

We fund legal education, legal research, legal aid, law reform and law libraries for the benefit of British Columbians.

About the Law Foundation

The Law Foundation of BC is a non-profit foundation created by legislation in 1969 to receive and distribute the interest on clients' funds held in lawyers' pooled trust accounts.

Mandate

Our legislative mandate is to fund legal education, legal research, legal aid, law reform, and law libraries for the benefit of British Columbians.

Mission statement

To advance and promote a just society governed by the rule of law, through leadership, innovation and collaboration.

Vision

A society where access to justice is protected and advanced.



Strategic priorities 2016–2021

- Increase Law Foundation income and allocate resources prudently.
- Support effective and efficient programs that address both current and emerging needs.
- Encourage, identify, and support innovation in our grant-making, our grantees, and our justice system.
- Continue the ongoing evaluation of Law Foundation programs and projects.

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Report from the Chair

It has been a great honour to serve my first year as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Law Foundation of BC, and I am pleased to provide this report to the legal profession and the public.

Ordinarily, this report on our past year would have come out in late spring. Instead, our staff team who normally work on finishing this report were re-assigned to provide as much support to grantees during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as we could. This included arranging training and support to legal advocates assisting members of the public to obtain critically-needed income supports, and ensuring that Foundation-funded programs assisting low income people all over BC had the resources and technology to make a sudden move to remote service provision.

The Foundation also had to work hard to deal with a sudden and precipitous loss of income, on account of the decline of interest rates to near historic lows due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foundation is about to enter a year of planning to create a strategic plan for the following five years. We expect that the Foundation will spend a significant amount of time and energy considering how to deal with persistently low interest rates and reduced income. The Foundation anticipates spending from its Grant Stabilization Fund — a fund established specifically to assist us in supporting continuing programs in times of reduced income.

The current situation also presents opportunities for significant reform in the justice system, and a catalyst to address what was already an access to justice crisis before the pandemic hit. The Foundation has been collaborating with other justice sector stakeholders on a number of responsive initiatives that have the promise of leaving the justice system better than when this global emergency began. We expect this work to continue over the coming year.

The Grant Stabilization Fund is in a good place from which to face this revenue crunch. In 2018 and 2019, the Foundation had surpluses that allowed the Board of Governors to return the Grant Stabilization fund to the optimal level equivalent to two years' worth of grant spending and operations.

Grants

In 2019, the Law Foundation approved \$24,376,000 for 118 continuing and on-track grants, and \$7,786,000 for 375 projects and other grants. The total of grants approved by the Law Foundation in 2019 was \$32,162,000.



The success of all Law Foundation programs is driven by the dedicated people working and volunteering with the agencies we fund.

Highlights of 2019

Some highlights of the Law Foundation's work in 2019 were:

- The Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary — a celebration with over 400 people and a major training event for poverty and family law advocates, supervising lawyers and executive directors from across the province.
- The Foundation was able to usher in the opening of seven new legal clinics, with financial support from the province of British Columbia adding to the Foundation's grants in those locations. This joint funding initiative has resulted in the creation of four new poverty law clinics in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna and Surrey, and three specialty legal clinics focused on immigration and refugee law, disability law and housing law.
- Leadership transition — after 17 years, Wayne Robertson QC retired from the Foundation. After an extensive search, Josh Paterson was selected as the new Executive Director and joined the team in September.
- In the fall, the Foundation began the process of streamlining its application and reporting requirements to better serve grantees and to ensure that the Foundation is tracking the right metrics, as practices in measuring the impact of access to justice initiatives continue to evolve.
- The Foundation launched a major project funding call to support innovative initiatives that have the goal of achieving a significant impact in enhancing justice and access to justice in British Columbia. This resulted in a number of new and important multi-year initiatives in diverse areas including mental health law. Initiatives transformed service delivery in poverty law, family and children's law, and consumer law, and also led to the development of Indigenous legal orders.

Priorities in 2020

The success of all Law Foundation programs is driven by the dedicated people working and volunteering with the agencies we fund. The Law Foundation is working with agencies around BC to develop a new Human Resources Sustainability Strategy for the large access to justice sector that receives Foundation funding. This is in response to requests from our grantee community to work with them to build their human resource management skills. The strategy recognizes that it is critical to invest in the human capacity of the sector in order to promote its resilience. The initiative will strengthen access to justice in BC by providing support to organizations delivering services across the Law Foundation's five mandated funding areas. Aspects of the strategy that are under development include education for agency executive directors, training opportunities for lawyers and advocates, and support for lawyers and advocates dealing with traumatic issues as part of their work.



The Foundation was able to usher in the opening of seven new legal clinics, with financial support from the province of British Columbia adding to the Foundation's grants in those locations.

As the programs funded by the Law Foundation grow in both number and complexity, the Foundation is looking at our own human resource needs and organizational structure to ensure we are delivering optimal services to our community of grantees and the people of British Columbia. As expected in our leadership transition, the Foundation is undertaking an internal reorganization of its work to ensure we are leveraging technology to enhance our services, deepening our connections to communities that have been underserved by the legal system, and cultivating areas of specialization and focus within our team that line up with our mandate areas.

As noted above, the Foundation will be working over the next year to develop a renewed strategic plan, including an articulation of the Foundation's role as an access to justice funder in the process of reconciliation and resurgence of Indigenous law. We will be thinking deeply about how best to protect the Foundation-supported justice services that people in BC rely upon amid the financial challenges that face us under COVID-19. And we will be working directly with innovators and service providers in the legal and social services sector to support the development of new ways of meeting the needs of low-income people in the justice system.

Governors

Members of the Board of Governors work tirelessly as active stewards of the resources entrusted to the Law Foundation. Most governors spend a minimum of fifteen days per year on Foundation work — and more if they have additional responsibilities. In 2019, we said farewell to former Chair, Eileen Vanderburgh. She was on the Board for five years, chaired the Finance Committee in 2016, led the Board in 2017 and 2018, and worked on the New Grants and Policy and Planning Committees. Eileen provided the Foundation with wonderful leadership during her term as Chair and throughout her time on the Board. She is sorely missed.

In January 2020, Mary Childs joined as the new board member for Vancouver County. At the time of her appointment, she was associate counsel in the charities and not-for-profit practice at Miller Thomson, and has since assumed the role as general counsel for Tsawwassen First Nation.



