



Celebrating 35 Years of Service

PLEA 
Legal Information for Everyone

Message from the



Happy 35th Birthday to PLEA! This organization first touched my life when I was 15 years old. Now, many years later, PLEA continues to be a relevant and important part of my life and an excellent resource for myself and my clients. One of the things that makes PLEA so different from other organizations is that PLEA's resources address legal issues that affect all members of society – from young people to the elderly, there are resources for everyone.

As President of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Jensen for her dedicated service to PLEA. Heather stepped down from the Board of Directors at the end of 2015 after 8 exceptional years of service, including two years as PLEA Board President. Heather's commitment and tireless work ethic was an incredible asset to the Board and to PLEA. I also welcome new Board members Karen Srodulski, Allison Katarey and Shaela Marie Verma.

To the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, thank you. Your continued financial support of PLEA has provided it with the funds necessary to develop and disseminate legal information to citizens of all ages and backgrounds across this Province. We also thank the generous support of other agencies, including the federal and provincial Ministries of Justice, which allowed PLEA to complete special projects, many of which are highlighted in this report.

I take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers from the legal community and other service sectors. Without your time and talent, PLEA would not be able to meet the needs of those who most require legal information.

The success of PLEA is largely driven by its people – on behalf of the Board, I wish to thank the staff of PLEA for their tenacity, commitment and dedication to the provision of legal information to the people of Saskatchewan (and across Canada!). Our staff has been instrumental in keeping PLEA relevant in changing times. I admire and applaud their willingness to continue striving every day to make PLEA the best that it can be.

I encourage all of you to explore the *Family Law Saskatchewan* website: <http://familylaw.plea.org/>. This is an amazing resource and has brought access to justice to those members of our community who were previously unable to access legal services. I am eagerly awaiting the results of the *Information Revitalization Initiative* project – providing legal and citizenship education for immigrants – just another way that PLEA is reaching out to all members of our Saskatchewan community.

Amanda Doucette

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.



Message from the

The past year has been another of great success for PLEA. And in June came the anniversary of PLEA's 35th year in operation – a milestone to be very proud of.

The year began with a freshly-approved, major three-year project funded by the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan: the *Information Revitalization Initiative*. The project will involve enhancements for our *Family Law Saskatchewan* and primary websites, as well as the creation of a new website aimed at providing legal and citizenship education for newcomers to our country and province. We are certain the great need and demand for our services will continue to be reflected in the usage of these sites.

With respect to core services, many new or revised resources – print and online – were completed for our general and school

communities. These were distributed in vast numbers, and our telephone and email help-lines, as well as presentations for schools and communities, continue to be utilized widely and in great numbers. School resources from PLEA are ever novel and inspiring, spurring on class after class to greater interest in, understanding of, and respect for our laws and legal system.

The first full year of operation of the *Family Law Saskatchewan* website has given a clear example of how needed and helpful PLEA can be. Thousands have visited the site and feedback from users has been very positive. Though the site concentrates on assisting self-represented individuals, it must be remembered that this resource can serve to assist the family court system throughout. From court staff, to judges, to opposing lawyers, a matter cannot help but proceed more smoothly for everyone when self-represented individuals are better informed and equipped to handle their case. There remains in society today a great need for addressing issues related to access to justice, and PLEA resources can be a vital component in helping.

Of special note in the past year is our continued participation in gatherings and discussions on matters of access to justice. The past few years have

seen the legal profession's increasing concentration on this area of concern. PLEA welcomes the opportunity to join the tables of such initiatives as the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice, which brings together key stakeholders from government, academia, the Bar, Benches, and our general communities. It seems a time in history when major, concrete developments to address these issues are near.

With the support of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, our many other supporters, and the people of our province, we look forward to another year of great achievement in 2016.

Lastly, I will take this opportunity to thank Heather Jensen, who at the end of 2015 had served her last term as Law Society of Saskatchewan representative on our Board of Directors. For eight years, two as President, Heather led PLEA to some of the most successful years in its history. Her extraordinary dedication to PLEA and public legal education in Saskatchewan leaves a legacy of the highest order.

