

Annual Report 2005

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan Inc.

association of saskatchewan

President's Message

This year marked PLEA's silver anniversary of providing public legal education and information (PLEI) to the people of Saskatchewan. During the past 25 years we have grown and evolved and we have continued to meet the need for PLEI with high quality services. We strive to deliver the appropriate public legal education and information in the most efficient and effective manner possible. To this end we plan to continue to develop the delivery of Aboriginal-inclusive PLEI resources to serve First Nation audiences in this province. We are also pursuing partnership opportunities to better and more economically reach and meet the legal education needs of the Saskatchewan public.

As an organization, PLEA is dedicated to lifelong learning, a commitment to democracy, citizen involvement and the rule of law, and personal empowerment. As president of PLEA, I am honoured and proud to be associated with its hard-working and dedicated staff and Executive Director, Joel Janow, who are at the ground level, making sure that PLEA's mandate is being fulfilled. The calibre of services provided is a testament to the professionalism, skill, and energy which they bring to their jobs. Doug Surtees, former Co-Director, has left PLEA this year to accept a post at the College of Law. We are grateful for the years of service he gave to PLEA; we will miss him.

The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan is the major provider of funds for PLEA and we continue to be grateful for its very generous support. We are also thankful to the federal Department of Justice and Saskatchewan Justice for core and project funding.

PLEA relies heavily on volunteers from the legal profession, the judiciary, and the broader community to deliver its services. We are thankful to those individual volunteers who gave time and effort to assist PLEA this year.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their time and efforts and support throughout the past year.

- Norma Sim, Q.C., President, PLEA Board of Directors

2005 Highlights

- Newly published in 2005 was the *Family Law Intermediary Training Guide*, for intermediaries with clients dealing with family law issues. A new *Power of Attorney* booklet was published to replace the *Power of Attorney* pamphlet. In addition, 22 other publications have been revised, printed, and posted to the website.
- PLEA received funding from the Department of Justice Canada's Youth Justice Renewal Initiative to develop dedicated *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) web pages for youth, schools, and adults. A main portal (Youth Justice Online - www.plea.org/newyj/main.htm) and four separate web pages (Youth, Educators, Adults, and Professionals) were developed to facilitate improved on-line access to information about youth justice for the people of Saskatchewan. The main portal and "home" pages were designed to engage the user from point of entry, to stimulate curiosity and encourage further exploration through the site. Further to this, we included interactive features such as games, on-line workbooks, and test your knowledge sections. The end result is a site that is informative, but also innovative and fun to use! The very professional level of this web design demonstrates the high skill level of our support staff.

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Executive Director's Message

Another successful year of PLEA activities and programming has passed, and a major milestone was recognized. PLEA celebrated its 25th anniversary in June 2005. It was an exciting and proud time for the organization. We look back with a great sense of accomplishment, and to the future with much anticipation.

In the coming years, we will continue to strive for sound and valuable program evaluation mechanisms; and will focus increasingly on delivery of clear and useful information and services through newer technologies. Steps have been taken to establish tools and processes to better evaluate our services so we can ensure that our work is delivered in the most cost-efficient and effective ways possible. This undertaking will be an ongoing challenge, given the special nature of our work and the fact that so often our clients, or ultimate users of our services, remain unknown to us.



PLEA's 25th Anniversary Wine & Cheese Event

Aboriginal-inclusive public legal education and information (PLEI) will remain a priority. The past year saw us enter into an agreement with Saskatchewan's Office of the Treaty Commissioner to begin development of resources for teachers and schools so that the concept of treaties and their great significance in Canada can be better understood by today's generation. We will also strive to make more of our materials accessible in French. This has begun, and we are thankful for access to and translation services of Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan (AJEFS).



PLEAC conference attendees at the Berry Barn.
- photo courtesy Andrew Nip

In June, we hosted the Public Legal Education Association of Canada's (PLEAC) AGM and Conference. The Conference was a great success and brought together many from across Canada and even the United States with an interest in our field of work. The focus was on best and promising practices in the provision of PLEI. We took this opportunity to combine the events with formal observance of our 25th anniversary at a wine and cheese gathering. Here, we presented the inaugural Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award to Regina lawyer, Mr. Rodger Linka for his tireless efforts in providing legal information sessions and speakers bureau presentations to the people of his community.

