

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consists of a grid of colored squares. The grid is 7 rows high and 3 columns wide. The colors of the squares are: Row 1: Purple, Pink, Gold; Row 2: Gold, Purple; Row 3: Pink, Pink; Row 4: Gold, Purple; Row 5: Pink, Purple; Row 6: Gold, Pink, Gold; Row 7: Pink, Purple.

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The year was another of great success for PLEA. Ongoing major projects continued, and exciting new projects began. We had hoped for approval of more new projects than were awarded after a flurry of proposals in the summer, but at the same time see this as opening doors for other opportunities and approaches. In any event, there is no question we will continue to work at full capacity to always add to and improve the PLEI (public legal education and information) we are producing for Saskatchewanians.

In Teachers & Schools programming, presentations for schools, delivered by our partner-students of Pro Bono Students Canada University of Saskatchewan Branch, continued on as they have—now for over ten years. These provide invaluable information for young people on *Consent and the Law*, *Cyberbullying*, and on *Becoming a Lawyer*. Issues of the ever popular *The PLEA* newsletter support all of these presentation titles. Also, the newsletter title *Running Jokes* was released around provincial election time, as was our extremely popular and valued *Our Government Our Election* learning resource.

We still found in 2024, as we expect to always, that printed materials remain very important to the public. Certain of our titles are most appropriate for people to have in hand in the form of booklets and pamphlets. These include *Renting a Home*, *A Death in the Family*, and *Wills and Estates*.

Many years' supplies of these three publications were printed in 2024.

The year saw the end of our involvement with the landmark *Listen* program and we were very pleased to be able to pass the torch to the Elizabeth Fry Society who assumed its operation. Much work was done to transfer the required digital infrastructure, lawyer roster, and other components to help them house this vital service within their agency. *Shift's* funding expired at the end of March but we were very pleased when the federal government, the next month, renewed funding for similar project work. We were very grateful to receive funding for the revival of the *Shift* program for Saskatchewan. *Listen*, through Elizabeth Fry, and *Shift* from PLEA will continue to provide extremely valuable direct legal services to survivors of sexual violence or harassment by matching them with lawyers for up to four hours of free legal advice or information.

The project *Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities* completed its third year in 2024 and will wrap up early in 2026. Consultations with Indigenous communities and individuals are complete and development of specialized PLEI resources for Indigenous communities in print, online, through videos, and for schools is underway.

PLEA was active in the work and discussions of provincial A2J (Access to Justice) working groups, forums, and committees. Much

is always learned and shared at these tables. Talks in 2024 included the genesis for the launch of Saskatchewan's first ever youth legal literacy needs assessment, and a guide for the public on responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence when looking for answers to legal concerns. We saw over the year, and expect it will be the case for many years to come, much talk of AI and the field of PLEI.

The first half of the Law Foundation-funded two-year project *Comprehensive Review and Update—PLEA Resources* was completed. All online material in PLEA's vast library of resources was reviewed and updated, and attention for the second year will be on print resources.

There is always many to thank for our success. First and foremost are the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and the Department of Justice Canada. Next comes PLEA's board of Directors, and PLEA's extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff. We were extremely happy to add to the team our new Manager of Administration and Office Operations, Tanya Clarke, and Accountant Marshall Henley, CPA. Both have fit in seamlessly in every respect. Lastly, it will never change that we are most thankful of all for the support of the people of Saskatchewan.

Joel Janow

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my term as President draws to a close, I am proud to reflect on a year marked by meaningful progress and renewed commitment to public legal education across Saskatchewan. Our work continues to resonate in classrooms, communities, and throughout the province, empowering individuals with the knowledge to navigate and engage with the legal system.

This year saw the continued excellence and expansion of our work to provide relevant and useful public legal education resources for teachers and schools. Ongoing school presentations brought these materials to life and helped students better understand their rights, responsibilities, and the legal system that shapes our society. Our team also worked diligently to revise, reprint, and distribute core public legal education resources, ensuring they remain accurate, relevant, and engaging for the public.

