



2002 annual report

what is plea?

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.**

PLEA provides **general information on the law** rather than legal advice for specific problems. Knowledge of the law (our rights and responsibilities) is a form of responsible citizenship. Public awareness of and involvement in, legal issues can increase the effectiveness of our legal system. To this end, PLEA offers a number of services and materials.

PLEA offers **presentations** on various areas of the law through Free Legal Information Sessions at public libraries and regional colleges throughout the province, and through our Speakers Bureau service. Lectures are given by volunteer lawyers, government personnel and other professionals.

PLEA produces **publications** on many areas of the law and makes these available to the public at no charge. PLEA also writes a **newspaper article series**, run weekly in many Saskatchewan newspapers.

PLEA's **Youth and Schools Program** strives to promote the integration of law-related education into the schools. We develop classroom resources and teacher education programs on teaching about the law.

PLEA receives funding from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and the Department of Justice (Canada). PLEA also enjoys the support of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Bar Association (Saskatchewan Branch), the College of Law, the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission, Saskatchewan Learning, Saskatchewan Justice, the Saskatoon Public Library, and libraries and regional colleges throughout the province.

Highlights

Aboriginal PLEI Needs Assessment

With special funding from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, PLEA contracted with lawyers Laurier Caron and Kathy Grier to conduct a needs assessment for Aboriginal public legal education and information (PLEI) in Saskatchewan.

Results of the assessment indicated that there is a need for Aboriginal-specific PLEI and that the majority of respondents felt that the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan was best-positioned to fill this need. Such needs often vary from the general population and the opportunity to learn of these and address the same through novel methods of delivery, different legal topics and so forth is most exciting for us. We have identified the area of Aboriginal PLEI as a priority, and look forward to working with interested community partners from various stakeholders in the coming months and years to move forward on this important initiative.

Elementary Justice Guides

PLEA produced three new teaching guides to support elementary grade school teachers in introducing principles of the Canadian justice system as reflected in the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* to students. A corresponding presentation guide for lawyers was also produced to facilitate members of the Saskatchewan Bar in assisting with this initiative through in-class presentations. Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Justice Canada, Youth Justice Renewal Fund.

Our Volunteers

PLEA is supported in its work by volunteer lawyers, judges, government personnel, and other professionals throughout Saskatchewan. PLEA volunteers provide such assistance as making presentations, writing, editing and reviewing materials, and representation on PLEA's Board of Directors.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to these volunteers, whose significant contributions of time, expertise, and goodwill are at the core of many of our services. The generosity and commitment of these volunteers continues to be one of our most valuable assets, and has helped PLEA to become one of the most successful public legal education and information (PLEI) organizations in Canada.

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2002 Highlights continued

Annual Law Week Luncheon

PLEA's Fourth Annual Law Week Luncheon was held on April 15, 2002 in Saskatoon. Interest in the luncheon grows every year, enabling PLEA to promote the importance of public legal education and information to more and more people.

The Honourable Judge Gerald M. Morin, of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, was the guest speaker for the sold-out event. Judge Morin spoke about his legal career and Saskatchewan's Cree Court, over which he presides.



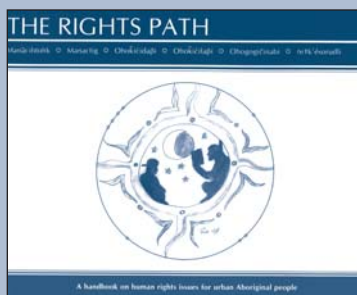
The Honourable Judge Gerald M. Morin, speaking at the Fourth Annual PLEA Law Week Luncheon

New and Updated Publications

In 2002, PLEA produced six new titles in a consumer series funded by Saskatchewan Justice:

Automobiles - Buying and Selling; Buying Stuff; Consumer Contracts; Consumer Fraud; Consumer Wisdom; and Warranties and Guarantees. PLEA also produced a new booklet on family law, entitled *Domestic Relations*.

