



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Each message from this office must begin by thanking the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for the members' ongoing tremendous support of PLEA and public legal education in our province. The strong support of the Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and the great team at PLEA must be noted as well.

The year again presented PLEA with pandemic-related challenges. We were grateful to see that these challenges appeared to lessen over the year, and our success in meeting them at their worst only served to make us more proficient in meeting our mission in 2022. As previously reported, our work proceeded virtually uninterrupted – both from remote offices, and from PLEA offices.

A major challenge over the past year was to operate in a time of inflation at levels not seen in decades. With streamlined procedures, staffing factors, and careful allocation of costs, along with the support of the Law Foundation, we were able to maintain normal service levels. The year was another filled with activity resulting in many great achievements.

In Teachers & Schools programming, the year allowed for a return to many in-person events with PLEA attending to promote our resources and learn of teachers' and school communities' needs with respect to law-related education. An extremely well-received issue of

The PLEA entitled Shipwrecked was released. Success grew related to our sessions of school presentations through projects with Pro Bono Students Canada. Not only were the law students able to return to Saskatchewan classrooms in person, an additional topic was developed for inclusion on the slate. Topics offered are now Consent and Healthy Relationships, Cyberbullying Awareness and Prevention, and Becoming a Lawyer. Several exciting, engaging, and most valuable Teachers & Schools resources are planned, or underway, for 2023.

Our core services of information lines and email, websites, and the printed word saw marked increases in demand over 2022. Speaking engagements remained limited, but requests for these seemed to be returning as the year ended.

The Listen and Shift projects, with their offering of free legal advice and information from lawyers for survivors of sexual violence and workplace sexual harassment continued to provide vital services to the province. Work continued on our project to provide information and training concerning similar issues in male-dominated workplaces.

Our Targeted Family Law Information for Newcomers and Others project was essentially completed in 2022 with the printing of four pamphlets in languages additional to English on selected family law topics. Promotion and distribution of the materials will continue into 2023.

The most exciting development for 2022 at PLEA was the approval of our proposal to Justice Canada for the four-year project, Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities. Work on the project began with outreach to and consultations with Indigenous communities for support and collaboration. A major project to address this need had been a dream of PLEA's for a great many years and we could not be more pleased to be given the opportunity to bring the project to fruition.

PLEA remained involved, virtually and increasingly in-person, in the discussions and work of the province's many Access to Justice working groups and committees. These coveted partners are listed later in this report.

It goes without saying that none of our success in 2022 would have been possible without the vital support of, among others, the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, the Department of Justice Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, the PLEA Board of Directors, our many volunteers and countless members of the public, and the dedicated, extremely talented staff of PLEA.

We look forward to serving the people of our great province in meeting legal information needs in 2023, and thank you all for your ongoing, unwavering support.

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

Over this past year, PLEA continued to successfully navigate challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic and provide much needed plain language legal information to the public.

In 2022, PLEA increased its delivery of in person and virtual legal information sessions to the public and continued its collaborative efforts with the Teachers & Schools program to provide in person and virtual legal information sessions to teachers and students. PLEA now has five legal information websites accessible by the public, and these websites house extensive plain language legal information on a wide range of topics. The Listen and Shift programs continue to facilitate referrals for free legal advice to individuals in need and PLEA continues to develop and publish written resources on various legal topics.

The successes of PLEA over this last year would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of PLEA staff and volunteers. 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. Both PLEA staff and volunteers are essential to the delivery of PLEA's core services.

I would like to express gratitude to our outgoing Board members who have given their time and insight to assist PLEA over the past year and welcome our incoming members to the PLEA Board of Directors for this upcoming year. The efforts of our volunteer Board help ensure PLEA achieves its mission and goals as it continues to provide up-to-date and plain language legal resources.

Delivery of PLEA's core services is also made possible by the ongoing support of and work with partnering organizations, including the Department of Justice Canada, SaskAbilities, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, and a special thanks to the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan is warranted for its vital support of PLEA and public legal education.

I look forward to continuing to work with PLEA in 2023 in providing vital legal information to the people of Saskatchewan.

Maya Scott

50,388

PRINT PUBLICATIONS
DISTRIBUTED

500,954

WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS

PUBLISHED

Booklets

Life After 60

Wills & Estates

Newsletters

41.3 Cyberbullying

42.1 Shipwrecked

Teachers Resource

Shipwrecked

No Matter What: Annotated

"Thank you for bringing the *Cyberbullying* edition of the PLEA to my attention.