The Future

In the difficult times ahead for access to justice in the province of BC, and for the Foundation, we will count more than ever on the ongoing support of the legal profession. The huge coming together of people to celebrate our 50th anniversary underlined to me how the steadfast support of the profession is the Foundation's sustaining force. I also want to acknowledge and thank the Attorney General, David Eby QC, and the public servants in the Ministry of Attorney General for their support and collaboration, not least in working with the Foundation to significantly expand access to justice infrastructure through the new legal clinics.

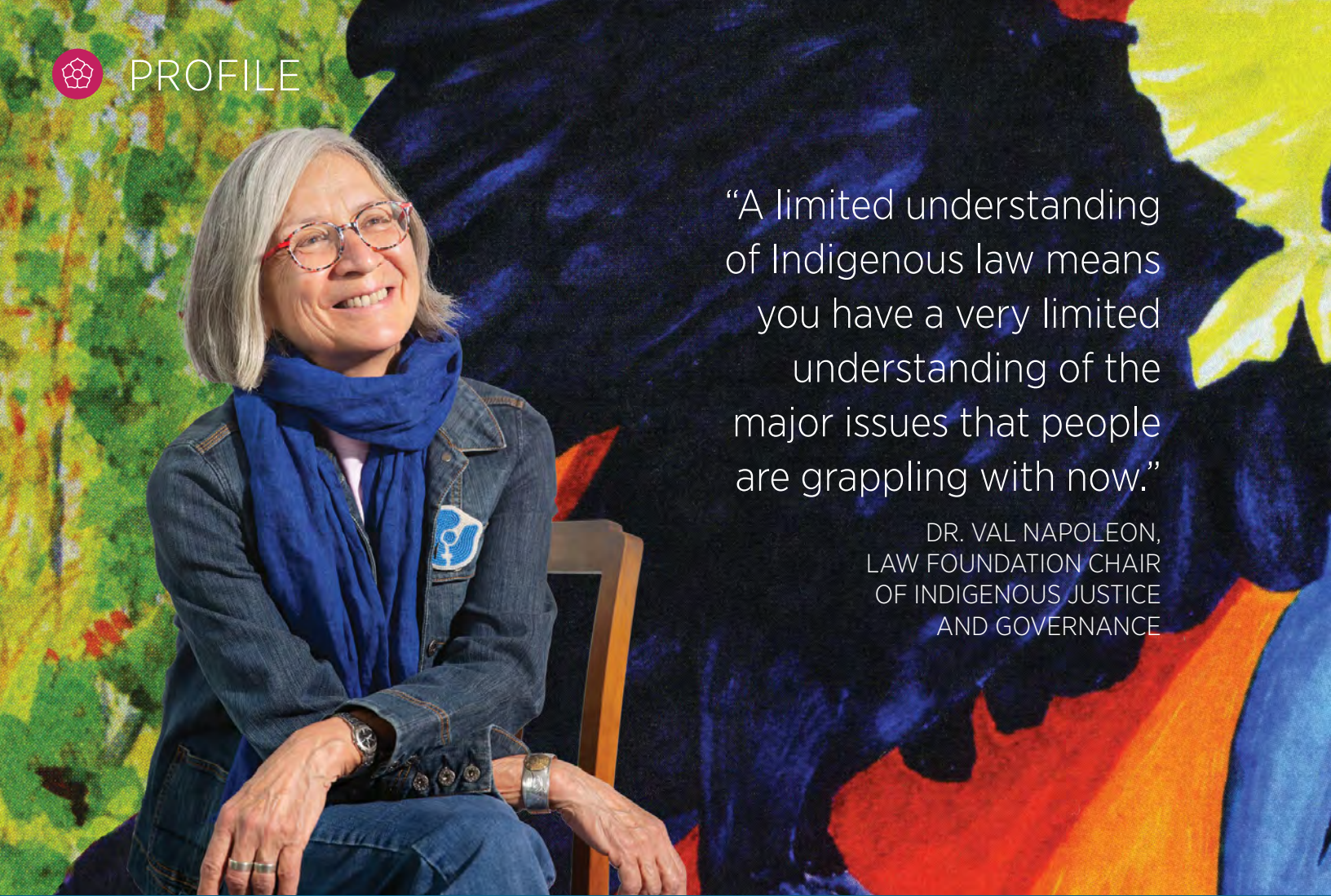
Finally, I wish to thank our grantees across BC who work so hard to advance justice for the individuals and the communities that they serve through advocacy, public legal education, legal representation and research. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people in BC access services

through our grantees' programs. These are services that improve lives and the health of our communities — and yet there is still so much more work to be done to improve access to justice for people in this province. The Foundation will continue to work hard to do its part to support and expand access to justice.

Thank you

The Foundation is grateful to those major financial institutions that provide competitive rates of return on lawyers' pooled trust accounts. We acknowledge the favourable interest rate agreements provided by the RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank, CIBC, BMO Bank of Montreal, Vancity, Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union and First West Credit Union. We thank members of the profession who choose financial institutions that provide competitive rates, as this ensures that the Foundation receives the highest possible rates of return.

Geoff White, Chair
September 2020



“A limited understanding of Indigenous law means you have a very limited understanding of the major issues that people are grappling with now.”

DR. VAL NAPOLEON,
LAW FOUNDATION CHAIR
OF INDIGENOUS JUSTICE
AND GOVERNANCE

New centre will help transform education in Indigenous law

THE LAW FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO HAVE PROVIDED THE FOUNDING GRANT FOR THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS LAWS

Tucked away at the University of Victoria Law School, the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) has built its reputation as the leading centre for Indigenous legal research and public legal education in Canada. In addition, the Faculty of Law launched the first of its kind JID/JD, otherwise known as the Indigenous law degree program, offering a dual degree in Canadian and Indigenous law. Both the ILRU and the Indigenous law degree program provide opportunities for research, and have attracted law students, scholars, and researchers from across the country and the world.

Now the program is poised to build on its status as a global centre for Indigenous legal scholarship. A founding grant of \$5 million from the Law Foundation of BC, combined with funding from the provincial and federal governments, will support a dedicated building for the program to stand on its own: the National Centre for Indigenous Laws.



