety planning tool was integrated into the site for those facing intimate partner violence.

The Listen project, offering free legal assistance for survivors of sexual violence, continued uninterrupted over the year supported by PLEA core resources. The Shift project, addressing

workplace sexual harassment, added a focus on male-dominated workplaces. More formal approaches towards public awareness of the project were undertaken.

PLEA continued its involvement in the 2021 work of our many provincial access to justice project partnerships, working groups, and committees, who are listed under Partners in this report. We again missed the in-person meetings and interactions, but online video conferencing managed to prove itself very efficient. We look forward to returns of in-person meetings in 2022.

As 2022 arrives, we know we may continue to be disrupted in day-to-day living by the pandemic. We can only hope that the new year sees us return ever-closer to pre-pandemic life.

In any event, PLEA looks forward to carrying on with the production and delivery of the high-quality public legal education and information that will always be needed. Many new projects are underway or will begin, and we very much hope for approval of major project proposals we have submitted, upon which we may excitedly report for 2022!

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT PLEA.ORG.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we continue to face the ongoing challenges related to the Covid 19 pandemic and other recent world events, I am proud of PLEA's demonstrated resilience and adaptability in providing free legal information to the people of Saskatchewan. I want to congratulate and thank all the hardworking PLEA staff and volunteers for their commitment to ensuring PLEA's services are current and accessible. PLEA's ability to overcome the challenges we have faced over the past few years is a testament to the strength of its staff and volunteers.

This past year PLEA continued to successfully navigate the challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic and has continued to create, provide, and deliver its core services to the people of Saskatchewan. In particular, PLEA's online tools and resources saw updates and improvements in 2021 and PLEA worked with the Teachers & Schools program to create essential and timely resources for learning. The Listen Project and the SHIFT Project also continued to provide referrals to individuals for free legal advice and information from lawyers.

This is my first year acting as President and I want to thank our past President, Allison Katarey, for her years of service to PLEA. Allison has been involved with PLEA for many years and served on the PLEA Board in several roles. We are grateful to have Allison to continue on the PLEA board and her insights and positivity are an asset to PLEA.

I would also like to welcome the new members to the PLEA Board of Directors this year. It is exciting and revitalizing to

have fresh faces and minds who will contribute to achieving PLEA's goals in the upcoming year.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge and thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for their continued support of PLEA. PLEA's provision of accessible and free legal information and services would not be possible without the financial support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. Acknowledgment and thanks should also go to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice (project support) and the Department of Justice Canada (project and core support) for their continued financial contributions to PLEA's work, including the Listen Project and the SHIFT Project.

Maya Scott

39,209

PRINT PUBLICATIONS
DISTRIBUTED

438,698

WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS

PUBLISHED

Booklets

Abuse of Older Adults
After Sexual Assault
Patients' Rights
Victims of Crime

Pamphlets

Harassment, Intimidation & Threats
Health Care Directives
HIV/AIDS, The Law and You
Jail or Bail

Newsletters

40.2 Legal Immunity
41.1 Camus and The Plague
41.2 Vichy

Teachers Resource

Albert Camus' The Plague: The Learning Resource

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
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada
- Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan

CNIB

PLEA partnered with CNIB to develop plain-language legal information handbooks that will assist Saskatchewan residents who are blind, partially sighted or Deafblind with better understanding of their legal rights, navigating the legal system, and self-advocating to challenge discrimination.

The handbook series covers a wide-range of issues and areas of the law directed at the unique needs of these underserved communities.

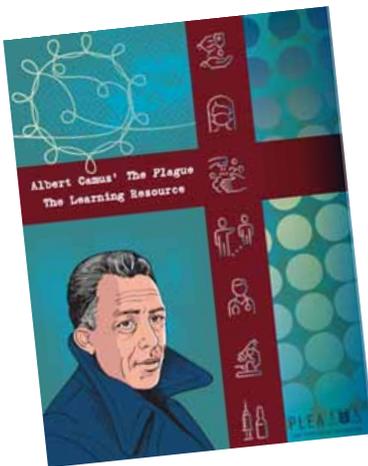
Handbooks, based on the laws and resources in Saskatchewan, were developed on the following topics:

- Built Environment
- Education
- Employment
- Government & Consumer Services
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Transportation
- Self-Advocacy & Essential Legal Information
- Pandemic-Related Issues



ALBERT CAMUS' The Plague

**"the only means of fighting
a plague is – common decency"**



The Plague tells a tale of a contagion descending upon the Algerian city of Oran. Camus used the book to explore the role of the state and the role of the citizen in a public health crisis. The story weaves through such topics as the functions of elected authorities and public officials, the impacts of restricted movement, the scourge of profiteering, the shame of prison conditions, the need for personal responsibility and the vitality of collective solidarity.