In addition to these titles, PLEA was also able to revise and reprint two popular booklets that had been unavailable for several years: *Buying and Selling a Home;* and *Non-Profit Organizations.*



The Rights Path handbook

The Rights Path

PLEA partnered with the Saskatchewan and Canadian Human Rights Commissions, the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs on the development of the handbook, *The Rights Path*. In a human rights context, the handbook explains the rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people living in urban centres.

Family Violence Information Resource Project

PLEA contracted with the Family Violence Initiative of the Department of Justice Canada to produce a "safety checklist" for women in abusive relationships, outlining information on how to plan to leave an abusive relationship. PLEA produced 22,000 copies of the resource, distributing 20,584 in 2002.

educate inform empower

president's message



Andrew Mason, President

2002 was a challenging year for PLEA. The staff, management and board of directors guided PLEA to a banner year despite many difficulties, including a major restructuring of the organization midway through the year. In fact, 2002 was the most successful year ever for PLEA in terms of services provided, number of projects completed and the cost of those services. And it was all done within budget.

As President of PLEA, I am honoured and proud to represent an organization that has such a commitment to improving public understanding of the law and legal issues. Public legal education improves the accessibility of our justice system. Through legal education and information, PLEA helps to empower those who have traditionally lacked influence: the young, the poor, the abused, the disabled, the victims of discrimination, the voiceless.

I am particularly proud of PLEA's work this past year on the Family Violence Initiative of the Department of Justice Canada, on the development of the handbook, "The Rights Path" (on behalf of the Saskatchewan and Canadian Human Rights Commissions, the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, and Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs, Saskatchewan), and in PLEA's continuing role in developing the League of Peaceful Schools throughout Saskatchewan. We all look forward to even greater accomplishments in 2003.

Andrew Mason,
President, PLEA Board of Directors



Joel Janow, Director

director's message

The past year at PLEA has been one of our most interesting, challenging and successful in our history. I know these adjectives are used freely in such reports, but they may never again be so appropriate as they are on this occasion.

It was a year seeing PLEA accomplish more than it has at any other time - and all done under, at times, some of the most challenging conditions that life, as it naturally flows, can throw at an organization. Not the least of these were the staffing changes outlined in the our staff section of this Report. Yet PLEA did not "miss a beat". It is a strong testament to our talented and committed core staff, as well as our new staffers, and to our well-established and respected position in the community, that this was the case. To borrow from one of history's most influential statesmen, it has been PLEA's "finest hour". I am extremely proud of our staff for their hard work and dedication in keeping PLEA as strong, vibrant and esteemed as ever, as is evidenced by the examples of activities showcased in our highlights section.

I end this year's message with thanks to those meaning so much to PLEA. Little of our work would be possible without the continued strong support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, whose members have always believed in the great cause and mission of educating our citizens about the law and legal system for the betterment of our society. The other major funders of our core and project work, the Department of Justice Canada and Saskatchewan Justice must also be recognized for their ongoing support. Our Board and other volunteers are crucial to our work. Their guidance and other contributions to the goals of the organization are immeasurable. Lastly, I must extend special thanks to our Administrative Coordinator, Shelly Simons, and our Comptroller, Pam Miller, soon with 20 years at PLEA between them, for their unflinching enthusiasm, patience, wisdom and commitment to PLEA and all that we do. Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for their continued, highly conscientious dedication to our fine organization.

Joel Janow,
Director



Students from M.C. Knoll School,
Members of the League of Peaceful Schools

our staff

Due to a convergence of unusual circumstances, PLEA experienced quite a time of transition in 2002. A Co-Director, both Program Assistants, and two key project staffers all left their posts at essentially the same time last spring. This was due to one-year leaves of absence, retirement, and a term position running its course.

Such a shift, involving half of our staffing level, was challenging - professionally and personally. Of course, new staff and our remaining dedicated and talented core group were equal to the challenge. We have worked very hard to ensure that PLEA's programs and services continue to meet or exceed the expectations of our partners, clients, and other stakeholders. This statement is confirmed by the feedback from these people and organizations, and our continuing strong working relationships with them.