“It really feels like a dream come true,” said Dr. John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria Law School. Borrows helped bring the dual degree program to life and has long envisioned a dedicated program for Indigenous law studies. “It gives me the feeling that this work will continue to live in the minds and hearts of others.”

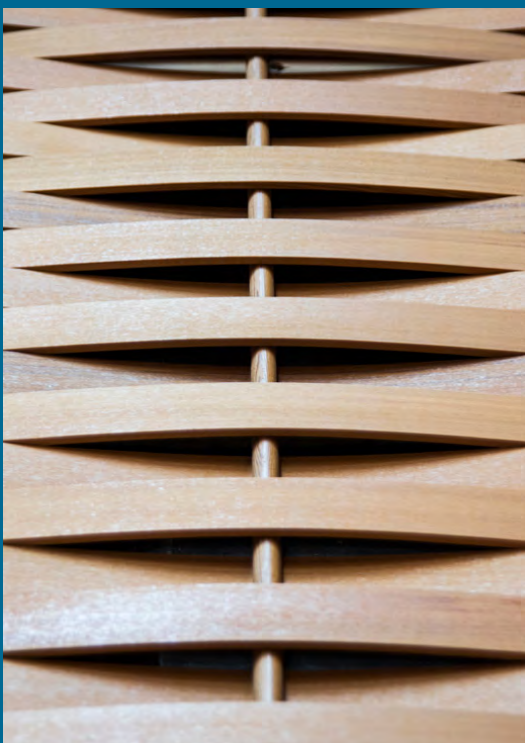
Sitting across from the University of Victoria’s Law School, the National Centre for Indigenous Laws will house the dual degree program, as well as the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU). It will serve as a space for legal scholars from across Canada and the world to convene, and will be a venue for public education.

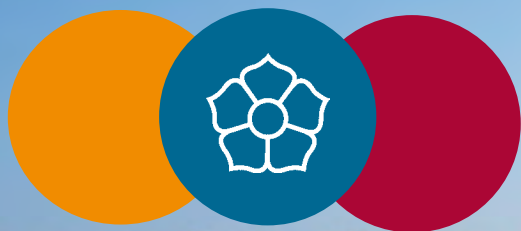
The layout and design of the building will be informed by consultation with Indigenous community members and stakeholders, in order to meet the needs of local and visiting nations alike. Part of the design will honour the Big House, a traditional governance and community meeting space central to several West Coast Nations.

Dr. Val Napoleon, Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance, and Director of the ILRU, envisions the space as a “reconceptualization” of the law school, where Indigenous people can feel that they belong and can come together to discuss and debate important issues.

Napoleon also hopes the new centre will provide space and resources to meet the “tremendous appetite” from those in the legal profession for education in Indigenous law. Understanding the legal traditions of the many Indigenous Nations across Canada has never been more essential for legal practitioners — especially after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s call to action for more education around Indigenous laws.

“A limited understanding of Indigenous law means you have a very limited understanding of the major issues that people are grappling with now,” said Napoleon.





Programs and Projects Funded in 2019

This annual report lists all the work done in 2019 with Law Foundation funding. The listings include grants approved for 2019 as well as multi-year grants that were approved in prior years and whose lifespan included 2019. This is a new approach that we hope gives you a comprehensive picture of all the work being done each year.

Grants are listed under the mandate area they support. Each mandate area starts with ongoing program grants, followed by *project grants* under their own sub-heading. Grants are listed alphabetically by name within each grouping.

Multi-year grants whose lifespan included 2019 are marked with the duration of the grant noted in parentheses beside the listing. The amount listed for each multi-year grant is the annual payment in 2019 — not the full grant.

Please note that multi-year grants are treated in our financial statements as being fully allocated in the year that they are approved. For this reason, the totals in this descriptive listing do not align precisely with the amount of grants approved in 2019 in the Foundation's audited financial statements on our website. An overview of key information about Foundation finances in 2019 is found at page 38 of this report. The complete audited financial statement is available online at lawfoundationbc.org/annual-report/

Legal Aid



\$20,576,000

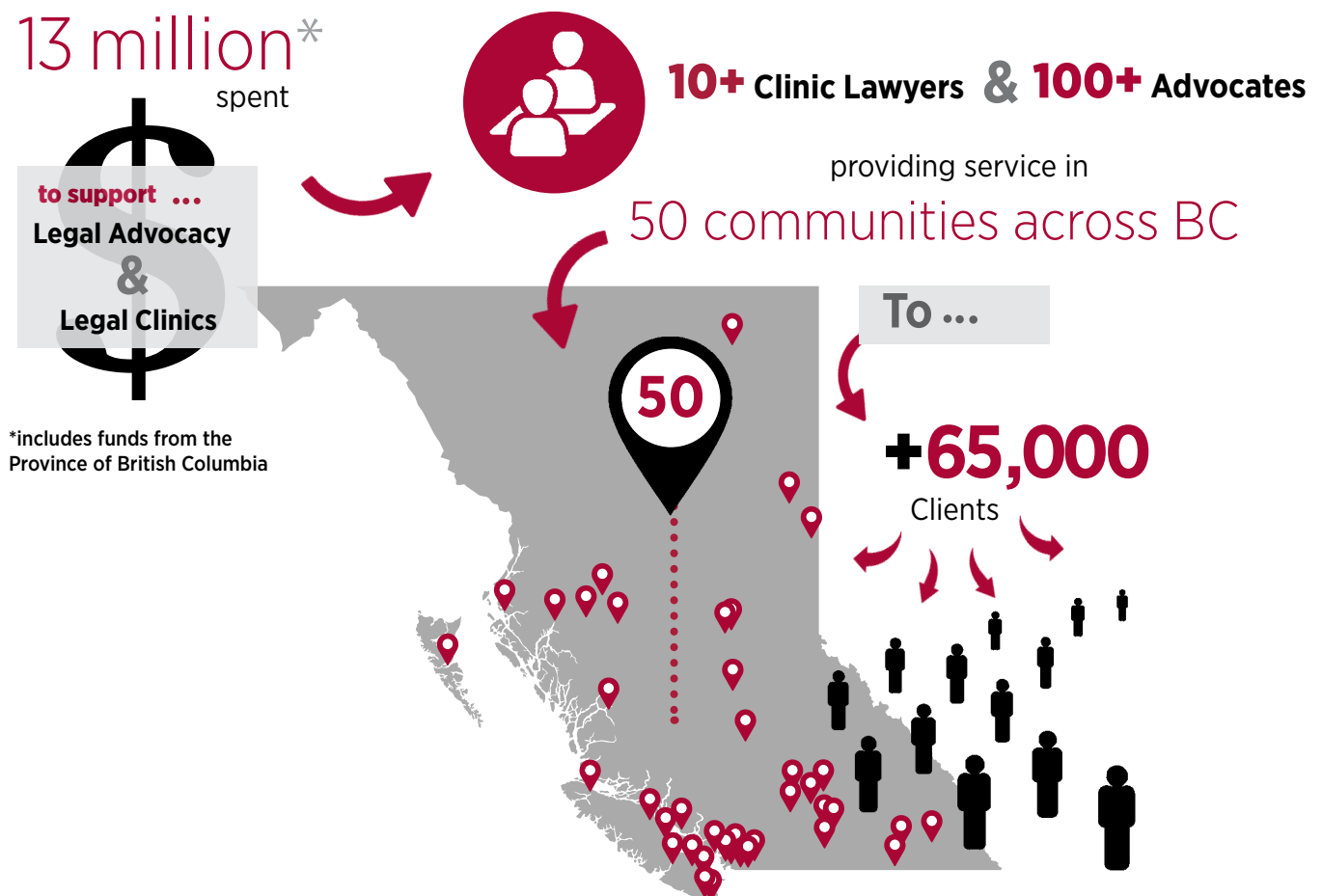
Legal Services Society (now Legal Aid BC)

