



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It was another year of committed excellence for PLEA in 2023. The pandemic and its effect on our workplace was essentially in the rearview mirror and coming out of it we welcomed the establishment of a successful hybrid work arrangement integrating new office space taken over in June.

The year saw us continue strongly with many of our ongoing, major projects, as well as launch into exciting new projects.

In Teachers & Schools programming, presentations for schools, delivered by Pro Bono Students Canada volunteer law students from the U of S, continued to provide vital information for young people on Consent and the Law, Cyberbullying, and on Becoming a Lawyer...the latter topic being a new offering. An issue of The PLEA newsletter entitled Becoming a Lawyer was released, along with the titles Curb Your Fanaticism and Consumer Law.

Copies of pamphlets in the tens of thousands, aimed at newcomers to Canada, and addressing family law issues in four languages other than English, were distributed throughout the province early in 2023.

Our Listen and Shift projects continued to provide extremely valuable direct legal services to survivors of sexual harassment by matching them with lawyers for up to four hours of free legal advice or information. A component of the Shift project aimed at male-dominated workplaces resulted

in a public awareness campaign which included television ads, posters, online trainings, videos, and a printed booklet.

The Needs Assessment phase of the project, Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities, was completed. Over 20 consultations with Indigenous communities and individuals took place. This Needs Assessment Report will guide resource subject matter, content, and delivery modes as we develop information in print, online, through videos, and for schools.

PLEA remained involved in the work and discussions of many provincial A2J (Access to Justice) working groups, forums, and committees. An important community outreach activity stemming from this participation was the delivery of several presentations to provincial Correctional Centre officials on what participating agencies can offer incarcerated individuals with respect to legal information, direct legal services, and access to justice (A2J).

We were very excited to see the launch or approval of two new special projects in 2023, both funded generously by the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. *The Foundational Infrastructure Update* project and the *Comprehensive Review and Update – PLEA Resources* project have, respectively, allowed us to upgrade and modernize much of our computer and communications equipment, and begin a two-year project

to review and update every resource contained, online and in print, in PLEA's vast library of public and schools resources. We were also very excited at year's end to be able to hire two more lawyers who will greatly assist with the review project and with virtually all Legal Writer duties.

There are many individuals and groups to thank for our continuing success in 2023. Chief among them are the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, the Department of Justice Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, PLEA's board of Directors, and PLEA's extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff. Of course, everything begins with, and we could not exist without, the great support of the people of our great province.

**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](http://PLEA.ORG).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2023 has been a strong year for PLEA and it continued to excel at delivering solid core services and external projects.

The publications and presentations provided by PLEA in 2023 covered a wide array of legal information and offered vital legal education to the people of Saskatchewan. PLEA's outreach work in the Teachers & Schools programming and the presentations provided by volunteers on legal topics such as Wills and Estates and Family Law demonstrate PLEA's ongoing engagement with our communities, and its written publications strive to cover relevant legal topics that will assist individuals in need such as newcomers to Canada.

PLEA's ongoing projects, including the Listen Project and the Shift Project, were well used and offered invaluable services by giving access to lawyers for survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment for legal advice and information. New projects are also underway and PLEA's work on Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities has moved from the assessment stage to the resource development stage.

PLEA has seen some exciting changes over the last year including new office space and the introduction of two new lawyers. PLEA also saw upgrades to its computer and communications equipment in 2023 and began a two-year project to update every online and print resource in PLEA's library.

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, and for the work they do to ensure PLEA's external projects are successful. PLEA is

an essential resource for those in need of legal information or facing legal issues and its success is founded on the strength of its staff and volunteers.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors for the hard work it does to help PLEA run smoothly and at such a high standard, and I would like to welcome the new members to the PLEA Board of Directors this year.

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 and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. In particular, I want 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.

**Maya Scott**

# 94,880

PRINT PUBLICATIONS  
DISTRIBUTED

# 509,697

WEBSITE  
PAGE VIEWS

## PUBLISHED

### **Booklets and Pamphlets**

Addressing Workplace Harassment

Alcohol, Drugs and Driving

Buying and Selling a Home

Non-Profit Organizations

Peace Bonds

Workplace Harassment Prevention Training Manual

### **Newsletters**

43.1 Becoming a Lawyer

43.2 Curb Your Fanaticism

43.3 Contract Law

### **Teachers Resource**

Contract and Consumer Law

## 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 Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC)
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, including the Family Law Information Centre and the Family Matters program
- Saskatoon Public Library
- 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)
- CREATE Justice
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada
- Association des juristes d’expression française de la Saskatchewan

# PLEA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT, EDUCATE, INFORM AND EMPOWER THE PUBLIC

If the plaintiff loses in small claims court what costs, if any, will the plaintiff have to pay the defendant?

The public can ask for legal information by phone, by email and in-person. Information officers regularly provide responses within 12-24 hours and almost always within a few days of an inquiry.