A key PLEA initiative has been our four-year project: Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities. We successfully completed extensive consultations, culminating in a comprehensive Needs Assessment. This critical milestone will guide our next steps as we continue working in partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure public legal education is inclusive, culturally responsive, and accessible.

In tandem with this, a comprehensive review of every written resource in our library is currently underway generously supported by the Law Foundation's Legacy Grant. This review ensures our materials reflect evolving legal standards,

educational best practices, and the diverse needs of the communities we serve.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication and expertise of our exceptional staff and volunteers. Their passion and professionalism are the heart of our organization. I also extend my deep gratitude to our Board of Directors, whose guidance and vision have been instrumental throughout this journey.

Finally, I would like to thank the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan for its ongoing financial contributions and long-standing support of our mission. Their partnership has been essential in helping us expand our reach and deepen our impact.

It has been an honour to serve as President. I leave confident that the future of public legal education in Saskatchewan is bright, inclusive, and full of promise.

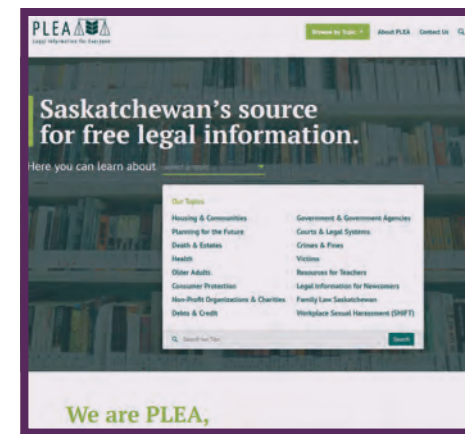
Maya Scott

46,508

PRINT PUBLICATIONS
DISTRIBUTED

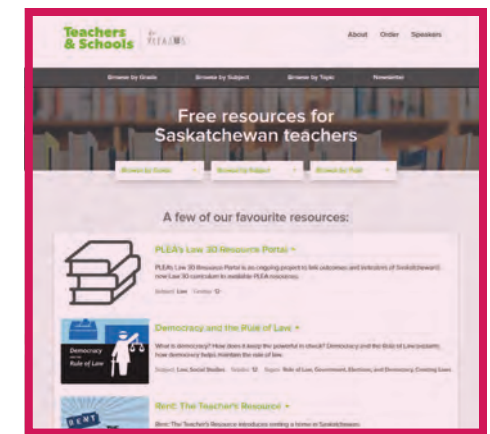
411,897

WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS



“everyone who is buying
a home should read
[housing/buying-selling/
transferring-title]”

“Thank you for the
information, resource
directory, and excellent
explanation.”



PUBLISHED

Booklets and Pamphlets

A Death in the Family

Family Violence

Parenting Arrangements

Parenting Orders

Life After 60

Renting a Home

Separation and Divorce

Wills and Estates

Newsletters

44.1 Running Jokes

44.2 Hanging Out 101

Teachers Resource

Our Government Our Election

PARTNERS

- Libraries, including courthouse, public libraries, and the College of Law Library
- Pro Bono law groups including Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada (national and local offices) and Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC)
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, including the Family Law Information Centre and the Family Matters program
- Saskatoon Public Library
- College of Law
- Canadian Bar Association—Saskatchewan Branch
- Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network
- Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution
- Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project (SALI)
- CREATE Justice
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada
- Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan

“A good
summary—
very clearly
explained.
Thank you.”

“Thank you
VERY much!”

EVOLVING LAWS, TIRELESS MISSION

PLEA is very fortunate to have received a Legacy Grant from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. With this funding, PLEA has hired a Legal Writer who is reviewing all of PLEA's existing online, print and interactive resources. Each resource is being updated, footnoted and assessed for usability and coverage of the law in the area.

The volume of PLEA resources has increased dramatically over the years. PLEA now has 5 websites and over 80 print publications spanning a huge array of legal subjects. This foundational project is key to fulfilling our mandate to educate, empower and inform the people of Saskatchewan.

