

Annual Report 1999

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.

1999 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. She is Chair of the PLEA Liaison Committee.

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 Chair of the PLEA Personnel Committee.

Joan Brownridge, B.A.

Member at Large

Ms. Brownridge is the Race Relations Program Coordinator for the City of Saskatoon. She is a member of the PLEA Personnel Committee.

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. He is a Bencher of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and is currently Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee and Vice Chair of Discipline.

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 has previously served as President and Vice-President and is currently a member of the PLEA Liaison Committee.

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

Saskatchewan Education Representative

Mr. Markowski is Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Saskatchewan Education, Saskatoon Region. He is a member of the PLEA Personnel Committee.

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

Member at Large

Mr. Mason is a lawyer in private practice in Saskatoon. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the L'Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan (AJEFS). Mr. Mason is a member of the PLEA Liaison 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 practices with the Prince Albert Legal Aid office in the areas of family and criminal law. She is a member of the PLEA Personnel Committee.

Ken Norman, B.A., LL.B, B.C.L. (OXON)

College of Law, University of Saskatchewan Representative

Professor Norman returns to the PLEA Board after a two-year absence. He served previously from 1980 to 1997 and is a past president. He teaches and researches in the areas of human rights and constitutional law.

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. She is a member of the PLEA Liaison Committee.

The Honourable Judge Sheila Whelan

Judiciary Representative

Judge Whelan is the Administrative Judge for Saskatoon in the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan. She is the Judicial Liaison for the Saskatchewan Branch Council of the Canadian Bar Association and Secretary/Treasurer of the Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges Association. She is a member of the PLEA Liaison Committee.

President's Message

As this year ends and the year 2000 begins, PLEA will celebrate its twentieth anniversary as a non-profit organization providing legal information and materials to the public. It is an opportunity to recognize the vision and hard work of the founding members. Their plan was to work with community agencies, schools and libraries, the media and the legal profession to provide legal education and information to the people of Saskatchewan. Their dream has been fully realized. Today PLEA is one of the most successful public legal education associations in Canada.

This success would not have been possible without the support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan who have provided core funding since PLEA began. I would like to express our appreciation for the continuing support of PLEA by the members of the Law Foundation over the last twenty years.

This year, as in every year since 1980, lawyers have volunteered their time to provide free law classes and other services to the public. Their generous support of PLEA and its programs have been essential to PLEA's continued success.

In 1999, PLEA began two important new projects. The League of Peaceful Schools originated in Nova Scotia and is now operating in Saskatchewan under PLEA's administration. The purpose of this new organization is to promote a safe, inviting and peaceful school environment. PLEA is very pleased to be bringing this program to local schools with the financial support of the Law Foundation. PLEA has also received funding from the federal government for the first phase of the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative. The purpose of this new project is to evaluate PLEA's existing youth justice information and programming, and prepare new materials to promote public awareness of the proposed *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

With the advent of these programs, PLEA has the potential to become a model of excellence in the delivery of youth justice education.

As my term as President comes to an end I would like to thank the co-directors, staff and Board members for their enthusiasm and hard work during the last two years. This is an exciting time to be involved with PLEA. I am most grateful for everyone's support.



*Don Mullord,
President*

Message from the Co-Directors

The photographs contained in this annual report symbolize the four pillars PLEA relies on to deliver our message.

Looking at the cover, the upper left-hand and right-hand pictures, taken, respectively, at CFQC television studios and PLEA's annual Law Week Luncheon, shows *connection to community*. Our connection to Saskatchewan communities is rooted in volunteerism, lawyers, teachers and others who help us serve Saskatchewan by



Doug Surtees (l) and Joel Janow (r), Co-Directors

volunteering as board members, speakers, writers and organizers. We thank them for their work, and for helping us reach communities throughout Saskatchewan. They are our bridges.

The bottom right-hand picture shows *professional partnerships*. We are pictured together with Susan Doyle, the Executive Director of the Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland. The three of us serve on the Executive Committee of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC). The picture was taken at The People's Law School in Vancouver, where public legal education professionals gathered to find new ways to collaborate. We believe professional partnerships like PLEAC provide us with an opportunity to teach and learn together as we strive for excellence.