I need help with a Car Dealership issue – the car we bought has issues that we were not told about.

Inquiries range from “rights when speaking with police” to “parenting orders”, from “civil procedure” to “navigating an application in small estates”, from “non-profit governance” to “landlord-tenant issues”, from “health information” to “employee privacy”.

Handling an inquiry involves:

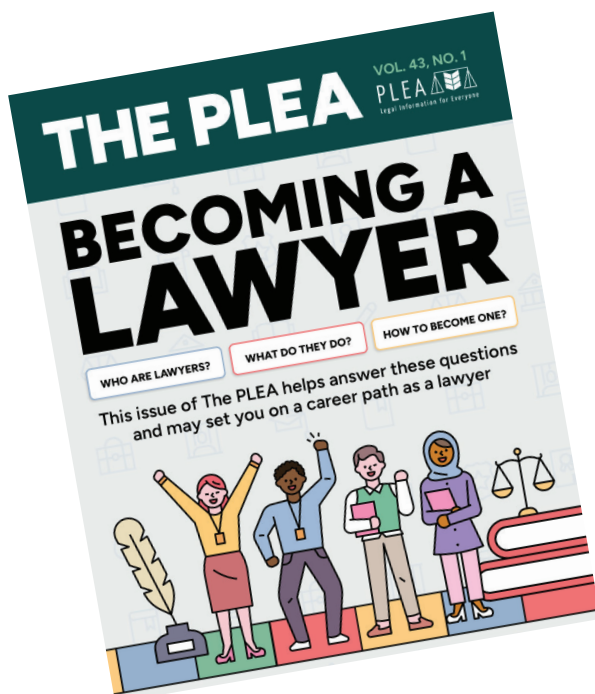
What are steps to obtain a power of attorney for a son with mental illness?

- **Listening** carefully and empathetically – People are often under considerable stress when they contact PLEA.
- **Determining** the legal information needs – This can take time, particularly in complex situations.
- **Providing** relevant information and further referral – This requires a broad-based knowledge of our own materials, most areas of law and other relevant information and services available.
- **Research** and follow up – Some matters require significant research to ensure an accurate and helpful response.

My question is in regards to workplace safety and the duty to accommodate.

This year, we handled 1,778 requests for legal information.

How do I obtain the necessary documents for a probate application?



## BECOMING A LAWYER

PLEA’s Teachers and Schools program has been partnering with the University of Saskatchewan chapter of Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) for over a decade, creating a wide range of learning resources and educational programs. This year, with the help and guidance of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, PLEA and PBSC created an all-new publication on Becoming a Lawyer. The new resource supports teachers and students across the province who could not take advantage of a PBSC Becoming a Lawyer presentation.

1,778

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 2023 is law student Ms. Neesha Persad.

Neesha has just completed her third and final year of law at the University of Saskatchewan. Before law school she was a high school teacher in Edmonton. This combination of experience has served her and our community extremely well.

Neesha is being recognised for her instrumental role in establishing and developing the Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) project, Becoming a Lawyer. A partnership with PLEA and the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the project involves creating resources and delivering presentations for high school classrooms on, among other things, the legal profession, the different types of lawyers within it, what it takes to become a lawyer, what one may expect in doing so, and other career opportunities a legal education can provide.

This project helps draw young people to law-related work, all while advancing their understanding of and respect for the law and the legal profession. We expect the project to continue for years as each new class of law students becomes involved in this legacy Neesha leaves behind.

Neesha became involved with law-related volunteer work from the outset of law school. In her first year she was appointed Law School Association Faculty Representative and applied her skills beyond provincial borders working within the Yukon Right to Learn project – a project dedicated to enhancement of rights with respect to disabled and vulnerable young students and their families in accessing education. In her final two years of law school, she was LSA Vice President Academic, and co-created and strengthened

a mentorship program. During those final two years, PLEA was fortunate to have Neesha as Project Lead for the Becoming a Lawyer program.

Before law school, in her teaching career, Neesha was also deeply involved in community service and leadership, particularly focused on enhancing experiential opportunities for young people. Her academic pathways in law and in education are most distinguished and have been decorated with numerous scholarships and awards.

Her interests and pursuits outside of work and study are also remarkable and serve to amplify the type of good and well-rounded person Neesha is. She speaks and writes in French and is involved in many sports and arts.

In all she does, it is clear that Neesha is deeply committed to helping make our communities better places to live. She has, in her words, a “passion for developing inclusive and welcoming communities and initiatives - where everyone feels supported and heard.” Ingrained in this community spirit is a great belief in access to justice and how public legal education is a major factor in efforts to achieve these ideals.

We are proud and honoured to know and work with a person such as Neesha. We are further honoured to be able to name her 2023’s Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and thank you, Neesha.

Neesha reports that she “is honored to be the recipient of this year’s award, and to represent her College and its partnering organizations, like PLEA, and the wonderful opportunities that they give students.” We can say in return that when people like Neesha take on and build these opportunities, all of society benefits.