Of course, PLEA's work would not be possible without the continued strong support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Justice also provides core financial support on a yearly basis. The Department of Justice Canada provides much project funding to bring PLEI to Saskatchewan. Also vital to our existence and efforts are the volunteer contributions of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, College of Law, Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission, Saskatoon Public Library, public libraries and community colleges throughout the province, and the Canadian Bar Association Saskatchewan Branch. For all of this, we are extremely grateful.

In closing, we must extend congratulations and much thanks to former Co-Director Doug Surtees, now Professor with the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law, for twelve years of truly outstanding service to our organization. His wisdom and leadership were instrumental in helping to make PLEA one of the strongest and most respected PLEI providers in our province and the nation. He will be missed, but we are pleased that we remain in close contact within our respective legal professions!

- Joel Janow, Executive Director

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 on PLEA, go to www.plea.org.

2005/2006 Board of Directors

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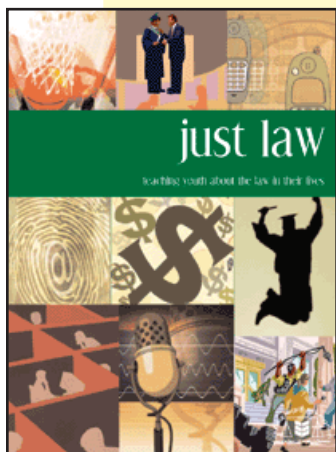
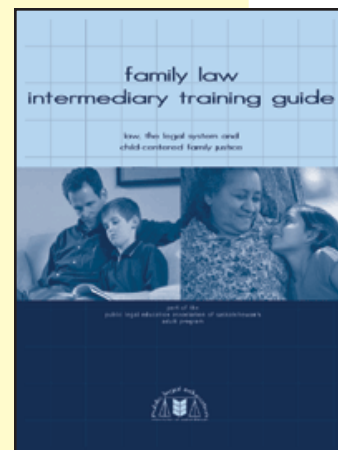
Donna Scott, Q.C., B.A., LL.B.
Member at Large

Andrew Mason, B.A., LL.B.
Canadian Bar Association Representative



2005 Highlights continued

- PLEA received funding from the Department of Justice Canada's Child-centred Family Justice Fund to develop an electronic Family Law Intermediary Training Module (www.plea.org/famlaw) for intermediaries working with clients experiencing separation and divorce. The online resource is based on PLEA's *Family Law Intermediary Training Guide*. The training module is interactive, with an emphasis on the use of plain language and is easy to use. Each chapter also includes a Test Your Knowledge section so that users can track their progress through the resource.
- PLEA also received funding from Justice Canada's Child-centred Family Justice Fund to assemble and distribute a Family Law Kit for intermediaries working with clients experiencing separation and divorce. The kit contained materials from the Department of Justice Canada, as well as province-specific material from PLEA. We distributed 1000 kits to intermediaries throughout the province.
- The League of Peaceful Schools is strengthening its partnership with Saskatchewan Learning's "Caring and Respectful Schools: Toward School^{Plus}", and is working with them to allow schools to more easily become League members. A new website for the League was also developed (www.leagueofpeacefulschools.sk.ca) with sections that include a members' communications gateway, links, membership information, and a news area.
- Our collaboration with Saskatchewan's Queen's Printer is now officially established, making access to our materials from their Electronic Publication Centre possible for all visitors to their website.
- Working with Saskatchewan Court Services and Provincial Court judges, we developed an informational pamphlet on Saskatoon's new Domestic Violence Court – its process and treatment programs option. This resource will be available in Spring of 2006.



- *Just Law: teaching youth about the law in their lives* is a series of instructional units intended to assist teachers of students in grades nine through twelve to introduce basic concepts of the law, and the application of those concepts and principles in their daily living. This manual is available in hardcopy, on our teacher's resource CD-ROM, or can be viewed, downloaded, or printed online (<http://www.plea.org/yas/yashome.htm>). A companion resource for students, *Just aw: understanding the law in your life*, is also available as an online resource (www.plea.org/yas/students/jlshome.htm).