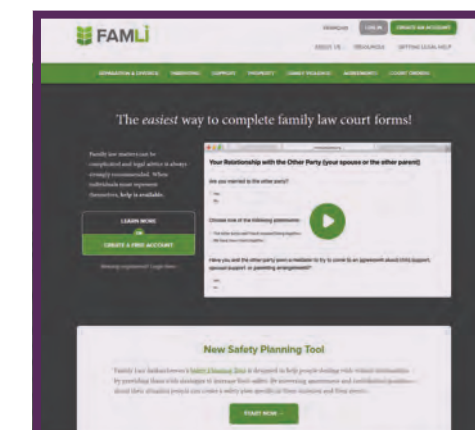


“The [Law 30] resources
on your website are
incredible.”

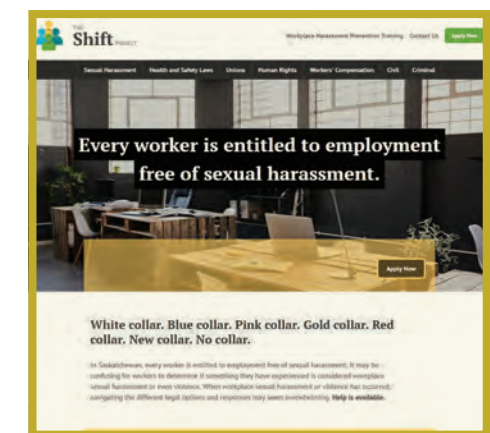
“I really appreciate the
information on your
website—I think it's a
valuable resource.”



“The information on
your webpage [victims/
abusive-relationships-1/
safety] has a succinct
summary of the vital
information our clients will
need. This is perfect for
our clients.”



“[Case Management
Conference] is an
excellent document; Well
written, simple and useful
to all as it is designed
to speed up the flow of
justice with less costs.”



"First I want to thank you for all of your easy to read resources on your website, I rely on them regularly."

"Thanks so much. This was what I was looking for."

"I frequently share Power of Attorney booklets with clients and families who attend our Outpatient Clinics. I am very grateful to have access to this well-written, informative booklet. Thank you, once again, for sharing this important resource with Saskatchewanians."

"I thoroughly enjoyed [Running Jokes]! I believe it will spark interest among readers, and hopefully motivate people to vote."



"Wow! I was looking to stock our library with more up to date information just like this. Thank you for having it available."

"Very informative. Helped in drafting defense for an assault case."

"Thank you so much, our clients and students are really enjoying the material!"

RUNNING JOKES

In a liberal democracy, the right to run for office is just as important as the right to vote. This principle guides *Running Jokes*, an issue of *The PLEA* newsletter that examines people who put their name on the ballot not to win but rather to satirically challenge the status quo.

From Pat Paulsen, the first person to fuse a satirical run for office to a national television show, to Hugh Arcsott, Saskatoon's civic-minded local who purposely set out to lose a federal election, to Boston Curtis, the first mule elected to public office, *Running Jokes* uses the stories of unusual candidates to help us think about elections and the ways that we govern ourselves.

"'Death in [the] family' and 'Wills and Estates' really help our families."

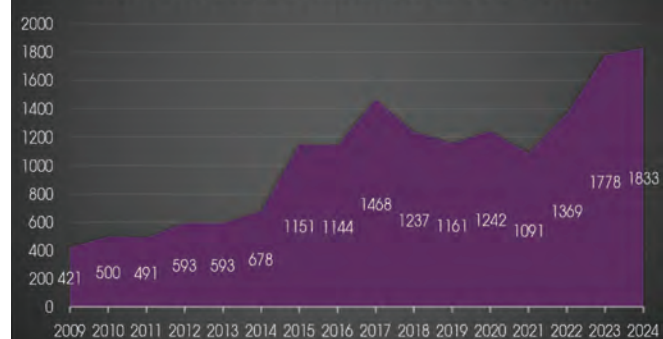
"Thank you! This is great information and very, very much appreciate it!"

"Thank you so much! I have had doctors and patients requesting [Life After 60], it is by far the best resource out there for the cliental that is served at the clinic!"

"I run the 3 libraries at [...]. Is it possible for your organization to send me all of your pamphlets? This would be beneficial to many that reside here."

"I have recently become aware of your publication 'Life After 60'. It is an excellent resource."

