

Annual Report 1998

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan



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Our Mandate

The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan is a non-profit organization which exists to educate and inform the people of Saskatchewan about the law and the legal system.

1998 Board of Directors

Don Mullord, B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B.

President

Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission Representative

Mr. Mullord practices with Saskatoon Rural Legal Aid in the areas of criminal and family law.

Donna Scott, B.A., LL.B.

Vice-President

Member at Large

Ms. Scott is Chief Commissioner and Director of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Jerome Boyko, C.A.

Treasurer

Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission Representative

Mr. Boyko is the Director of Financial Management for the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission.

Kevin Tunney, B.Ed., M.Ed.

Secretary

Member at Large

Mr. Tunney is Coordinator of Student Services for Saskatoon Catholic Schools and is an Associate Instructor at the Crisis Prevention Institute.

Joan Brownridge, B.A.

Member at Large

Ms. Brownridge is the Race Relations Program Coordinator for the City of Saskatoon.

Don Buckingham, B.A., LL.B, D.I.L.

College of Law, University of Saskatchewan Representative

Mr. Buckingham joined the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan in 1995 with the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law and the Environment. He teaches and researches in international trade law and agricultural law.

Brent Klause, B.A., LL.B.

Law Society of Saskatchewan Representative

Mr. Klause is a Senior Crown Prosecutor with Saskatchewan Justice in the Saskatoon office.

Lucille Lamb, B.A., LL.B.

Canadian Bar Association Representative

Ms. Lamb is a partner with the law firm of Walker Plaxton & Company in Saskatoon. She is currently Chair of the PLEA Liaison Committee, having previously served as President and Vice-President.

Lyle Markowski, B.A., B.Ed., P.G.D.

Saskatchewan Education Representative

Mr. Markowski is Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Saskatchewan Education, Saskatoon Region.

Andrew Mason, B.A., LL.B.

Member at Large

Mr. Mason is a lawyer in private practice in Saskatoon. He is Chair of the PLEA Personnel Committee.

Colleen Matthews, B.A., B.Ed., LL.B.

Saskatchewan Justice Representative

Ms. Matthews is Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General.

Donna Moore, B.A., M.A., LL.B.

Prince Albert Bar Association Representative

Ms. Moore is a lawyer in general law practice with the Zatlyn and Holash Law Office in Prince Albert.

Peggy Sarjeant, B.A., M.L.A.

Saskatoon Public Library Representative

Ms. Sarjeant job shares the position of Legal Services Librarian for the Saskatoon Public Library, Frances Morrison Branch.

The Honourable Judge Sheila Whelan

Judiciary Representative

Judge Whelan was appointed Provincial Court Judge in 1996. She is the Judicial Liaison for the Council of the Canadian Bar Association (Saskatchewan Branch) and Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges Association.

President's Message

I am pleased to report that 1998 has been another very successful year for PLEA. The demand for legal information and our printed materials has continued at a high level, and PLEA has responded to that demand. A binder set of PLEA material entitled *Law for the People* was distributed to public libraries in Saskatchewan, thereby improving accessibility to PLEA materials. Our website at www.plea.org is being improved to make legal information accessible to internet users in an appealing, interactive format.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for its generous financial support. This is the nineteenth year that the Law Foundation has provided the major portion of our core funding,

and as the Foundation celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary we congratulate the members of the Foundation for the substantial contribution that they have made to public legal education in Saskatchewan.

This year, as in previous years, over one hundred lawyers and others have volunteered their time to provide free law classes and other services to the public. Without their generous commitment, PLEA would not be able to present these important programs. Volunteers are essential to our success at PLEA and I thank them for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank the co-directors, staff and Board members for their dedication and hard work during the last year. I especially thank Lucille

*Don Mullord,
President*



Lamb who completed her term as President, but agreed to continue on the Board as chair of the Liaison Committee. Her enthusiasm and determination to raise the public profile of PLEA will culminate in 1999 with our first annual Law Week Luncheon. This annual event will greatly enhance awareness of the role of PLEA in public legal education.

Message from the Co-Directors

PLEA had an action-filled 1998. We began the year with a challenge - we wanted to find new ways to get legal information to the people of Saskatchewan.

We abandoned our newspaper format for our school newsletter *The PLEA*. The "new look" for the newsletter is a multi-coloured, 8½ x 11 three-hole punched publication. Response from teachers has been wonderful. Not only do teachers like it better, we know they are using it more. We receive substantially more orders for *The PLEA* than we ever did before. Thanks teachers!