The bottom left-hand picture shows *cooperation among service providers*. PLEA hosted a series of workshops to discuss Safe Communities. The workshop facilitator shown is Rick Prashaw from the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. We know that it is through cooperation that service providers can build a diverse network of programs.

The picture on page four shows our greatest asset, *our own staff and programs*. Bob Green, our longest term employee is shown beside the flag of our newest program, the League of Peaceful Schools. Bob, the League's Program Coordinator, relies on PLEA's connections to community, professional partnerships and cooperation among service providers in his peace-building work.

These four pillars have helped us build PLEA into the dynamic organization it is. We would like to thank our Board of Directors for providing us with guidance, and our staff for their enthusiasm and professionalism. We would also like to thank our funders for supporting PLEA. We would not exist without the support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. The Department of Justice (Canada) also provides us with funding to help us achieve our goals.

Youth and Schools Program

Over 16 years ago PLEA initiated the Youth and Schools Law and Justice Education Program to provide 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 in Saskatchewan by:

- continuing to work to strengthen the legal education component in the school system
- initiating new legal education programs that are of interest and create awareness of the law for young people
- encouraging interest in law-making and reform by distributing information and learning resources which celebrate participation by young people

Ongoing Youth Programs

PLEA provides information and teaching materials to teachers, community youth agencies and young people. PLEA believes that in-service and pre-service training sessions help educators become more comfortable with the material and therefore links this service with most teacher resources.

Communication is vital to the partnerships PLEA has built with educators throughout the province. In 1999 PLEA continued to attend teachers' conventions and institutes using these opportunities to display materials of interest to teachers. PLEA's newsletter, *The PLEA*, distributed to all Saskatchewan schools including Indian band-operated schools, received high accolades as a useful classroom resource and for its timely content.

1999 Youth Resource Activity

- 783 Instruction Guides distributed to teachers
- 13 In-service and Pre-service presentations and displays conducted
- 3973 newsletters distributed to schools (4 issues a year)
- 28 League of Peaceful Schools presentations conducted with stakeholders

Mr. M. J. Eaton, St. Dominic School, Humboldt, Saskatchewan wrote about *The PLEA*, September 1999 issue:

"I would like to extend my compliments and appreciation for this excellent resource. To start my Grade Eight Social Studies course this year, I used the background of our Provincial election to work on the citizenship unit. Your publication arrived at exactly the right time and was very helpful to me and to the students. Thank you for making such a worthwhile contribution to our school program."

Youth for Human Rights Conference

"The participants clearly demonstrated that people of varying backgrounds and experiences can collaborate with one another in a spirit of cooperation and equality. If our global family can manifest what the participants demonstrated during the conference, there is hope for the future of all the earth's inhabitants."

- Ian Hingley, Coordinator, Youth for Human Rights Conference

PLEA's Second Annual Youth for Human Rights Conference, encompassing the theme "Empowering One Another", was held May 7 to 8, 1999 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon. Participants could choose from twelve different sessions with facilitators representing organizations including Amnesty International, Saskatoon Open Door Society, Oxfam Canada and the University of Regina. As a number of sponsors assisted in making the conference possible, there was no registration fee for participants.

Saskatchewan Youth Justice Education Partnership

Saskatchewan's Youth Justice Education Partnership is a multi-disciplinary organization committed to action in three primary areas concerning the Youth Justice System:

- education of youth about the law and its contribution to the democratic process in Canada,
- education of the public concerning the state of youth justice in Canada, and
- research and development of exemplary programs that reduce the rate of involvement in the youth justice system and help rehabilitate those who have become involved.

With the support of Saskatchewan YJEP, PLEA pursued bringing a new program in 1999 to schools throughout the province - League of Peaceful Schools. Please look further for more details on this initiative.

Just Say No

Since 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 (JSN) program. This program is made up of JSN Clubs that are coordinated by parents in ten Saskatoon and area schools with approximately 700 student members. The program provides education activities to help grades four to six students learn about drugs, alcohol and tobacco abuse and teaches club members how to recognize peer pressure and make healthy lifestyle choices.