# THANK YOU

We thank first the members of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and Executive Director Mr. Bob Watt, FCPA, FCA for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. It was an extremely successful year for the Law Foundation (within which they celebrated their 50th anniversary), and we were extremely grateful to be able to share in their success for the benefit of our fellow citizens, along with all grant recipients. We are also very thankful for the support of the Department of Justice Canada for its generous core and project funding; and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice for its generous special project funding.

We thank the Saskatchewan legal community for its constant strong support. Lawyers, judges, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, various Access to Justice (A2J) bodies, the CBA Saskatchewan Branch, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, and the College of Law (students, support staff, and faculty) are honoured frontrunners in providing support for our work. We very much appreciate the strong and generous aid with our project work from the Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research. We thank educators and school communities everywhere in the province along with Ministry of Education officials for their support in Teachers & Schools programming. Thanks go to Saskatchewan Corrections, Policing and Public Safety for working with us and several other agencies to allow us to provide officials with word on what our organizations can offer incarcerated individuals with respect to A2J. Access to Justice groups we gratefully worked with in 2023 included the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute

Resolution, 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 thank immensely the many Indigenous individuals and communities around the province who consulted with us to guide our work on our Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities project.

We thank the PLEA Board of Directors and institutional member-appointing agencies for their abundant support. We also thank the members of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada and Project Coordinator Hanna Holmes for their cooperative spirit, expertise, encouragement, superb organizational skills, and many sharing and learning opportunities in 2023.

As always, special thanks go to the extraordinary PLEA team. The year again challenged us with various concerns that humans and workers everywhere face, but at year's end we looked as strong as ever, with a remarkable body of work completed, and with no less than two additional legal staff members set to begin work with us in the new year.

In conclusion, and as will always be the case, we thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support. You are our reason for being, and we know it is our duty to provide you with the best public legal education and information resources possible.

"Excellent articles for public to access. Clearly written for the layperson, ie., those who (are) the taxpayers who are most affected, and the most ill equipped and vulnerable to deal with the justice system."

"Thank you for your assistance at a very challenging time."

"Thank you soo much. Everyone was telling me there's no point but I felt something wasn't right. Thanks for helping steer me in a direction."

"Thank you for your compassionate response."

"Many of the individuals who attend our Outpatient Clinics do now have POA documents completed, and we frequently share this resource with them."

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 353,270	\$ 380,116
Short term investments	373,112	352,906
Accounts receivable	92,354	23,032
GST receivable	4,174	2,139
Prepaid expenses	<u>36,175</u>	<u>7,058</u>
	859,085	765,251
Capital Assets	<u>4,774</u>	<u>1,906</u>
	<u>\$ 863,859</u>	<u>\$ 767,157</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 128,052	\$ 141,322
Deferred contributions	<u>128,975</u>	<u>178,017</u>
	<u>257,027</u>	<u>319,339</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets	233,428	77,282
Internally Restricted Net Assets	368,630	368,630
Investment in Capital Assets	<u>4,774</u>	<u>1,906</u>
	<u>606,832</u>	<u>447,818</u>
	<u>\$ 863,859</u>	<u>\$ 767,157</u>

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 615	\$ 5,410
Grants (see breakdown next page)	1,474,725	1,246,780
Interest	11,747	3,949
Memberships	40	20
Miscellaneous	-	11,800
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Investments	<u>8,459</u>	<u>(22,815)</u>
	1,495,586	1,245,144
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>1,336,572</u>	<u>1,100,496</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	159,014	144,648
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	447,818	303,170
Allocation to Internally Restricted Net Assets	-	(140,000)
Internally Restricted Net Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>140,000</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 606,832</u>	<u>\$ 447,818</u>

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.



# 2023 GRANTS

51%

Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

43%

Department of Justice Canada

6%

Government of Saskatchewan

10,941

FAMILY LAW ACCOUNTS  
AT FAMILY LAW SASKATCHEWAN

110

LISTEN & SHIFT  
REFERRALS CREATED

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maya Scott, BA(Hons.), LLB – Member at Large

President

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

Vice-President

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

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Geary, BA, M.L.I.S. – Saskatoon Public Library

Tyne Hagey, JD – Legal Aid Saskatchewan Area Office

Kylie Head, KC, BA, LLB – Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Ian Hingley, B.Ed., M.Ed. – 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

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

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



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## 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

“This article is very helpful in understanding the concept of informed consent.”

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“Thank you for considering my request to receive 25 copies of this booklet. Some of our clients do not use technology and/or experience health conditions that make reading a print copy of this resource most helpful.”

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“Thank you for letting me know...yes please put me on the backorder list. They are great resources!”

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“Thank you so much. These are great resources.”

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“Thank you for publishing / providing resources that help older adults (our clients) and their families.”



PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
OF SASKATCHEWAN

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