We also launched our 'library binders' this year. We reformatted all of our booklets, and published them in a three-volume binder set. A set of binders was offered free of charge to all libraries in the province. This was a huge undertaking but the result has been tremendous. PLEA's legal information is now consolidated and available virtually throughout Saskatchewan. We used a "photocopy ready" format for the binders to assist people in making copies of the specific information they require. We will continue to make some booklet titles

available for individuals to take away. We hope that through our approach of combining take-away booklets with the library binder series, even more people will be able to access the legal information they need.

Some of the other projects and partners we are so proud of are highlighted in our 'new look' annual report. We have presented a snapshot of our year to you. This will be the first PLEA annual report in many years to be distributed widely. We hope you like it as much as we do.

PLEA has had another tremendous year! As we look back on 1998, it is crystal clear that we could not have accomplished so much good work without our volunteers. Hundreds of lawyers donate thousands of hours to help us achieve our goals. Thank you all.

We would also like to thank our team of wonderful staff. They are a small, dedicated 'family', who are making Saskatchewan a better place to live. We are proud of the work you have done and share in celebrating your achievements and hard work for the organization.

Finally, we would like to thank our funders - particularly the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and federal and provincial departments of Justice. Your continued support has given us the ability to take on big challenges. Together we are meeting these challenges.



*Doug Surtees and
Joel Janow, Co-Directors*

Youth and Schools Program

The Youth and Schools Law and Justice Education Program provides legal information and law-related education for youth and those who work with them in the community and schools.

PLEA creates greater awareness and knowledge of the law and legal system for young people by:

- continuing to work to strengthen the legal education component in the school system
- initiating new legal education programs
- encouraging interest and participation of young people in law-making and reform

Regular Youth Programs

PLEA provides information and teaching materials to teachers, community youth agencies and young people. Along with the instructional materials, PLEA offers in-service and pre-service training sessions to aid educators in becoming more comfortable with the material and therefore links this service with most teacher resources.

In 1998 PLEA continued to attend teachers' conventions and institutes using these opportunities to display materials of interest to teachers. This year marked the redesign of PLEA's school newsletter, *The PLEA*, that is distributed to all Saskatchewan schools including Indian band-operated schools.

1998 Youth Resource Activity

- 21,220 Youth Publications and Instructional Materials distributed
- 19 In-service and Pre-service Training workshops conducted
- 6 displays at teachers' events
- 3382 newsletters distributed

New Youth Projects for 1998

Saskatchewan Youth Justice Education Partnership

On October 30, 1998, PLEA was excited to host the initial meeting of a Saskatchewan Chapter of the Youth Justice Education Partnership (YJEP), the first official provincial YJEP designation in Canada. Community leaders from education, justice, law enforcement and youth agencies came together to share ideas on youth justice in Saskatoon.

The Youth Justice Education Partnership is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary organization committed to action in three primary areas concerning the Youth Justice System: the education of youth about the law and its contribution to the democratic process in Canada, the education of the public concerning the state of youth justice in Canada; and research and development of programs designed to rehabilitate offenders and reduce youth crime.

Youth for Human Rights Conference

PLEA helped coordinate the first annual Youth for Human Rights Conference held at Walter Murray Collegiate April 15-17, 1998. Eight workshops were offered for young people dealing with various aspects of human rights education. There was no cost to the participants as a number of sponsors assisted in making the conference possible. A 1999 conference was overwhelmingly endorsed.

Participants during a session of the Youth for Human Rights conference



Just Say No

In 1997, PLEA, the Saskatoon Optimist Club, and the Hub City Optimist Club, formed a partnership committed to the administration and development of the Just Say No program (JSN). This program is made up of clubs that provide educational activities to help students in grades four to six develop a sense of responsibility to self and others. The program provides information about drugs and drug abuse and teaches the club members how to recognize peer pressure and make healthy lifestyle choices. The clubs are parent-operated and exist in ten Saskatoon schools with approximately 650 student members. PLEA serves as the central office for this program.

Since its administrative involvement with JSN, PLEA notes the following accomplishments:

- Needs Assessment

In the fall of 1998 PLEA conducted a needs assessment of the JSN program with all the stakeholders. A report with recommendations on future direction and priorities of JSN is scheduled for release in 1999.