1,091

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
HANDLED

86%

RATED THE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITES
HELPFUL

UPDATER IN ACTION

Interactive legal tools ceasing to be functional due to changes in the laws they are based on is a well-known vulnerability for these tools. With special project funds and core funding from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan PLEA has addressed this vital issue with our own Updater Tool, developed specifically for our use.

This tool has transformed how we update the Family Law Form Wizard.

We have gone from:

```
<% if r?('1.21.1') %>
  <%= statement 4, nil do %>
    <p>The facts on which my petition for divorce is based are:</p>
    <ul>
      <%= statement "", nil do %>
        The Respondent and I have not lived together as spouses since: <strong>
<%= r('1.23.1.1') %></strong>.
      <% end if r?('1.23.1') %>
```

To this:



CLAIM

1 I ask this Honourable Court for the following remedy:

(a) Divorce Act (Canada) Divorce

- Divorce
- Divorce
- Parenting Arrangements
- Parenting Arrangements

Features:

- Simple interface that operates much like a Word document.
- Uses the logic that already exists within the Word documents used to populate the Form Wizard.
- No IT knowledge required.
- Automatically creates decision trees in the Questionnaires based on existing question numbering.
- Includes skip logic that can be inserted by simply using the existing question number.
- The court forms, with all the possible options based on Questionnaire answers, are created like a Word document.
- Simple highlight option to determine which of multiple choices should show on the user's court form.
- Ability to hide or show any paragraph on the court form based on Questionnaire answers.
- Ability to simply input user's Questionnaire answers in the correct places on the court forms by using the existing numbers in the Questionnaires.
- Easy insert function for repeating court form features such as the header and the address for service.

THANK YOU

We thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and its members for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. We were again in 2021 especially grateful for such tremendous support while pandemic dynamics continued to cause difficulties for funders. 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.

We thank the Saskatchewan legal community for the very strong support of our work and mission. Practicing lawyers, judges, and the Law Society of Saskatchewan remain firmly behind virtually everything we undertake and accomplish. We are also very fortunate to receive support from the most prominent and important law-related or Access to Justice groups, agencies, and educators in our province. The CBA, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, the College of Law, the U of S Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research, 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 all worked closely with us in one form or another over the course of the year.

We remain grateful for the brilliant 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 in these ongoing trying times as their home fronts too are dealing with challenges pandemic-related. We also thank the members of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada and its Project Coordinator for their cooperative spirit, expertise, encouragement, and several more online sharing and learning opportunities in 2021.

As always, special thanks go to the remarkable, almost super-human PLEA team. During an already challenging year, circumstances of life left us with a reduction in staff. Nonetheless, in the face of the ongoing global health crisis, PLEA work went on with little disruption. This again proves how very fortunate PLEA is to have such special people on its team – most now in the fold for between ten and twenty-five years. Their legacy of establishing themselves as some of the best practitioners of PLEI in the nation continues to grow.

We conclude again by thanking the people of Saskatchewan for your support. You continue to reach out to PLEA for assistance in dealing with legal concerns and processes. You know that we do all that is possible to help, including provision of first-rate print materials, websites, phone and email lines, and referrals to other vital bodies that will complement what we can provide. We are all in this together, and this will always be the case when it comes to access to justice and public legal education and information for our great province.

“Thank you for your quick response. Yes, this was exactly what I was looking for.”

“I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the service I have received from your organization. You have been very helpful. Thank you!”

“Thank you for the information. I appreciate the help with this.”

“Great resources for all topics associated with social justice.”

“These are fabulous resources!”

“Thank you very much for the information. That makes a lot of sense.”

“This was very helpful thank you.”

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 301,290	\$ 149,191
Short term investments	371,773	569,624
Accounts receivable	-	12,489
GST receivable	3,069	4,545
Prepaid expenses	<u>30,883</u>	<u>10,696</u>
	707,015	746,545
Capital Assets	<u>3,035</u>	<u>4,319</u>
	<u>\$ 710,050</u>	<u>\$ 750,864</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 165,713	150,808
Deferred contributions	<u>241,167</u>	<u>293,758</u>
	<u>406,880</u>	<u>444,566</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	71,505	73,349
Internally Restricted Net Assets	228,630	228,630
Investment in Capital Assets	<u>3,035</u>	<u>4,319</u>
	<u>303,170</u>	<u>306,298</u>
	<u>\$ 710,050</u>	<u>\$ 750,864</u>

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 250	\$ 1,060
Grants (see breakdown next page)	1,099,351	1,252,579
Interest	3,588	1,875
Memberships	-	100
Miscellaneous	1,545	13,062
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Investments	<u>(1,842)</u>	<u>9,079</u>
	1,102,892	1,277,755
Expenses		
	<u>1,106,020</u>	<u>1,160,253</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(3,128)	117,502
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	306,298	188,796
Allocation to internally restricted net assets	-	(116,000)
Internally restricted net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>116,000</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 303,170</u>	<u>\$ 306,298</u>