Core Staff

Joel Janow	Director
Shelly Simons	Admin. Coordinator
Pam Miller	Comptroller
Allyson Gagné	Legal Writer
Lee Cutforth	Legal Writer
Erin Lillie	Program Assistant
Launa Sexsmith	Program Assistant

On Leave

Doug Surtees	Co-Director
Chantelle McKerie	Program Assistant
Riannon Kindrachuk	Program Assistant

2002 Project Staff

Bob Green	Jocelyn Gagne
Deb McLachlan	Colleen Gnyp
Brent Toles	Janet Drysdale
Marg Epp	Laurier Caron
Kathy Grier	



Peace Spoke,
Students from Watson Elementary School

youth and schools program

PLEA's Youth and Schools Program provides legal information and law-related education to youth and education professionals. We partner with these stakeholders and others to strengthen the legal education component in the school system and initiate new legal education programs and resources that are of interest to young people and encourage their participation. These activities promote greater awareness and knowledge of the law and legal system for young people in Saskatchewan.

PLEA provides **publications, teacher's manuals,** and other **instructional resources** to school communities across the province. A new Law 30 curriculum for Saskatchewan was implemented in the fall of 2002. Doug Surtees worked closely with the Law 30 Curriculum Reference Committee in the drafting and piloting of the new curriculum, which has been enthusiastically received by Saskatchewan educators. We anticipate that the new curriculum will result in an increased demand for our Youth and Schools services.

PLEA also offers **in-service and pre-service training sessions** with most teacher resources to help educators become more comfortable with law-related material.

PLEA's **Youth and Schools newsletter**, *The PLEA*, is a resource tool for teachers to use to promote greater awareness and knowledge of the law and legal system for young people in Saskatchewan. Each issue focuses on a specific law-related topic and offers suggestions for classroom study and discussion.

2002 youth and schools activities

- 224 instruction guides distributed
- 12 in-service presentations conducted
- 3,128 copies of *The PLEA* distributed (3 issues)
- 943 copies of *Peace Talks* distributed (1 issue)
- 74 League of Peaceful Schools presentations, workshops, and recognition events held

The **League of Peaceful Schools** continued its work to provide support and recognition to Saskatchewan schools which have declared a commitment to creating a safe and peaceful environment for their students. At the end of 2002, over 200 Public, Catholic and First Nation schools and school divisions were members of the League, as well as the City of Prince Albert. The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan provided pilot funding for the program through August 1, 2002. Since that time, PLEA has endeavoured to keep the program running through core funding, voluntary honouraria from members, and in-kind support from suppliers.

adult programs

PLEA's Adult Programs provide legal education and information to the people of Saskatchewan in a variety of formats and mediums. Materials are written in plain language, making complex legal issues understandable by focusing on the needs of our target audiences.

Free Legal Information Sessions are free presentations on legal issues offered to the general public through public libraries and regional colleges throughout the province. The **Speakers Bureau** offers presentations on various law-related topics to host community groups, agencies, and clubs in the province. Volunteer lawyers and other professionals present these programs with materials produced by PLEA. This is one of PLEA's most popular programs, as is evidenced by over **1,100** people attending in 2002.

2002 adult program activities

- 83 free legal information sessions, speakers bureau presentations and media presentations were delivered
- 1028 requests for legal information
- 90 volunteers presented programs throughout the province or edited publications
- 400 contribution-in-kind professional hours were committed by volunteers
- 212,497 publications were distributed or accessed online
- 10,013 homepage "hits" at www.plea.org

In 2002, PLEA assisted over 1000 individuals with telephone, in-person, written, and e-mail **requests for general legal information** and **referrals** to other appropriate resources, including government departments, community agencies, or public libraries.

A Look at the Law, PLEA's **weekly newspaper article series** offers four articles per month on law-related topics. With the assistance of the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, PLEA currently has 62 subscribers to this service, reaching a combined circulation of almost 250,000 households in the province.