It is, in my view, a very important publication, and very well constructed. It has accessible language, does not have any sort of "preachy" tone (which some publications on this topic are prone to, in my experience), and affirms the appropriate placement of responsibility for both unacceptable behaviour and approaches to garnering support for the victimized.

As well, the prospect of addressing appropriate online behaviour at the early stages of social media access by young people is a very positive approach to fostering both acceptable digital citizenship and prevention of unacceptable online actions."

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

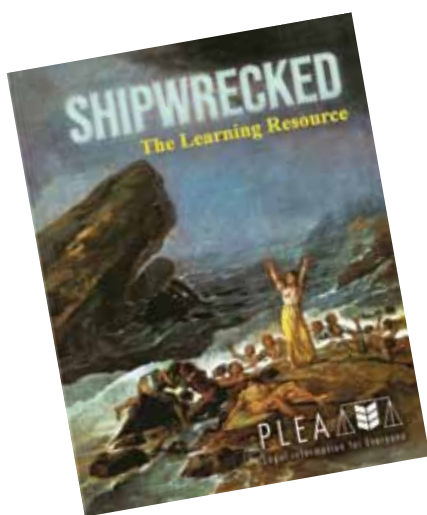
TARGETED FAMILY LAW INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS

Many people facing family breakdown cannot afford legal representation or may only be able to afford limited legal representation. Newcomers are particularly vulnerable in this regard when additional barriers such as language, familiarity with the Canadian justice system and economic status are added. To help address the needs of newcomers in this area PLEA, with funding from the Department of Justice Canada, has created four pamphlets targeted towards newcomer audiences, covering separation, divorce, parenting and family violence. These pamphlets are available in four languages commonly spoken by newcomers in Saskatchewan as well as English. PLEA worked in partnership with newcomer agencies in the province throughout this project from the selection of topics and languages to the drafting of the content and distribution.



SHIPWRECKED

The Learning Resource



One of 2022's most-talked-about learning resources was Shipwrecked. Using extensive research into shipwrecks—including captains' logs and survivors' diaries—Shipwrecked helped young people understand why some some shipwrecked societies worked, and why others failed. While survival depended upon access to resources such as shelter, food, and fresh water, just as important were the systems of rule that castaways created. Castaways who built democratic constitutions underpinned by an ethos of mutual respect found themselves better-equipped to survive than castaways who tried to survive through arbitrary rule and unrestrained self-interest.

1,369

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
HANDLED

86%

RATED THE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITES
HELPFUL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2022 is Regina lawyer Mr. Larry William Kowalchuck.

Larry has supported concepts related to public legal education and community involvement for all of his long and distinguished legal career. He has graciously volunteered his valuable time for PLEA for many years. It may be in the last few years when we have learned to appreciate him most. He has presented public legal information sessions throughout the community whenever asked, and he is a great pleasure to work with for our Request a Speaker, Listen, and Shift programs.

For the past five years, Larry has been a strong supporter of Listen and Shift, including as a speaker, trainer, and roster lawyer assisting survivors. He has also assisted PLEA in producing an article for the CBA's Bar Notes newsletter which explained and promoted the Shift project. Invaluable to our programming as well, he works closely with the University of Regina Women's Centre in matters of trauma-informed practice and gender-based violence. When presenting for our programs, Larry imparts his tremendous expertise on topics related to human rights, workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, and collective agreements.

Larry heads up his own office, Kowalchuk Law. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science at the University of Regina, and his Bachelor of Laws at the University of Saskatchewan. At law school, he was awarded the Academic Prize for Advanced Constitutional Law. He was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1987, and his areas of practice include human rights, the Charter of Rights and

Freedoms, international law, labour law, labour and social justice litigation, women's equality and elimination of sexual/gender-based harassment, and related research, education and action facilitation. Clearly and naturally, his work supports our Listen and Shift programming.

He has successfully led arguments at all levels of Canadian courts in major cases upholding the rights of workers, unions, the LGBTQ2S+ community, and people affected by poverty, racism, sexism, and sexual harassment. He has taught on related subjects at the U of S Labour Studies Program, the Labour College of Canada, and the Canadian Labour Congress/Saskatchewan Labour Federation Spring School. He is also a recipient of multiple awards for his work in support of causes affecting the various stakeholders mentioned here.

Most important of all, Larry is a parent to nine amazing and thoughtful kids and step-kids and four grandchildren who in their own way are making this world a kinder and more beautiful place for all.

We are very grateful and privileged to know and work with a person such as Larry. We are extremely grateful for his ongoing knowledge, support and encouragement of PLEA's various projects. He is passionate about justice for his clients and community service, and we are very thankful that he chooses to provide his volunteer services to Listen and Shift clients. PLEA strives for access to justice for the Saskatchewan public and Larry is a very strong asset in this pursuit. We are honoured to be able to name him 2022's Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and thank you, Larry.