Joel Janow



in 2015

FAMILY LAW SASKATCHEWAN

Family Law Saskatchewan is a self-help website for people dealing with the legal consequences of family breakdown. It was officially launched on February 4, 2015 and has had a very successful first year. In the first year we have:

- conducted 17 Orientation and Information Sessions/Presentations across the province
- answered 424 requests for email or phone support
- reviewed numerous court forms created by users
- participated in family law clinics to assist members of the public in using the site

PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships allow us to maximize the impact and reach of our work. They allow us to bring our resources directly to people who need our help. This year we have worked with:

- libraries, including courthouse and public libraries
- Pro Bono law groups including Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada and CLASSIC
- Ministry of Justice Saskatchewan, including the Family Law Information Centre and the Family Matters program

Information Revitalization Initiative - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan

The *Information and Revitalization Initiative* is a 3-year project to develop a dedicated website for newcomers, complete enhancements to the *Family Law Saskatchewan* website and re-imagine the main PLEA website (year three). The first year of this three-year project has been a productive one.

Work on the newcomer site included:

- consultations with stakeholders, including Open Door Societies in both Saskatoon and Regina, concerning the most needed legal information topics for newcomers
- development of a site plan with a detailed breakdown of the content and structure of the website
- development of comprehensive draft content for the website and sending it out for review
- preliminary work on the website design and logo

Work to enhance the *Family Law Saskatchewan* site included:

- development of a plan to prioritize the most needed upgrades to *Family Law Saskatchewan*
- creation of the Application for Judgment Stream
- preliminary work on a new simplified and streamlined interface for users coming to the site for the first time

PUBLISHED

Our printed publications focus on high-need segments of the population such as the elderly, those experiencing inter-personal violence, and school communities. Highlights this year include:

A Death in the Family: Information for families and executors or administrators.

Abusive Relationships: Overview of abusive behaviour, legal responses and community support.

Life After 60: Covers topics of interest to older adults, their families and friends, including family life, health care, money matters and fraud.

Teaching Youth Justice: Instructional material introducing the philosophy and procedures of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

No Matter What: Me and My Family: A colouring book designed to help children adjust to changing family situations.

No Matter What: Annotated Version: A companion piece that discusses the underlying principles of family law, for use by teachers and parents.

All 4 Each: Examines co-operatives' legal structures and the co-operative worldview of citizenship.

70 Years of the Bomb: A discussion of nuclear weapons and the international laws used to control them.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act: Overview of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and its role in the lives of young Canadians.

Treaties and the Law: Information to support treaty education in the classroom.

SCORE SHEET

Legal	Presentations	Family Law	Website	Print
Information	Delivered	Saskatchewan	Pages	Publications
Requests	Throughout	Accounts	Viewed	Distributed
Handled	Saskatchewan	Created		
1,151	39	658	629,305	96,623

S₁ome really quality content on this website (Family Law Saskatchewan), saved to favourites.

N₁ice to make use of a legit organization that is working hard to educate people on things that impact their lives.

P₃lea.org is a great website to get people started on grasping legal issues.

S₁o refreshing to find well-written, plain language legal information on areas that the general public might otherwise find intimidating.

T₁hank you so very much for the booklets. They are always a big hit with the students who take the course.

H₄elped me to stop a very violent man.

T₁his really addresses pretty much everything related to wills in a very clear, concise manner that is easily understood. It's the best summary of anything I have found in my online searches.

I₁felt it was good information, presented clearly for these young mothers and fathers.

I₁nformation so informative and easy for me to read and understand.

T₁his document and all the information it pertained to helped me so much to gain clarity as to what I am facing, how the system works, what type of options I have. It is very interesting and comprehensive.

I₁am very happy I found this site (plea.org). I really like that I can email a question and receive an answer back.

T₁his (Family Law Saskatchewan) has helped in getting things more organized and is helpful in showing how your responses should be presented.

Y₄our help in this matter is of great comfort in dealing with this issue.



Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,409	\$ 6,575
Short term investments	237,044	151,354
Accounts receivable	1,000	27,233
GST receivable	2,191	1,890
Prepaid expense	7,527	7,325
	249,171	194,377
Capital Assets	7,979	9,175
	\$ 257,150	\$ 203,552
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 60,045	\$ 54,440
Deferred contributions	45,273	27,962
	\$ 105,318	82,402
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	66,223	64,345
Internally Restricted Net Assets	77,630	47,630
Investment in Capital Assets	7,979	9,175
	151,832	121,150
	\$ 257,150	\$203,552

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Donations and Sponsorships	\$ 1,515	\$ 4,751
Grants (see breakdown below)	884,388	839,446
Interest	3,529	399
Memberships	20	20
Miscellaneous	1,630	575
Portfolio Program	1,200	720
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Investments	(338)	7,419
	891,944	853,330
Expenses		
	\$ 861,262	\$ 851,665
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 30,682	\$ 1,665
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	121,150	119,485
Allocation to Internally Restricted Net Assets (30,000)		-
Internally Restricted Net Assets	30,000	-
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 151,832	\$ 121,150

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.



2015 GRANTS

- 76% Law Foundation of Saskatchewan
- 12% Department of Justice Canada
- 1% Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
- 11% Other:
 - Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Special Project
 - Justice Education Society of British Columbia
 - Selected Independent Funeral Homes



First and foremost we thank the members of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for their generous support – now for over 35 years. We are also very grateful for the support of the Department of Justice Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. We also thank the Saskatchewan legal profession for its support. This includes the Bar, Benches, and government. We are also very thankful for the strong and supportive working relationships we enjoy with law-related agencies and groups such as the CBA, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, the College of Law, the Provincial Access to Justice Group, the Dean’s Forum on Access to Justice, and the Saskatchewan Access to Justice Working Group.

We also express gratitude to both Colleges of Education, the Ministry of Education, the Office of Residential Tenancies, and Blaine Korte IT Services for their tremendous help in producing resources and promotion of public legal education. We also acknowledge the kind assistance of the members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes of Saskatchewan in the reprinting of our *A Death in the Family* booklet.

We thank the PLEA Board of Directors and institutional member-appointing agencies for their tremendous support and guidance. We also thank our friends and colleagues within the Public Legal Education Association of Canada for their vital encouragement, inspiration, and support. In particular, we thank the Justice Education Society of BC for including us in the creation of the national family law website, *Families Change Canada*.

Special thanks of course go to the PLEA team. It is a group of very talented and motivated individuals who take great pride in the work they do, in the products and services generated, and in the difference they are making in the lives of our patrons. This is the formula for some of the finest public legal education resources that are seen in Canada.

Lastly, we thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support of our efforts. We will always strive to make learning about our laws and legal system as comfortable and useful as possible for everyone.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2015 is Regina lawyer Ms. Sandra M. Bobyk.

Sandra has volunteered her valuable time for PLEA from essentially the start of her distinguished career. She attended the University of Saskatchewan and graduated from the College of Law in 1995, having first attained her Bachelor of Arts with High Honours in 1991.

Before launching her legal career in 1998, Sandra taught and developed courses in English as a Second Language in Japan. Her practice of law began in earnest with the Regina offices of Gauley & Company, then Hunter Miller. In 2004, she began her career as a government lawyer with the Family Justice Services Branch of Saskatchewan Justice, and two years later became Crown Counsel with the Ministry’s

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee – her current position. During these years, she has also devoted time to the Civil Law Branch and Legal Aid Saskatchewan.

Sandra has expanded her public service and service to the legal profession through a tremendous amount of work in teaching and ongoing learning. She has trained in mediation, collaborative law, and in teaching English as a Second Language, to name but a few areas. She has also conducted a great many presentations for university courses, conferences, community agencies, and government. Sandra additionally provides pro bono legal services as a volunteer on Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan’s Immigration & Refugee Panel Program.

Outside of her professional activities, Sandra’s work is equally impressive. She

volunteers extensively within the arts community, including membership on boards and commissions. And she helps newcomers to Canada as they strive to adapt to their new country. Of course, Sandra continues to be one of our most active and highly-valued volunteers in our Request a Speaker Program.

It could not be clearer that Sandra is deeply committed to serving the public, the legal profession, and our communities.

We are again very grateful and privileged to know and work with a person such as Sandra. We are honoured to be able to name her this year’s Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations and thank you, Sandra.

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