

Annual Report 2011





President's Message

As I travel across Saskatchewan and experience the rich diversity of communities, I am pleased to report the information that PLEA offers our citizens is close at hand. In the far north to the extreme south, PLEA is there to offer legal information on a variety of topics that impact our everyday lives. The material is engaging and written in plain language, meeting the legal information needs of the people of Saskatchewan. Over the past year PLEA has revised and reprinted many resources designed to provide legal information to a broad cross section of citizenry with a special focus on youth and older adults. Energy has also been spent on building and maintaining relationships with schools and other communities, not only to ensure the presence of PLEA material but also ensuring that the materials produced are reflective of the current needs of the people.

The expertise and quality of PLEA's public legal information is recognized beyond our provincial borders. The Law Foundation of Ontario's national Access to Justice Fund has chosen PLEA of Saskatchewan to develop, promote, maintain, and evaluate a self-help website for unrepresented litigants in the area of family law over a three year period.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank Joel and the PLEA staff for their on-going commitment, their creativity, and energy. If you haven't already done so sign onto

the PLEA website and browse through the publications, they are vibrant and engaging.

PLEA would not have been able to achieve the degree of success it has without the continued financial support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, nor would PLEA be able to provide the citizens of Saskatchewan, young and old, with legal information to meet their needs. We are also grateful for the core and project funding PLEA receives from the Department of Justice Canada and the Ministry of Justice in Saskatchewan. PLEA has also worked hard to diversify its funding over the last several years and we thank those who have assisted us in fulfilling our mandate to educate, empower, and inform.

To the many volunteers from the legal community and other service sectors we wish to thank you for your time and support.

Glenda Cooney

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.

Volunteer of the Year

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2011 is Regina lawyer Timothy J. Beler. Year after year, Tim has volunteered numerous times for PLEA virtually since the start of his career in 1995. He is a highly regarded and knowledgeable speaker who does not hesitate when asked to speak for us, and who has always been a pleasure to work with for our staff. He also gives to his community by volunteering his valuable time through extraordinary involvement in coaching Regina youth sports, particularly the grand game of baseball.

Tim's law practice with Willows Tulloch focuses on criminal defense, real estate, wills, estates and estate planning. His dedication and ties to youth sports development has led him to extensively conduct volunteer presentations to high school youth in and around Regina, mainly concerning criminal law. Here, as in his coaching, he speaks of good citizenship, fair play, and the rights and responsibilities we all must bear in mind to be the best citizens possible.

Congratulations and thank you, Tim, for your tremendous and priceless contributions to our communities! PLEA is proud to be able to count you as a friend and colleague.

"Tim did a great job; he made it interesting, informative and made students think outside the box."



Executive Director's Message

The past year has again witnessed the strong efforts of our brilliant staff, working hard to maintain a very high level of service and ensuring we meet public demand to the greatest extent possible.

In these somewhat unpredictable economic times, in addition to the overwhelming support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, we can also attribute this success to our stability and organizational infrastructure that we have been able to build and strengthen over the decades. Our bounty of wonderful friends, funders, partners, collaborators, colleagues, and counterparts across the land have contributed so much to making it possible to maintain our high-quality, high-level programming. The past year has been a shining example of such relationships and the types of resources they can generate. Many of these are highlighted throughout this Annual Report.

Additional support from the Department of Justice Canada allowed us to print an important resource for survivors of sexual assault. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health collaborated with us to produce

many needed resources on drugs, alcohol and laws regulating their use. Reprints of vital information – many of our most popular publications – were financially supported by private sector friends, as well as those from other government departments and branches. Working partnerships with schools and other communities helped us raise awareness of our services and assisted us to identify legal information needs and how we may best meet them.

Our work in 2012 and beyond will include a crucial, major project to create a Self-Help Family Law Website, funded by the national Access to Justice Fund of the Law Foundation of Ontario. We are very excited about this opportunity and the difference we feel it will make in improving access to justice for countless Saskatchewan citizens.

From year to year, we wonder how we'll be able to top our past accomplishments. Yet we continue to do so – and expect to do so again in 2012!

Joel Janow



2011 in Review

After Sexual Assault

A Guide for Survivors

"A very compassionate document – good simple explanations of all relevant points."

From Dream to Reality

The Story of Treaty Land Entitlement

"There is lots of good information to create some great discussion."

In 2011, as in past years, PLEA has strived to fulfill our vision of providing legal information for everyone. This includes diverse groups from young people looking for straightforward information about drugs and alcohol, to sexual assault survivors needing guidance as they deal with the legal and medical aftermath of a sexual assault, to seniors requiring information on creating documents such as a Will, a Power of Attorney or a Health Care Directive.

Meeting the legal information needs of the diverse groups that make up the population of Saskatchewan requires not only producing resources that cover a wide range of topics but also requires developing a wide range of means of delivering plain language legal information. PLEA has achieved this through a variety of programs and services over the years.

We have a very successful Request a Speaker program that matches volunteer lawyers in communities across Saskatchewan with community groups that need a speaker to present a particular legal topic. Demand for this program has increased significantly over the past year, with many repeat users indicating a high level of satisfaction with this service. We also have a strong presence in school communities through our Youth and Schools Program. Our resources are available online through our user-friendly website, as well as in print, where appropriate, and we continue to develop new means to deliver online resources.