THANK YOU

First and foremost, as always, we thank the members of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and Executive Director Mr. Bob Watt, FCPA, FCA for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. Again in 2022, we enjoyed such support during a time of uncertainty on many fronts. We are also very grateful for the support of the Department of Justice Canada for their generous core funding, and for the support of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice in funding special projects.

We thank the Saskatchewan legal community for its incredible support of public legal education in the province. Lawyers, judges, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, Access to Justice bodies, the CBA, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, and the College of Law all must be thanked. Also greatly assisting us in our work were the U of S Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research, and the U of S College of Education, as well as educators and school communities everywhere in the province. Access to Justice groups we worked with in 2022 included 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 remain very grateful for the first-rate expertise and skills 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 its Project Coordinator Hanna Holmes for their cooperative spirit, expertise, encouragement, remarkable "cat-herding" skills, and several more online sharing and learning opportunities in 2022.

As always, special thanks go to the extraordinary PLEA team. The year again challenged us with global and personal health concerns and a reduction in staff numbers, but PLEA work and accomplishments remained as strong and as impressive as ever. Likely more so.

Last but far from least, we thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support. You are why we do our jobs, and you are why PLEA exists. We saw much increase in the need and demand for our many services over the year, and feel deeply honoured for the public recognition of PLEA as the first stop for legal information and referrals to help us all through daily life.

"This is great information. Thank you so much for responding so quickly. Have a great day."

"Thank you very much for replying to my inquiry, and for the link to the province's environmental code. This provides me with a productive place from which to start some research."

"Thanks so much for your help, much appreciated!"

"I really appreciate the work your team puts into providing educational articles on your website on legal topics for Saskatchewan residents."

"Thank you for the reply and the links, they are good to have!"

"Thank you very much for the clarification. That's very helpful."

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2022

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash | \$ 380,116 | \$ 301,290 |
| Short term investments | 352,906 | 371,773 |
| Accounts receivable | 23,032 | - |
| GST receivable | 2,139 | 3,069 |
| Prepaid expenses | <u>7,058</u> | <u>30,883</u> |
| | 765,251 | 707,015 |
| Capital Assets | <u>1,906</u> | <u>3,035</u> |
| | <u>\$ 767,157</u> | <u>\$ 710,050</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 141,322 | 165,713 |
| Deferred contributions | <u>178,017</u> | <u>241,167</u> |
| | <u>319,339</u> | <u>406,880</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 77,282 | 71,505 |
| Internally Restricted Net Assets | 368,630 | 228,630 |
| Investment in Capital Assets | <u>1,906</u> | <u>3,035</u> |
| | <u>447,818</u> | <u>303,170</u> |
| | <u>\$ 767,157</u> | <u>\$ 710,050</u> |

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Donations and Sponsorships | \$ 5,410 | \$ 250 |
| Grants (see breakdown next page) | 1,246,780 | 1,099,351 |
| Interest | 3,949 | 3,588 |
| Memberships | 20 | - |
| Miscellaneous | 11,800 | 1,545 |
| Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Investments | <u>(22,815)</u> | <u>(1,842)</u> |
| | 1,245,144 | 1,102,892 |
| Expenses | <u>1,100,496</u> | <u>1,106,020</u> |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses | 144,648 | (3,128) |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | 303,170 | 306,298 |
| Allocation to internally restricted net assets | (140,000) | - |
| Internally restricted net assets | <u>140,000</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net Assets, End of Year | <u>\$ 447,818</u> | <u>\$ 303,170</u> |

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

2022 GRANTS

53%

Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

33%

Department of Justice Canada

14%

Government of Saskatchewan

8,292

FAMILY LAW ACCOUNTS
AT FAMILY LAW SASKATCHEWAN

105

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

Davida Bentham, BA, MSEM, JD – Law Society of Saskatchewan

Tyne Hagey, JD - Legal Aid Saskatchewan Area Office

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

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 (on Maternity Leave) |

“Throughout my social work career, I have recommended and used PLEA’s resources both within health care and when I worked with students with a rural and urban school division. I appreciate your help!”

“My lawyer was really nice and empathetic and took care to listen to me and get me the correct information. Really appreciated.”

The Shift Project

“Our partner organization is the Public Legal Education Association and Jonas Kiedrowski is our partner-supervisor. His deep experience as a teacher, a leader and a mentor has been one of the hallmarks of the project, and he has also allowed us to reach further into the communities we are trying to support.”



PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
OF SASKATCHEWAN

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