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY (Legal Aid BC)

Support for Indigenous services, Family LawLINE, community engagement, and public legal information

\$3,250,000

Community-Based Advocacy





Family Law Advocacy Services

The following advocacy programs provide legal information, advocacy and assistance to individuals in the community on family matters.

The following groups received \$95,000 each in 2019:

Archway Community Services (formerly Abbotsford Community Services Society) *Fraser Valley* (2019–2022)

Battered Women's Support Services *Lower Mainland*

Chilliwack Community Services (2019–2022)

Chimo Community Services Society
Richmond (2018–2021)

Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
East Kootenays (2019–2022)

Contact Women's Group Society
Williams Lake area (2019–2022)

Fort St. John Women's Resource Society (2018–2021)

Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society (2019–2021)

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society *Kelowna area*

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services
(2018–2021)

M.O.S.A.I.C. *Lower Mainland* (2019–2022)

Nelson Cares Society – The Advocacy Centre (2019–2022)

North Shore Community Resources Society (2019–2022)

Opportunities Career Services Society
Campbell River area (2019–2021)

Penticton and Area Access Society (2019–2022)

Port Alberni Friendship Center (2019–2022)

Prince George Native Friendship Centre (2019–2022)

SHARE Family and Community Services
Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas (2018–2021)

The Law Centre, University of Victoria
School of Law (2019–2021)

Quesnel Tillicum Society

Sources Community Resources Society *Surrey*

Sources Community Resources Society (2019–2022)

Terrace and District Community Services (2019–2022)

Wachiy Friendship Centre Society
Courtenay area (2018–2021)

TOTAL FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY **\$2,280,000**



Poverty Law Advocacy Services

The following advocacy programs provide free legal information, advocacy, and representation to low-income people in the community on issues such as income assistance and disability benefits, housing, credit/debt, employment and other issues related to low income.

Active Support Against Poverty <i>Prince George area</i>	\$95,000	Opportunities Career Services Society <i>Campbell River area</i>	\$95,000
Archway Community Services (formerly Abbotsford Community Services Society) <i>Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope areas</i>	\$190,000	Penticton and Area Access Society	\$95,000
Burnaby Community Services Society (2019–2021)	\$95,000	Port Alberni Friendship Center	\$95,000
Chimo Community Services Society <i>Richmond</i>	\$95,000	Powell River Community Services Association	\$95,000
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC <i>East Kootenays</i>	\$105,000	Prince Rupert Unemployed Centre Society	\$65,000
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society <i>Duncan</i> (2019–2022)	\$95,000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$95,000
Contact Women's Group Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$95,000	Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Society <i>Port Hardy area</i> (2019–2022)	\$95,000
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society <i>Smithers area</i>	\$95,000	Sea to Sky Community Services <i>Squamish</i> (2019–2022)	\$95,000
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver <i>New Westminster</i> (2019–2022)	\$95,000	SHARE Family and Community Services <i>Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas</i>	\$95,000
First United Church Community Ministry Society <i>Vancouver's Downtown Eastside</i>	\$225,000	Shuswap Family Resource & Referral Society <i>Salmon Arm area</i> (2019–2021)	\$95,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society (2019–2022)	\$50,000	Social Health & Economic Development Society of Bella Coola	\$55,000
Fort St. John Women's Resource Society	\$95,000	Society for Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy: Central Vancouver Island (formerly Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy Association) <i>Nanaimo area</i>	\$95,000
Haida Gwaii Legal Project Society	\$100,000	Sources Community Resources Society <i>Surrey</i>	\$95,000
Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society	\$95,000	South Peace Community Resources Society <i>Dawson Creek area</i>	\$85,000
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society <i>Kelowna area</i>	\$95,000	Sunshine Coast Resource Centre Society (2019–2022)	\$95,000
Kitimat Community Development Centre (2019–2022)	\$95,000	Terrace and District Community Services Society	\$95,000
Langley Community Services Society (2019–2022)	\$95,000	Together Against Poverty Society <i>Victoria area</i>	\$190,000
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services	\$95,000	Trail FAIR Society (2019–2022)	\$95,000
Nelson Cares Society	\$100,000	Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society <i>Hazelton area</i>	\$80,000
Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society	\$95,000	Wachiyay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$95,000
North Shore Community Resources Society	\$95,000		
Okanagan Advocacy and Resource Society <i>Vernon area</i>	\$95,000		
		TOTAL POVERTY LAW ADVOCACY	\$4,190,000



“It’s very busy on a daily basis but nothing is more rewarding than helping out my community.”

HAILEY CHAPMAN

How a frontline legal organization in Haida Gwaii is making an impact

A typical day for Hailey Chapman begins when she arrives to work at the Haida Gwaii Legal Project Society to a lineup of people patiently waiting for her.