Individual Requests for Legal Information Handled Over Time



DEMAND GROWS

In 2024, PLEA experienced another record-breaking year for individual requests for legal information. Hundreds of people from across Saskatchewan reached out by phone, email, and

in person, seeking clear, reliable answers to their legal questions. From family law to tenant rights, the range of topics continues to reflect the diverse legal needs of the public. This growing demand highlights the importance of accessible legal information and PLEA's vital role in providing it. As always, each request is a reminder of the real-life impact of legal education in empowering individuals and communities.

"Appreciate your detailed answer! Thanks for digging into it! Talked to housing manager, they are giving him an extension."

"I cannot thank you enough for your prompt response. I've been trying for 4 months to find any clarity without success. I appreciate it so much."

"Thank you so much for your responses. You're helping to better inform me of the process which is what I am seeking."

"Thanks so much for this quick reply."

"Thank you so much; this was such a helpful overview! Thank you so much for all your valuable information and your time."

OUR GOVERNMENT OUR ELECTION

Upheavals with democracy and the rule of law have been front-and-centre in popular discussions. With this in mind, PLEA fully revised *Our Government Our Election* for the 2024 provincial election. This latest edition includes new lessons on the role of protests and the role of the media in democratic, law-based rule.

This revision has cemented *Our Government Our Election* as PLEA's most-popular learning resource ever. Since its inception in 2007, well over 5000 copies of have made their way to Saskatchewan teachers, to say nothing of the countless ongoing hits it receives at teachers.plea.org.



"I just received a copy of your recent publication, 'Our Government, Our Election'. There are several subject areas that could use the publication as a resource."

1,833

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
HANDLED

|

84%

RATED THE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITES
HELPFUL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award recipient for 2024 is Brent Toles, curriculum consultant with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

If you’re familiar with the credits pages of PLEA’s Teachers and Schools resources, you’re familiar with the name Brent Toles. Brent has reviewed countless PLEA learning resources to help ensure that our educational materials intersect with the curricular goals and the broader policy objectives of Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Education.

These credit pages, however, give no justice to Brent’s vital contributions to PLEA’s Teachers and Schools program.

Following a brief time working for PLEA in the early 2000s, PLEA reconnected with Brent in 2006 as part of an effort to revitalise our reach into and relevancy with Saskatchewan schools. Over these nearly two decades, Brent has not just fulfilled every request we have made of him: he has honoured every request, in all relevant senses of the word. It is no exaggeration to say that Brent’s sharing of his deep and far-reaching experience across Saskatchewan’s education

system—from classroom teacher and special subject council leader to university lecturer and ministry official—has been a key contribution in making PLEA’s Teachers and Schools program the success it is today.

Brent helps foster our professional relationships, be it with teachers on-the-ground or world-renowned experts on education. He reaches out to offer guidance on directions and trends in provincial education. And Brent even gives his time for mundane manual labour, always available to help set-up and tear-down displays at teacher conferences. Brent’s ongoing contributions to PLEA have been just as much diverse and valuable as his contributions to Saskatchewan’s education system as a whole.

PLEA’s mandate to educate, inform, and empower people through law-related education cannot be fulfilled by our staff and board members alone. The fulfilment of our mandate requires the generosity—in time and spirit—of community-oriented volunteers like Brent Toles. Brent understands that a society based on democracy and the rule of law will only succeed if we foster values of citizenship and the common good. His selfless support of public legal education in Saskatchewan helps build these values, and for this PLEA considers Brent Toles a colleague and a friend.

Congratulations and thank you, Brent. You are a worthy recipient of the 2024 Cam Partridge Memorial PLEA Volunteer of the Year Award.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jocelyn Gagne, LLB, LLM	Legal Writer
Cherie Jarock, BSc, LLB	Legal Writer
Erik Agrey, BA, JD	Legal Writer
Jonas Kiedrowski, BA, B.Ed., MA, M.Ed.	Teachers and Schools Coordinator
Tanya Clarke	Manager, Administration and Office Operations
Cathy Doucette	Administrative Assistant
Shannon Lebalt	Program Assistant



“PLEA’s a great organization and through the years I have appreciated all the ways it has helped people and communities.”