In 1999 a new JSN Program Manual for parent coordinators was completed that offers program guidelines and educational fun activities for club members.

On October 16, 1999 a second JSN parent coordinator workshop was held by PLEA, as an orientation for parent leaders to address needs for training and facilitate information sharing. To complement the workshop a workbook of a number of educational activities focussing on peer pressure, self-esteem and healthy lifestyle choices was developed.

PLEA continued to maintain a central library for JSN resources that are available free of charge to parent leaders.

Subject Council Conference for Educators

For the second consecutive year, PLEA had the opportunity to partner with the Saskatchewan Schools Library Association, the Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences and the Saskatchewan Teachers of English Language Arts to participate in a professional development conference for teachers, April 29, 30 and May 1 in Saskatoon. PLEA presented five sessions for teachers including topics on creating peaceful schools, teaching human rights in the classroom and teaching law-related concepts. PLEA also used this opportunity to display materials of interest to educators.



Robert E. Green, Program Coordinator,
League of Peaceful Schools

New Initiative Added to Youth Programs

League of Peaceful Schools

A new initiative called the League of Peaceful Schools was introduced this year into PLEA's Youth and Schools Program. League of Peaceful Schools originated in Nova Scotia arising from a need to create an entity that would bring together students, parents, educators and other community members, so that together they could plan for peace in the schools.

PLEA staff, the Board of Directors and Saskatchewan Youth Justice Education Partnership envisioned a Saskatchewan-made initiative that would build on many of the processes founded in the Nova Scotia program.

In the fall, with a grant of \$56,000 from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, start-up and development of this project was realized with the hiring of a Coordinator. Program criteria were established to reflect Saskatchewan school needs. The next task was travelling throughout the province meeting with major stakeholders and school-based constituents.

The initiative involves a set of criteria that schools commit to achieving before becoming fully recognized members of the League. Once membership is approved, the schools receive a flag and plaque commemorating their work in creating a safe and peaceful environment for learning. Educators will receive a newsletter, resources and a conference specifically geared to equipping teachers with the tools they need to help implement peaceful ways of dealing with conflict. School networking is also a prime objective of the League.

Community partnerships have been built to promote and create greater awareness of this initiative and in the remaining months of this year PLEA received endorsements for the League of Peaceful Schools from three major province-wide organizations, three school divisions and several school registrations. Further development with additional school divisions, First Nations schools and opportunities for program funding are planned for the year 2000.

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

- initiating legal education programs that are of interest and create awareness of the law for adults
- encouraging public interest and participation in law-making and reform

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

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

Free Law Classes and Speakers' Bureau

Free Law Classes are information sessions on legal issues offered to the general public in the fall and winter in public 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 responded to a number of requests for legal information. At times, PLEA refers individuals to the appropriate government departments, community agencies or public library resource centres.

With support from the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, a regular newspaper series called *A Look at the Law* ran in 50 of 81 weekly newspapers and 13 independent newspapers. Four articles per month covering a variety of law-related topics reached a combined circulation of 117,872 people in the province.

Law for the People Library Project

PLEA continued to address how to more effectively distribute publications, given rising costs in mailing and printing. The binder series, *Law for the People*, was created and publications redesigned to fit the binders to allow for ease in photocopying. Libraries received the binder sets free of charge and continue to receive updates when necessary.

Intermediary Training Program

The Legal Lifeskills Workshops, funded by the Grants and Contribution Fund (formerly Access to Legal Information Fund) of Justice Canada, 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, government staff, First Nations Justice Committees and other community-based service group members.

The objectives of the Legal Lifeskills Workshops and resource materials are to help the intermediary gain an understanding of legal issues and provide sources for their clients to go for assistance. In 1999 adaptations were made to the workshop to meet the needs and interests of First Nations participants.

New Projects

Law 101 TV Series

In the fall of 1999, Jeff Rogstad, CFQC TV host of *News@Noon*, and PLEA introduced a new weekly segment into the noon hour show called *Law 101*. Over an eight-week period, volunteer lawyers provided by PLEA presented various law-related topics. We thank Jeff and all our volunteers for their help in making this series a huge success.