But it comes as no surprise — as a legal advocate for the only stand-alone legal service on Haida Gwaii / *X̱aaydaga Gwaay.yaay* / *X̱aayda gwaay*, archipelago of nearly 5,000 people, she knows her services are in high demand. On any given day, staff at the Society assist residents with housing, applying for pensions, obtaining social assistance, navigating legal documents, and so much more.

“We live on a reserve in Northern BC with very limited legal resources so everyone comes to you for an answer. It’s very busy on a daily basis but nothing is more rewarding than helping out my community,” says Hailey.

When the Society's funding was at risk, the Law Foundation of BC stepped in with financial support to continue the service, and has provided support every year since.

The Haida Gwaii Legal Project Society has served Haida and non-Haida people in communities across the islands in some form since the early 1990s. But in 2003, when the Society's funding was at risk, the Law Foundation of BC stepped in with financial support to continue the service. The Foundation has provided support every year since, and now helps to fund staff positions at two locations — Masset and Skidegate.

Demand is high: in 2019 alone, the Society worked on more than 1,400 different cases — a significant increase from just a few years before, touching the lives of more than a quarter of Haida Gwaii residents. For the Society's small legal support team, serving the residents of Haida Gwaii involves much more than strictly legal matters — it means forming strong connections with the community, participating in Haida culture, and understanding the ongoing impact of colonization.

One of the biggest challenges for staff is helping clients receive settlements under the Indian Day School Class Action. The historic 2019 class action settlement compensates survivors of Indian Day Schools across Canada. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people who were excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement are all eligible. This issue hits close to home as two Indian Day Schools were located on Haida Gwaii.

Going through the process of registering for the settlement and getting updated on their cases can be a huge hurdle for many survivors who are now into their senior years and may be struggling with trauma.

"I come into work every day knowing that I am going to help make a difference in someone's day and that makes me very happy. ... Another positive thing about the job is how much engagement you have with the community members, organizations and agencies that all come together to help make our island better," says Hailey.

In early 2020, the Law Foundation added additional financial support to help handle the high volume of clients seeking help to access the compensation to which they are entitled.

Bev Collinson, a legal advocate who's been with the Society for nearly two decades, shared how familiarity with the community has helped her gain an understanding of their unique needs. She explained that in many of the cases she handles helping people solve "small dilemmas" — such as getting the right forms or signatures — can have a big impact. "You catch little things like that — and it just makes people's lives easier."



Legal advocate Bev Collinson, who's been with the Society for nearly two decades, believes familiarity with the community has helped her gain an understanding of their unique needs.

PHOTOS: JASON SHAFTO - FULL MOON PHOTO



Legal Advocacy (Specialized)

The following advocacy programs provide services in specific areas of law or to particular populations.

ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

(formerly Abbotsford Community Services Society) Advocacy services and legal education for seasonal farm workers in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland in partnership with Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society \$130,000

ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY

Advocacy services for women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside on poverty, family, and criminal law issues \$95,000

DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC SOCIETY

A specialized advocacy, legal education and referral program for people with disabilities \$315,000

IMMIGRANT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

Advocacy services for migrants, immigrants and refugees \$95,000

INDIGENOUS COURT COORDINATOR PROJECTS

Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society \$32,000

Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society \$25,000

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc \$25,000

Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society \$55,000

Yeqox Nilin Justice Society \$25,000

KETTLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

A mental health advocacy program providing legal information and assistance on residential tenancy and child protection matters in the Lower Mainland \$190,000

(2019–2022): A mental health advocacy program providing legal information and assistance on income assistance matters in the Lower Mainland \$95,000

MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE BC SOCIETY

A specialized advocacy service and legal education program for live-in caregivers and other low-wage temporary foreign workers \$150,000

M.O.S.A.I.C.

A legal information and advocacy program for low-income immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland \$95,000

MPA — MOTIVATION, POWER & ACHIEVEMENT SOCIETY (2019–2022)

Courtworkers to assist people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system in Surrey and Port Coquitlam \$130,000

MPA — MOTIVATION, POWER & ACHIEVEMENT SOCIETY

Courtworkers to assist people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system in Vancouver \$140,000

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY, BC & YUKON DIVISION

A volunteer legal advocacy program (VLAP) for low income people living with MS \$70,000

SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY, LEGAL ADVOCACY

A legal information and advocacy program for older adults in BC \$95,000

TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY CENTRE SOCIETY (TRAC)

A legal information and advocacy service for tenants and landlords on residential tenancy issues, with an information line available throughout BC \$280,000

WATARI RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

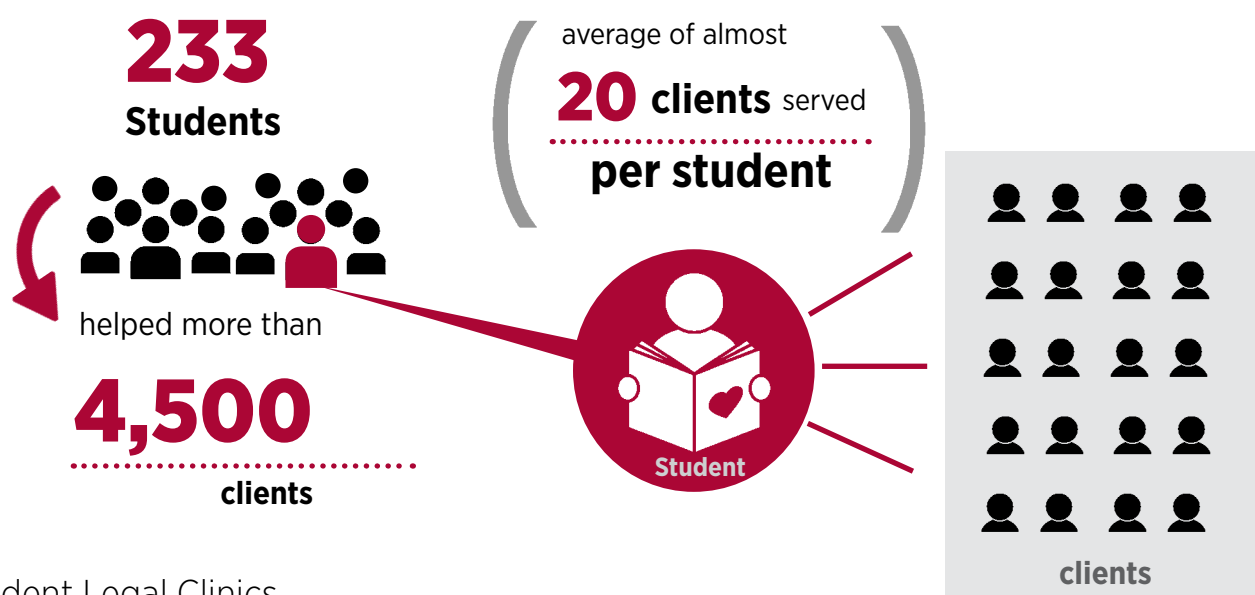
A system negotiator at Vancouver's Downtown Community Court to support repeat offenders with mental disorders \$95,000

PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES (WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY)

Initiative to provide legal services to prisoners on human rights and health care issues. \$100,000

TOTAL SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY \$2,237,000

Legal Clinics



Student Legal Clinics

The following clinics provide legal information, advocacy, and assistance to individuals in the community on various matters.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, FACULTY OF LAW, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY	\$250,000
A clinical program for law students providing legal services to low-income people in Kamloops	
GREATER VANCOUVER LAW STUDENTS' LEGAL ADVICE SOCIETY (LSLAP), PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	\$330,000
The Law Students' Legal Advice Program operates free clinics in the Greater Vancouver area	
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	\$210,000
A clinical program for law students providing legal services to the Indigenous community	
LAW CENTRE CLINICAL PROGRAM, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA	\$375,000
A clinical program for law students providing legal services to low-income people in the Greater Victoria area	
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE	
Family Advocate Support Line (2019–2021)	\$160,000
Integrated legal services: a student legal clinic and the Virtual Legal Clinic (2019–2022)	\$235,000
TOTAL STUDENT CLINICS	\$1,560,000

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Investing in legal services for women

HOW A CLINIC FOR WOMEN EMERGED TO FILL GAPS IN FAMILY LAW SERVICES

It is well-recognized that the high cost and complexity of the family justice system means that it is effectively impossible for many people to access their legal rights. Former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin has referred to this plainly as an access to justice crisis, and that many women, in particular, who need legal support in the family justice system simply can't afford it.

In 2014, a report from West Coast LEAF, jointly funded by the Law Foundation and Status of Women Canada, found that gaps in access to family law had a disproportionate impact on women and gender equality. That report recommended the establishment of a women's family law clinic — a “one-stop shop” for women with family law problems. In 2016, the Rise Women's Legal Centre was established by West Coast LEAF and the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia.

Rise serves all individuals who self-identify as women, and provides legal services related to family law and immigration. Rise began with a two-fold mission: to address the gap in legal services and to help



With support from the Law Foundation starting in 2018, Rise was able to create a family law case worker position, a family advocate support line, and a virtual legal clinic that serves women outside Rise's geographic area.

train law students in family law. Staff at Rise operate with an understanding of the particular challenges that women face in family matters and in the justice system.

Kim Hawkins, who has been executive director and legal counsel at Rise since the beginning, said the clinic was “swamped” the second the doors opened in May 2016. Over the next two years they served more than 600 women.

“There was really no going back, because the need for service was so high.”

With support from the Law Foundation starting in 2018, Rise was able to create a family law case manager position, a family advocate support line, and a virtual legal clinic which serves women in BC outside the Lower Mainland.

But another goal of Rise was to help address the low numbers of law students choosing to pursue family law, which was known as an emotionally challenging practice area with lower salaries.

“There wasn't a lot happening in the field that would get students excited about working in family law,” said Veenu Saini, program director at the Law Foundation of BC.

Rise adopted an ‘incubator’ model: law students who have completed their externship at Rise may also complete their articles at Rise and are mentored by Rise's staff lawyers, in order to gain experience and eventually build their own family law practices—an initiative that has already led to two former students branching off on their own to create a family law practice serving marginalized women.

Hawkins said that the frontline experience students receive, combined with deeper training on the systemic issues of access to justice for women, has helped to keep students excited about approaching the unique challenges of family law.

“We've grown away from being just a student clinic in many ways,” she said. “It really has expanded out from that, and we've been able to participate in systemic conversations about women and family law that are going on.”



Kim Hawkins, who has been executive director and legal counsel at Rise since the beginning, said the clinic was “swamped” the second the doors opened in May 2016.



Other Legal Clinics

The following clinics provide legal representation, information, advocacy and assistance to individuals in the community on various matters.

CHILD AND YOUTH LEGAL CENTRE, SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BC	
A legal clinic that provides direct legal services to vulnerable children and youth in BC in family law, child protection, and other child and youth areas of law	\$700,000
ELDER LAW CLINIC, SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY	
An elder law clinic that provides legal representation and information services	\$220,000
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF LAW	
A clinical program at the University of Victoria, with law students, staff and Pro Bono lawyers to provide legal services, including legal research, and law reform on environmental issues, to community organizations, individuals, and First Nations throughout BC	\$190,000
POVERTY LAW CLINIC, TOGETHER AGAINST POVERTY SOCIETY (2018-2021)	
Legal representation for people on low incomes on Vancouver Island using judicial review, policy and research work	\$190,000
TOTAL OTHER CLINICS	\$1,300,000