“Thank you so much for the services you provide. I work at a public library and can see how popular your publications are.”

“Thank you very much! And by the way, thanks for all you do. My friend and I found your resources very helpful. It’s so hard to find some of this info.”

“Thank you. That link does a good job of explaining what my options are [...] Thank you for this information!”

THANK YOU

Primary thanks go to the members of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and Executive Director Ms. Colleen Schmidt, BA, LLB for their generous support, guidance and encouragement. We are also very thankful for the support of the Department of Justice Canada for its generous core and special project funding.

We thank the Saskatchewan legal community and many law-related or helping agencies in our communities for their perennial support. Lawyers, judges, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the CBA Saskatchewan Branch, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, Pro Bono Students Canada, CLASSIC, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the John Howard Society, Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan, and the College of Law (students and faculty), to name a few, are indispensable to our work. The Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research again contributed to our work with much assistance in project evaluations. We thank all Saskatchewan educators and school communities and the Ministry of Education, including PLEA Volunteer of the Year Mr. Brent Toles, for their support in Teachers & Schools programming. Access to Justice bodies we gratefully worked with again in 2024 included the Dean’s Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution, the Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network, CREATE Justice, the Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project (SALI), Law Society of Saskatchewan Libraries, the Saskatoon and Regina Public Libraries, virtually all local public libraries, and the College of Law Library. In this context we must also thank Ms. Jayne Mallin, PLEA board member and CEO

of Legal Aid Saskatchewan who was instrumental in staging with us an extremely successful community movie night in Saskatoon during A2J Week.

We are deeply grateful for the many Saskatchewan Indigenous leaders and communities who helped guide our work within our *Improving Access to Justice for Indigenous Communities* project, which will be completed early in 2026.

We thank the PLEA Board of Directors and institutional member-appointing agencies for their ongoing tremendous support. We also thank the members of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada and its Bilingual Program Director Ms. Hanna Holmes for their cooperative spirit, expertise, encouragement, and many sharing and learning opportunities in 2024. New this year were many valuable PLEAC Community of Practice meetings.

Special thanks of course go to the remarkable-in-all-respects PLEA team. As usual capacity was stretched to the limit, but virtually all challenges were overcome to create and maintain the top-tier PLEI work that PLEA has become known for, far and wide.

Finally, we thank the people of Saskatchewan for your support. Everything we do is possible because of you.

2024 GRANTS

68% LAW FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
25% DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADA
7% GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 404,588	\$ 353,270
Short-term investments	393,113	373,112
Accounts receivable	49,155	92,354
GST receivable	3,339	4,174
Prepaid expenses	67,962	36,176
	918,157	859,086
Capital Assets	33,439	4,775
	<u>\$ 951,596</u>	<u>\$ 863,861</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 151,724	\$ 128,055
Deferred contributions	205,641	128,975
	357,365	257,030
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	225,601	238,201
Internally Restricted	368,630	368,630
	594,231	606,831
	<u>\$ 951,596</u>	<u>\$ 863,861</u>

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Advertising	\$ 9,904	\$ -
Donations and sponsorships	240	615
Grants	1,311,971	1,474,725
Interest	14,574	11,747
Memberships	-	40
Unrealized gain on investments	5,428	8,458
	1,342,117	1,495,585
Expenses	1,354,717	1,336,572
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(12,600)	159,013
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	606,831	447,818
Allocation to Internally Restricted Net Assets	(368,630)	-
Internally Restricted Net Assets	368,630	-
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 594,231</u>	<u>\$ 606,831</u>

To obtain a complete Financial Statement, please contact PLEA.

"Thank you for your time and for the important work PLEA does in empowering individuals with legal knowledge."

"Thanks for the quick reply. What a great resource and program."

"Thank you for the information and the subsequent clarity it will bring."

"There is some good information in Employment Standards that has helped me with this situation, and I am grateful."

"Great.. thanks again for all of the information and help!"

"Thank you for your guidance in the past which has proven very helpful. [...]
Thank you once again for your help."

"Thank you for providing legal information for everyone."

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

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