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

2021 GRANTS

60% Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

36% Department of Justice Canada

4% Government of Saskatchewan

6,837

FAMILY LAW ACCOUNTS
AT FAMILY LAW SASKATCHEWAN

70

LISTEN & SHIFT
REFERRALS CREATED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

President

Shaela Verma, BFA, JD – Member at Large

Vice-President

Victoria Elliott-Erickson, B.Sc., B.Ed., LLB – Member at Large

Secretary/Treasurer

Candace Guist, BA, JD – Member at Large

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

Melanie Hodges Neufeld, BA, LLB, LLM – Member at Large

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

Jayne Mallin, LLB, LLM – Legal Aid Saskatchewan

Alan Rankine, BA, JD, LLM (Candidate) - Canadian Bar Association

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

Doug Surtees, BA, B.Ed., LLB, LLM – College of Law, University of Saskatchewan

Darlene Wingerak, B.Comm., LLB - Member at Large

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Although we enjoyed another year in which volunteers gave a great deal of themselves for PLEA, the volunteer landscape for us was somewhat different than normal due mainly to continuing restrictions on in-person gatherings and attendance in public spaces. Thus, we decided that an asterisk will be placed for 2021 where we would normally list our Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient. We take it as a very good opportunity to remind ourselves of Cam's spirit and contributions which inspired the award, and of our many outstanding recipients since 2005, which was the 25th anniversary of PLEA's founding.

Over his long and distinguished career in the law, Cam Partridge clearly distinguished himself as one of PLEA's most dedicated, conscientious and learned volunteers. He delivered countless presentations on various legal topics to the citizens of Saskatoon and area. His work in this regard was not only of great benefit to those directly affected, but to the greater community as well. We can think of no occasion, once called upon, when Cam so much as hesitated before offering his expertise and community spirit to assisting us in furthering our mission to provide the people of Saskatchewan with information on our laws and legal system – information he obviously recognized as so rightfully theirs.

Cam was a greatly well-liked and respected member of the Saskatoon Bar and our city. He passed away in 2004 of natural causes at the age of 62. This was clearly much too soon, and if he were still with us today we are quite sure he would be practicing strongly, and still finding time to help us at PLEA. We can also say that we have never encountered a lawyer or anyone else who knew Cam, who does not have nice things to say about him. We were greatly honoured when Mrs. Partridge granted us permission to name our volunteer of the year award after him.

From the time of our first recipient, Regina lawyer Mr. Rodger Linka, in 2005, each honouree has fully demonstrated a sense of Cam's great community spirit and desire to help. Each of these fine people have volunteered much of their valuable time for us, have been a great pleasure to work with, and are greatly committed to community service and to public legal education and information in Saskatchewan.

Again we say...thank you, congratulations, and we are very grateful and privileged to know you and work with you.

- 2005 Rodger W. Linka, Regina, lawyer
- 2006 Bryan E. Salte QC, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2007 Edward J. Holgate, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2008 Co-Recipients, Bev Ross & Jacky Crouter, Saskatoon, private citizens
- 2009 Peggy Sarjeant, Saskatoon, Saskatoon Public Library Legal Librarian
- 2010 Amanda S.A. Doucette, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2011 Timothy J. Beler, Regina, lawyer
- 2012 Shane B. Wagner, Yorkton, lawyer
- 2013 Charmaine Panko QC, Saskatoon, collaborative lawyer and mediator
- 2014 Lorne Jamieson QC, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2015 Sandra M. Bobyk, Regina, Crown Counsel
- 2016 Kimberley D. Newsham, Regina, Crown Counsel
- 2017 Ted Koskie, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2018 Bruce Phillips, Saskatoon, private citizen
- 2019 James D. Steele, Saskatoon, lawyer
- 2020 Pro Bono Students Canada, University of Saskatchewan Chapter, Saskatoon, law students:

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 Roufousse, Paul Cavin and Amanda Yeager.

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

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 Coordinator	Sharon Peterson, B.Comm.
Administrative Assistant	Cathy Doucette
Program Assistant	Shannon Lebalt

"I just wanted to let you know that last week I received my official Certificate of Divorce. I really could not have done it without the help of PLEA. Thank you to everyone at PLEA who helped make this happen for me."

"The Listen Project exceeded my expectations. I was hesitant to use it at first, but the lawyer was excellent, understanding and provided the information I was looking for and more. I'd highly recommend."

"I discovered your organization by picking up a few of your booklets, which I found at Lawson Civic Centre. I was very impressed with how informative and sensitive they were."

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

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