- Club Event's Planning

PLEA's role as a central office for the JSN program has enabled better planning and organization of citywide club events such as the annual kickoff, swim night, Saskatoon Blades' Game and an annual wind-up.

- Resource Development and Parent Orientation

PLEA has worked hard to build a central resource library for JSN materials including books, educational videos, activity kits, games and workbooks.



JSN Clubs participating in the Santa Clause Parade

These resources are available on loan free of charge to club leaders. This is an important achievement as previously there was no central resource location for club leaders to access resources and activities for use with club members.

Work also has begun on an orientation workshop for parent leaders to address their needs for training, and facilitate information-sharing. To complement the workshop, a workbook will be developed with a number of educational activities focussing on peer pressure, self-esteem and ways for students to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Teachers Conference Sponsorship

In 1998, PLEA partnered with the Saskatchewan Schools Library Association and the Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences to organize a professional development conference for teacher members. The conference was held April 30 through May 2 in Regina. PLEA presented five sessions for teachers including topics on democracy in the classroom, methods of teaching law-related education to students with English as a Second Language, incorporating Aboriginal youth concepts into the classroom, and understanding the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders to the school. Along with arranging the keynote speaker, PLEA also displayed materials of interest to educators during the conference.

PLEA creates greater awareness and knowledge of the law and legal system for adults by:

- initiating new legal education programs
- encouraging public interest and participation in law-making and reform

PLEA provides adults in Saskatchewan with services ranging from legal lifeskills workshops, free law classes, a telephone information service and a wide distribution of legal information publications.

Many adult services are presented through the co-operation of volunteer lawyers, judges, government personnel and other professionals.

Workshops

Intermediary Training Program

In 1998 PLEA received funding from the Grants and Contribution Fund of the Department of Justice Canada to carry out intermediary training sessions. The *Legal Lifeskills Workshops* are geared for people who, in the course of their normal employment or volunteer work, come into contact with individuals who have legal information needs. Intermediaries include social workers, counsellors, teachers, volunteers or staff of government and community-based service groups. *Legal Lifeskills Workshops* and resource materials help intermediaries gain an understanding of legal issues and enable them to further assist their clients.



Photo courtesy SARC

Doug Surtees, Co-Director, PLEA conducts an Abuse Prevention Workshop for the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres

Free Law Classes and Speakers' Bureau

Free law classes are legal information sessions offered to the general public in the fall and winter in libraries and regional colleges throughout the province. The free law classes are extremely successful, largely due to our volunteers.

The speakers' bureau is a service to community groups, agencies and clubs in the province who may request a speaker from PLEA. Volunteer lawyers and other professionals present programs with materials produced by PLEA.

Public Information and Referral Service

Throughout the year, PLEA responds to a number of requests for legal information. PLEA also refers individuals to the appropriate government departments, community agencies or public library resource centres.

PLEA provided a regular newspaper series called *A Look at the Law* that ran in 49 weekly newspapers throughout Saskatchewan. PLEA staff wrote four articles per month covering a variety of law-related topics.

New Adult Projects for 1998

Shaw Cable Series

A series of legal programs were produced in partnership with Shaw Cable to appear as a regular feature of their programming. Volunteer lawyers presented twelve legal topics of interest to the Saskatchewan public. The scripts were written by PLEA and produced by Shaw Cable. Shooting took place at the Court of Queen's Bench, Saskatoon and the Law Library at the University of Saskatchewan.

Video Project

In 1998, PLEA produced a promotional video, highlighting the programs and services offered by PLEA. The video has been used as an information tool at conference displays and workshops.

1998 Adult Program Activities

- 174 free law classes and speakers' bureau presentations were delivered to thousands of Saskatchewan residents
- over 700 requests for legal information were processed
- 4 Legal Lifeskills Workshops were presented throughout Saskatchewan
- 11 community agency workshops entitled Preventing Abuse of Vulnerable Adults were presented
- 180 volunteers presented programs throughout the province or edited publications
- over 1,000 contribution-in-kind professional hours were committed by volunteers
- 206,386 publications were distributed

Law for the People Library Project

In 1997, the rising costs associated with updating, printing and mailing publications prompted PLEA to examine alternate distribution methods. To this end PLEA booklets were reformatted into *Law for the People*, a three-binder reference series. The material can be easily updated as individual pages can be replaced as required. The binder sets were provided to libraries throughout the province free of charge and can be accessed and photocopied by the public as needed. The series may be purchased by other groups and organizations such as law offices, government agencies, non-profit associations and schools.