"I'm 11 and needed to know if it was legal to babysit! Thanks for the information!"

In the Mix:

Drugs and Alcohol in Schools

Examines drug or alcohol use within the school community

Drugs and Alcohol in the Community

Provides information designed to engage whole communities

Drugs, Alcohol and Driving

Provides an overview of provincial and federal laws related to mixing alcohol or drugs with driving

House Parties

Provides information about mixing alcohol and drugs with house parties and other get-togethers

"We find these resources very useful and informational."

Our Government, Our Election

A look at government, politics, and the electoral process in a Saskatchewan-specific context.

"I am quite impressed with the document ... and will use it in future years when I find myself teaching this course."

Operation: Cut it Out

An examination of how the law regulates illicit substances in order to reduce their many negative consequences.

"Thank you very much – I really like the way this document was put together. It will be great to use it in class."

The Straight Dope

What you need to know about drugs, alcohol and the law.

"Thank you for the information for youth – very informative!"

151,508

Website Pages
Viewed

121,728

Print Publications
Distributed

491

Legal Information
Calls Handled

51

Presentations
Delivered Throughout
Saskatchewan

"All publications I have read from PLEA are extremely helpful – website is also very good and user-friendly. Thank you for assisting me every day!"

"This information was very clear and answered my questions. Bravo to the author(s)!"



Thank You

With respect to gratitude as we look back on another fine year, first and foremost, we thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for their ongoing and generous support of our work, and for always recognizing its value to our communities. We are also very grateful for the core support of the Department of Justice Canada and Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. We could not do our work without the tremendous contributions of our volunteers, other partners, and colleagues, many listed elsewhere in this report. Here, we include the members of the PLEA Board of Directors. We can never thank them enough for their remarkably strong and wise guidance and direction, and their uncommon encouragement and support.

Of course, I thank the staff of PLEA – the powerful, unceasing engines of our organization. They are what make us run. And their brilliance, work-ethic and caring make PLEA run with unsurpassed precision and results.

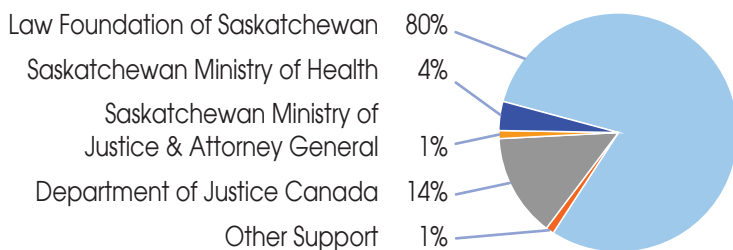
Lastly, we thank all members of the public for your support and recognition of our work for over thirty years. It is done for you, and we hope it is as helpful as possible at those times in one's life when knowledge and understanding of our laws and legal system is necessary. This is our perpetual goal and we thank you for your continued support and kind words of encouragement.

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position Year Ended December 31, 2011

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,961	\$ 9,601
Short term investments (held-for-trading)	155,252	196,084
Accounts receivable	9,188	17,207
Prepaid expense	7,623	9,280
	\$ 174,024	\$ 232,172
Capital Assets	7,449	11,362
	\$ 181,473	\$ 243,534
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 44,537	\$ 53,218
Deferred contributions	67,655	122,497
	\$ 112,192	\$ 175,715
Net Assets		
Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 7,449	\$ 11,362
Unrestricted	61,832	56,457
	\$ 69,281	\$ 67,819
	\$ 181,473	\$ 243,534

2011 Grants



Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets Year Ended December 31, 2011

	2011	2010
Revenue		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 15,147	\$ 10,429
Grants (see breakdown below)	700,716	717,704
Interest	167	179
Memberships	220	220
Miscellaneous	3,284	1,000
Portfolio Program	2,280	2,280
	\$ 721,814	\$ 731,812
Expenses		
	\$ 720,352	\$ 730,650
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,162
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	67,819	66,657
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 69,281	\$ 67,819

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA

PLEA is funded by

The Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

With grants and assistance from

Department of Justice Canada

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice & Attorney General

And additional funding in 2011 from

Elections Saskatchewan

Golden Opportunities Fund Inc.

Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan

Legal Resource Centre of Alberta Ltd.

Mackie Research Capital Corporation

Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Saskatchewan Abilities Council

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice & Attorney General - Victims Services

Selected Independent Funeral Homes



2011-2012 Board of Directors

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Zandra Wilson, BA, LLB	Member at Large, Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan

2011 Staff

Joel Janow, BA, LLB	Executive Director
Allyson Gagne, LLB	Legal Writer
Jocelyn Gagne, LLB, LLM	Legal Writer
Jonas Kiedrowski, BA, B.Ed., M.Ed.	Youth and Schools Coordinator
Sharon Mark-Chan, B.Comm.	Financial Administrator
Sharon Peterson, B.Comm.	Administrative Coordinator/Office Manager
Cathy Doucette / Doreen Myrfield, B.Ed.	Administrative Assistant
Shannon Torwalt	Program Assistant



Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan

500-333 25th Street East

Saskatoon SK S7K 0L4

Tel: (306) 653-1868 Fax: (306) 653-1869

plea.org