The **Legal Lifeskills** intermediary training workshops, are offered to intermediaries who, in the course of their normal employment or volunteer work, come into contact with individuals who may have legal information needs. The objectives of the workshops and resource materials are to help the intermediary gain an understanding of legal issues and provide sources for their clients to go to for assistance.

PLEA publishes free, plain language **booklets and pamphlets** on various topics of law. Publications are distributed at over 1000 locations throughout the province and are available through our website.

PLEA's website, **www.plea.org**, offers online access to most of our services.

board of directors

PLEA is extremely grateful for the time and effort our Board Members put into directing and supporting the important and valuable work the organization does for the people of Saskatchewan. Their advisory role with respect to our programming and administrative concerns, when they have been called upon, has been invaluable for the good of PLEA and, ultimately, the Saskatchewan public. Their work as Board Members often goes above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.

2001/2002

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2002/2003

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Donna Scott, B.A., LL.B. Member at Large	
Norma Sim, Q.C., B.A.(Hons.), LL.B. Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission Representative	
Kevin Tunney, B.Ed., M.Ed. Member at Large	

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 Human Rights Commission
- Canadian Human Rights Commission
- Saskatchewan Justice
- Status of Women Office
- In-kind Canada

We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors:

The Rights Path Joint Project

(Undertaken by PLEA, the Saskatchewan and Canadian Human Rights Commissions, the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs)

- Canada Life Assurance Company
- Dean Head Law Office
- Farm Credit Canada/Financement Agricole Canada
- Saskatchewan Indian and Gaming Authority
- SaskTel

Fourth Annual PLEA Law Week Luncheon

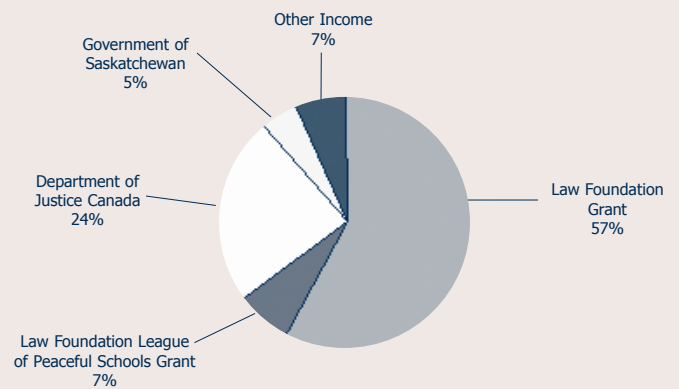
- Cameco Corporation
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- Saskatchewan Institute on Prevention of Handicaps
- College of Law, University of Saskatchewan
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Justice Reform Commission

educate inform empower

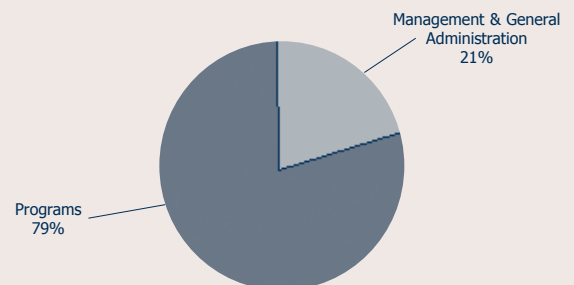
financial information

Revenue	2002	2001
Donations - Regular	\$ 145	\$ 260
Donations - In-kind	31,350	29,777
Grants	697,691	810,202
Interest	1,334	3,516
Luncheon Income	4,475	4,500
Memberships	2,220	3,780
Miscellaneous	6,894	12,040
Portfolios	1,850	2,200
Publications	2,620	3,370
	748,579	869,645
Expenses		
	747,458	861,713
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses		
	1,121	7,932
Net Assets, Beginning of Year		
	48,237	40,305
Net Assets, End of Year		
	\$ 49,358	\$ 48,237

Revenue



Expenses



To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.