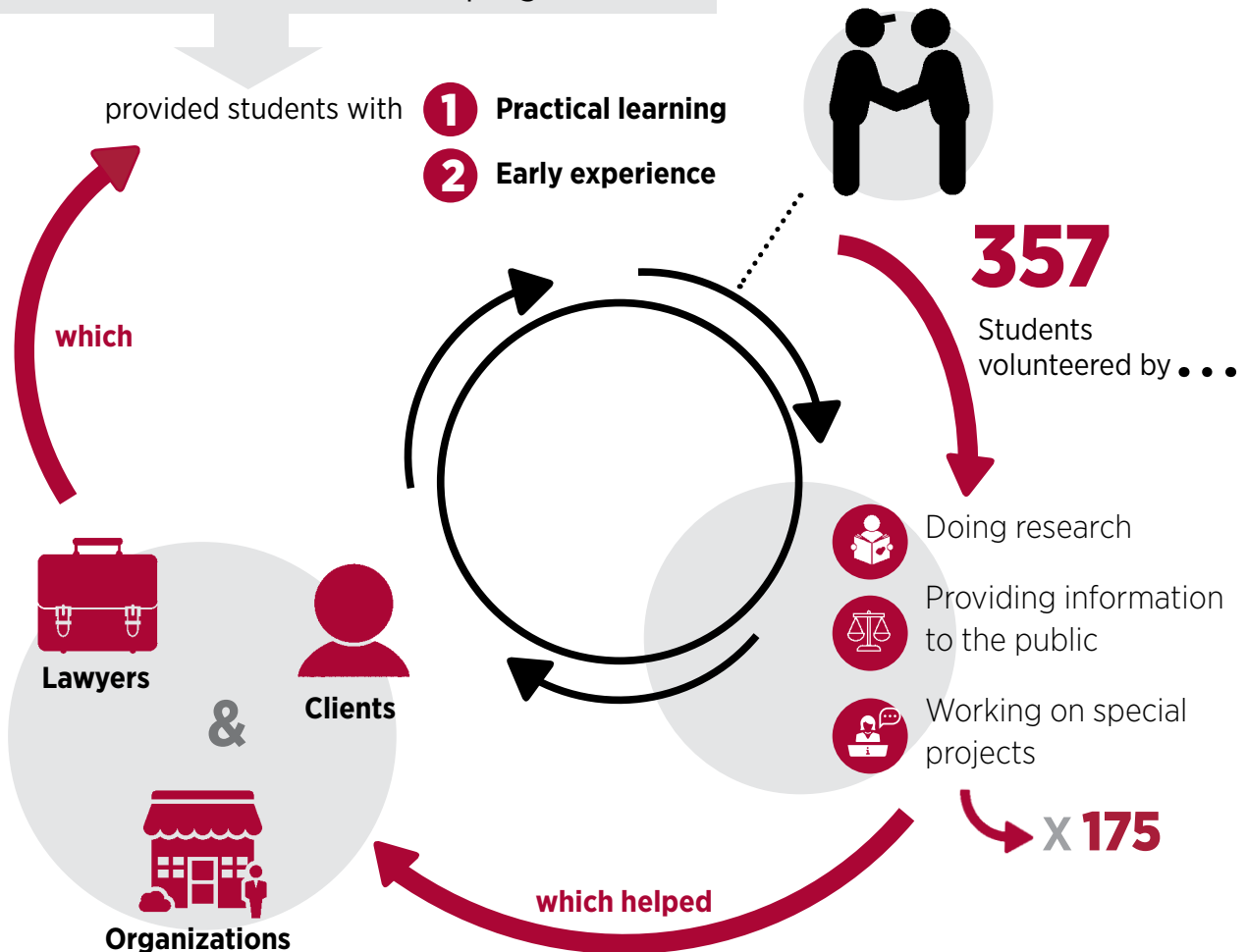
Provincial Legal Clinics

The Government of British Columbia provided funding for a network of seven new legal clinics, each with a lawyer and a legal assistant, to provide free legal services for low income people across BC. The Law Foundation contributed \$173,000 in start-up dollars that was spread among the seven clinics. The new staff combine with existing Law Foundation-funded advocacy staff at each site to create a legal clinic. The addition of staff lawyers will permit these centres to assist individuals with more complex matters that non-lawyer advocates cannot handle.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC Hosted at Immigrant Services Society of BC	\$250,000
KAMLOOPS ELIZABETH FRY LEGAL CLINIC Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society	\$250,000
KI-LOW-NA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY LEGAL CLINIC, KNXIT I? SNQSILX™ HELP THE RELATIVES Hosted at Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	\$250,000
PRINCE GEORGE AND REGION POVERTY LAW CLINIC	\$250,000
PROVINCIAL DISABILITY LAW CLINIC Hosted at Disability Alliance BC Society	\$250,000
PROVINCIAL HOUSING LAW CLINIC Hosted at Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre Society	\$250,000
SURREY AND REGION POVERTY LAW CLINIC Hosted at Sources Community Resources Society	\$250,000
LAW FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION TO START-UP COSTS	\$173,000
TOTAL PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$1,923,000
TOTAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$4,783,000

Pro Bono Legal Aid

In 2019 the **Pro Bono** student programs . . .



ACCESS PRO BONO SOCIETY OF BC

Summary Legal Advice Program, and the Civil Chambers Program and Roster Programs which provide representation to low and modest income clients on civil matters

\$450,000

ACCESS PRO BONO SOCIETY OF BC

Lawyer Referral Service that facilitates free 30-minute consultations with volunteer lawyers

\$95,000

PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA

Thompson River University School of Law

\$35,000

Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia

\$40,000

University of Victoria School of Law

\$35,000

TOTAL PRO BONO LEGAL AID

\$655,000



Kids have the power to decide how they are represented.



Province-wide legal services for children are a “game changer”

For Suzette Narbonne, being a youth lawyer is more than just representing kids in court — it’s a paradigm shift for young people who have never imagined they could have a lawyer. Narbonne works as the managing lawyer at the Child and Youth Legal Centre (CYLC) at the Society for Children and Youth of BC which has been funded by the Law Foundation since 2017.

Narbonne said that often the first step when working with kids is helping them understand that they have the power to decide how they are represented.

“It makes a difference for them to know that the adults in their lives don’t have the right to fire me — that, as the client, they are the only one who gets to decide,” Narbonne said.



All of the children who arrive at the centre's door are vulnerable and want to be heard on matters that will have a profound effect on their future.

In family and child protection cases, parents and guardians are often too involved to present their child's unique views, especially if those views differ from their own. Other times, a well-intentioned parent might leave a child out of important discussions to shield him or her from the turmoil of family breakdown.

But a child in that situation will tell you: "I'm the one living this. Why doesn't anyone want to know what I think?"

There are also the legal issues that are unique to children and for which they need a knowledgeable advocate — bullying, problems at school, and human rights.

Located in Vancouver's Commercial Drive neighbourhood, the CYLC is a team of lawyers, an advocate, and a social worker who provide an independent voice for children caught up in legal conflict.