Jeff Rogstad and Saskatoon lawyers, Nicholas Stooshinoff and Laurie Burrows

1999

Adult Program Activities

- 125 free law classes, speakers' bureau presentations and media presentations were delivered
- 714 requests for legal information
- 11 Legal Lifeskills Workshops were presented throughout Saskatchewan
- 133 volunteers presented programs throughout the province or edited publications
- over 600 contribution-in-kind professional hours were committed by volunteers
- 161,510 publications were distributed
- 168 Law for the People binder sets were distributed

Annual Law Week Luncheon

A new event, the Annual Law Week Luncheon was introduced in 1999 to celebrate Law Day, our observance of the enactment of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. John Whyte, Q.C. Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General, was the speaker at the first luncheon. PLEA used the opportunity to thank and recognize all the lawyers and other professionals who volunteered for PLEA during the past year.



John Whyte, Q.C. and Donna Scott, VP, PLEA Board of Directors at the Law Week Luncheon

Resource Materials & Publications

PLEA continues to publish free, easy-to-read booklets and pamphlets on various topics of the law. Publications are available through permanent displays in libraries, regional colleges, lawyers' offices and non-profit organizations. Substantial numbers are picked up by program and workshop participants and at conferences, awareness weeks and health fairs throughout the province.

PLEA continually updates publications and adds new ones whenever possible. This year eight existing booklets were revised to reflect changes in the law. A new pamphlet, *Power of Attorney* was added and twelve pamphlets revised, six of which were formatted into fact sheet style.

PLEA is also in the process of examining the conversion of pamphlets now in existence to fact sheets as a cost-cutting measure and for ease of reproduction.

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 - Saskatchewan Battered Women's Advocacy Network
 - Saskatchewan Womens' Secretariat
 - The Saskatoon Foundation

The following sponsors are gratefully acknowledged for the support of the:

- Youth for Human Rights Conference**
- Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office
 - Eastview Bowl & The Gallery Restaurant
 - Family Pizza
 - Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan
 - Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
 - Saskatoon Public School Division
 - SaskTel
 - Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- First Annual PLEA Law Week Luncheon**
- Houghton Boston Printers & Lithographers
 - Roger Carter, Q.C.
 - The Honourable Judge S.P. Whelan
 - Thomson Jasper & Associates

Financial Information

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

Revenue	1999	1998
Donations - Regular	\$ 280	\$ 275
Donations - In-kind	11,360	400
Grants	514,161	441,569
Interest	1,891	1,354
Luncheon Income	4,275	0
Memberships	500	320
Miscellaneous	12,934	8,675
Portfolios	2,650	2,850
Publications	<u>5,621</u>	<u>3,543</u>
	553,672	458,986

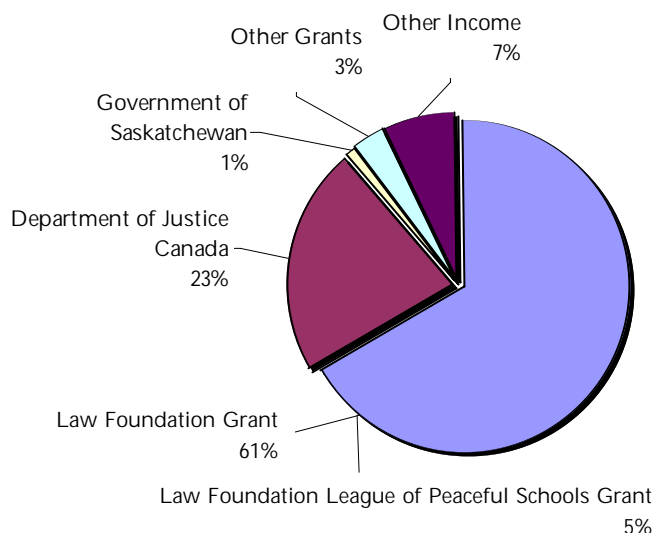
Expenses	1999	1998
	551,326	458,741

Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	1999	1998
	2,346	245

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1999	1998
	36,549	36,549

Net Assets, End of Year	1999	1998
	<u>\$ 38,895</u>	<u>\$ 36,549</u>

Revenue



Expenses