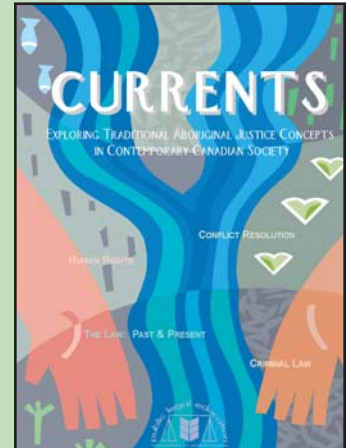
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Staff

Joel Janow	Co-Director
Doug Surtees	Co-Director
Shelly Simons	Admin. Coordinator
Carol Colville	Financial Admin.
Allyson Gagne	Legal Writer
Jocelyn Gagne	Legal Writer
Ferne Hebig	Program Assistant
Peggy Welter	Program Assistant
Deb McLachlan	Youth & Schools Coordinator

2005 Highlights continued

- *Currents: exploring traditional aboriginal justice concepts in contemporary canadian society* looks at questions such as how societies make laws, resolve conflicts, and deal with those who do not live up to society's standards for behaviour, as well as how Canadian and International law recognize and protect certain rights. The law-making process, conflict resolution, justice and rights are all considered from both an Aboriginal and an Anglo-Canadian perspective. This is a middle years manual with some high school applications and is available in hardcopy, on our teacher's resource CD-ROM, or can be viewed, downloaded, or printed online (www.plea.org/yas/yashome.htm).



- **TRADE!** This website (www.schooltrade.org) has been written especially for Canadians, particularly Saskatchewan students and their teachers to explore how international trade contributes to the growth and lifestyle of the province. The website has four major topics: Why Countries Trade, Trade & Politics, Trade & Food, and Trade & the Environment. The site also includes Test Your Knowledge sections specific to each topic with interactive quizzes, scenarios, short answer questions, as well as games and puzzles. There is also an accompanying resource for teachers which provides a user-friendly resource that outlines the website content while providing an overview of the concepts associated with international trade. In addition, the guidebook offers teachers a variety of strategies and activities to assist in the integration of the website content into the curriculum.

2005 adult program activities

- 87 free legal information sessions, speakers bureau presentations, and media presentations were delivered
- 524 requests for legal information
- 21 volunteers presented programs throughout the province
- 110 contribution-in-kind professional hours were committed to by volunteers
- 111,834 publications were distributed
- 72,690 publications were accessed online
- 12,681 homepage hits at www.plea.org
- 537 hits to the Intermediary Training Guide webpage
- 96 hits to the Family Law Intermediary Online Training Module
- 1569 homepage hits to the Youth Justice Online website

2005 youth & schools program activities

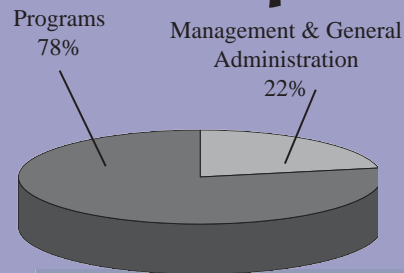
- 1483 Teacher's Resources distributed
- 12 School Law presentations
- 4214 copies of *The PLEA* distributed
- 1345 Teacher's Resources accessed online
- 2351 homepage hits to the Youth & Schools website

Financial Summary

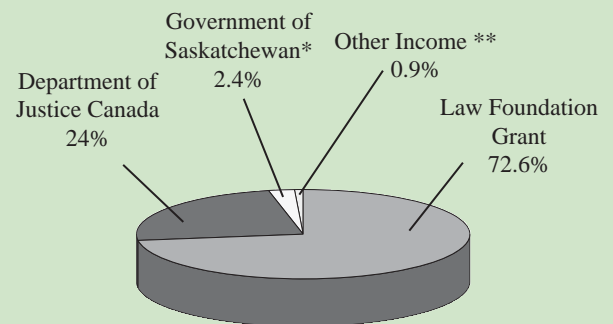
Revenue	2005	2004
Donations and Sponsorship	\$ 1,535	\$ 165
Grants	684,216	712,793
Interest	2,036	1,571
Luncheon Income	0	3,420
Memberships	430	640
Miscellaneous	4,344	185
Portfolios	1,250	1,550
Publications	967	389
Total Revenue	694,778	720,713
Expenses	689,284	718,527
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	5,494	2,186
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	53,494	51,308
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 58,988	\$ 53,494

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

2005 Expenses



2005 Grants



* includes Saskatchewan Justice; Corrections and Public Safety

** includes Law Society of Saskatchewan; Canadian Bar Association; Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Sponsors & Supporters

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
- The Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Canadian Bar Association
- Office of the Treaty Commissioner
- Saskatoon Public Library

We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors of the 2005 National PLEAC Conference:

- SaskTel
- Houghton Boston
- Status of Women Office
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Credential Securities
- Supreme Basics
- SGI
- Saskatchewan Learning
- Wiegiers Financial