Resource Materials and Publications

PLEA continues to develop, revise, and publish free, easy-to-read booklets and pamphlets on various legal topics. This year a new pamphlet entitled *Health Care Directives* was published and seven existing titles were revised.

Publications are available through permanent displays in libraries, courthouses, regional colleges, lawyers' offices and non-profit organizations. As well, significant numbers of publications are distributed at PLEA programs and workshops, conferences, fairs, and other events throughout the province.

Revenue	1998	1997
Donations - regular	\$ 275	\$ 150
Donations - in-kind	400	8,075
Grants	441,569	464,203
Interest	1,354	649
Memberships	320	635
Miscellaneous	8,675	1,335
Portfolios	2,850	2,650
Publications	<u>3,543</u>	<u>3,966</u>
TOTAL	458,986	481,663

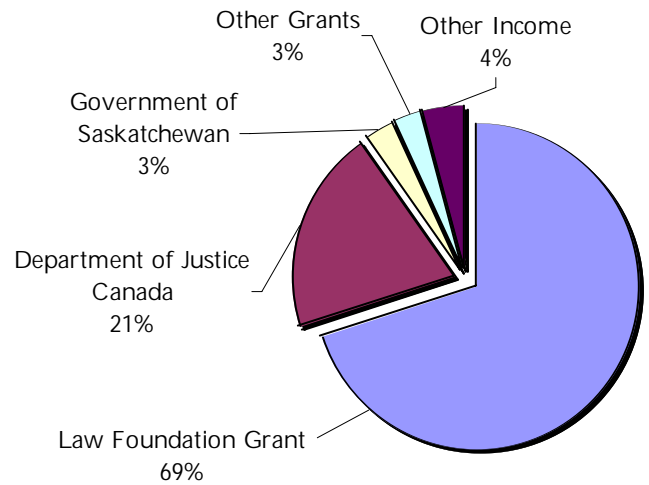
Expenses	1998	1997
TOTAL	458,741	463,404

Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	1998	1997
	245	18,259

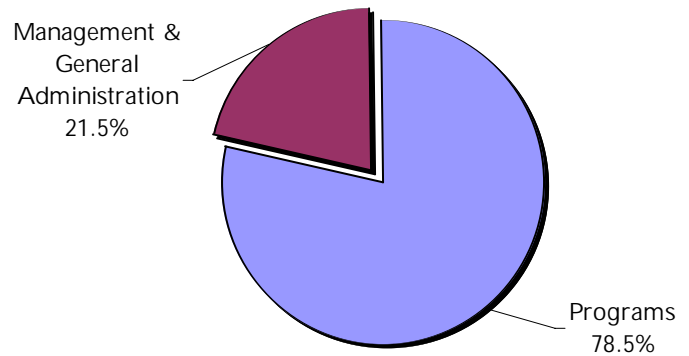
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1998	1997
	36,304	18,045

Net Assets, End of Year	1998	1997
	<u>\$ 36,549</u>	<u>\$ 36,304</u>

Revenue



Expenses



PLEA's Staff

Joel Janow	Co-Director
Doug Surtees	Co-Director
Pam Miller	Bookkeeper/ Office Manager
Allyson Gagne	Legal Writer
Shelly Simons	Programs Assistant
Chantelle Hackl	Programs Assistant/ Desktop Publisher

Project and Summer Staff

Lisa Anderson
Faith Bodnar
Colleen Gnyp
Nanette Goski
Bob Green
Riannon Kindrachuk

Supporters and Funders

The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan is funded by:

- The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

with grants and assistance from:

- Department of Justice Canada
- Saskatchewan Justice
- Associated Entities Fund
- The Saskatoon Foundation
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
- Saskatchewan Association for Community Living
- Saskatchewan Social Services
- Mediacom Inc.

The following sponsors are gratefully acknowledged for the support of the Youth for Human Rights Conference:

- Women's Secretariat
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
- Gabriel Dumont Institute
- Children's Advocate of Saskatchewan
- Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan
- SaskTel
- Provincial Secretary, Government of Saskatchewan
- The Diefenbaker Centre
- Inter-Church Uranium Committee
- Kraft Canada
- Amnesty International
- Pepsi-Cola Canada
- Apex Graphics