Some children arrive at the Centre's door seeking help. Others are referred by a judge who is concerned that they need someone to speak on their behalf in a family dispute. All are vulnerable and want to be heard on matters that will have a profound effect on their future.

Before CYLC was established, children were often heard in family law cases through written, sometimes dated, reports. In child protection matters, if a child's views were solicited at all, the evidence was usually from social workers. The court had important information about the child's wants and needs, but no direct evidence or advocacy. Now, with the CYLC providing independent advice and representation, children's voices are heard with more immediacy. Children now have someone they can talk to confidentially and someone to whom they explain their hopes and fears.

Sarah Rush, a social worker with the CYLC, said that the children going through the system often never have the chance to speak up and ask for what they need. "It doesn't always matter whether we win or not in court, it's really about seeing the kids empowered in those spaces where they're traditionally silenced," she said.

Acting as independent counsel to children in serious family disputes requires skilled advocacy to ensure the parents understand CYLC's role and to prevent escalation of what is often already a difficult situation. But while the lawyer's solicitor-client relationship is with the child, the lawyer will often work with the entire family to help them understand how their decisions will affect the child.

Narbonne says that over the past few years, children and parents alike have reached out to express what a difference CYLC has made in their lives. "Some kids have called us a game changer. It's pretty amazing."



"It makes a difference for them to know that the adults in their lives don't have the right to fire me."

— Suzette Narbonne



Public Interest Law

BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION Test case litigation, legal education and law reform to protect the civil liberties and human rights of British Columbians	\$380,000
BC PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE Representation of the public interest in regulatory matters	\$190,000
COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY Five Community Law Program lawyers provide a combination of direct and systemic advocacy services; one lawyer works on the Community Advocate Support Line (CASL), a telephone service supporting poverty law advocates	\$960,000
ECOJUSTICE CANADA SOCIETY Test case litigation on public interest environmental law issues	\$190,000
PIVOT LEGAL SOCIETY Homelessness and Police Accountability Programs	\$190,000
WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION Legal research, legal education and legal aid supporting the public interest in environmental legal issues	\$470,000
WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION Law reform, test case litigation and legal education to advance equality for women and people who experience gender-based discrimination	\$380,000
TOTAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAW	\$2,760,000

Legal Aid Projects

ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY A two-year legal incubation project to support women lawyers providing access to justice for marginalized women	\$60,000
BC COLLABORATIVE ROSTER SOCIETY Pro Bono collaborative divorce supports	\$26,000
MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE BC SOCIETY Testing a legal support model for migrant agricultural workers	\$40,000
PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES (West Coast Prison Justice Society) Monitoring prisoner isolations in response to new legislation	\$72,000
SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY Support for staff articling position	\$60,000
SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY A feasibility study on methods to improve the provision of personal planning documents for low income people throughout the province	\$20,000
VANCOUVER LEGAL HACKERS Justice Hack BC 2019 to develop new tech solutions to access to justice issues	\$28,000
VICTORIA WOMEN'S TRANSITION HOUSE SOCIETY Family law advocacy services for women	\$75,000
WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION Staffing transition	\$40,000
TOTAL LEGAL AID PROJECTS	\$421,000

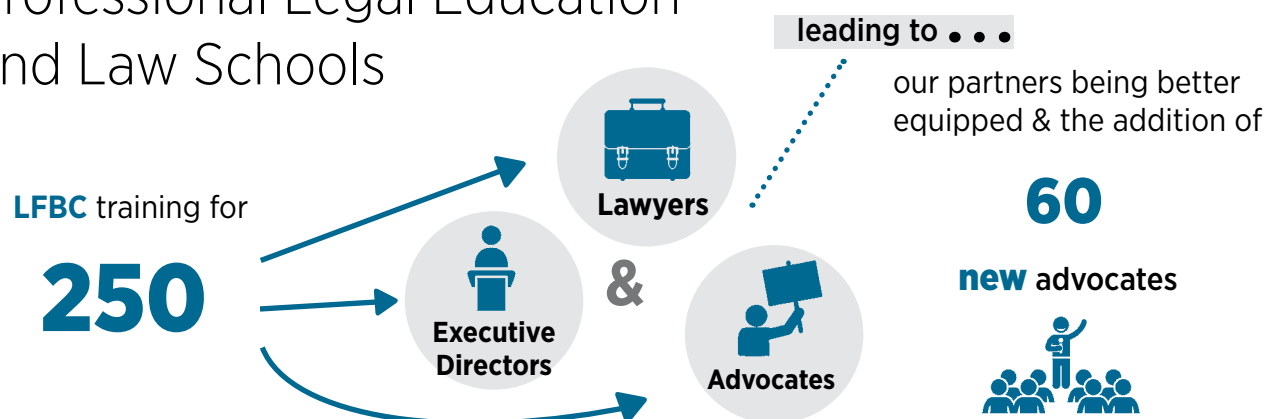


Legal Education

\$4,417,500

In addition to the amounts listed below, the Law Foundation approved \$1,560,000 in funding to support student legal clinics that provide legal aid services and support the professional legal education of law students in BC. For details, see Legal Aid: Student Legal Clinics on page 17.

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BC BRANCH Rural Education and Access to Lawyers Initiative (REAL) to support summer placements for law students with lawyers working in rural areas \$75,000

COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY David Mossop, QC, Public Interest Articling Fellowship \$60,000

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS Fellowships for graduate legal studies by BC lawyers and graduates of BC law schools:

Rachel Barsky: Support for work on an LLM addressing human rights issues in criminal law (deferred)

Jennifer Doreen Bergman: Research into how unmet mental health service needs in child protection cases impact the effectiveness of the legal system in family law

Ellen Bolger: Research into the application of administrative law principles in Canadian correctional institutions

Kaitlyn Cumming: Analysis and evaluation of the importance of procedural access to justice reforms

Scott Franks: Research on barriers to the successful implementation of transformative Indigenous legal education and cultural competency in law schools and the legal profession

Christina Gray: Research into the intersections between Indigenous law and human rights in Canada, in particular, how Indigenous legal orders can be developed as human rights policy and law

Jon Khan: How legal reforms that rely on empirical data and human centred design, could be used in Canada to respond to the extensive time and costs involved in litigation

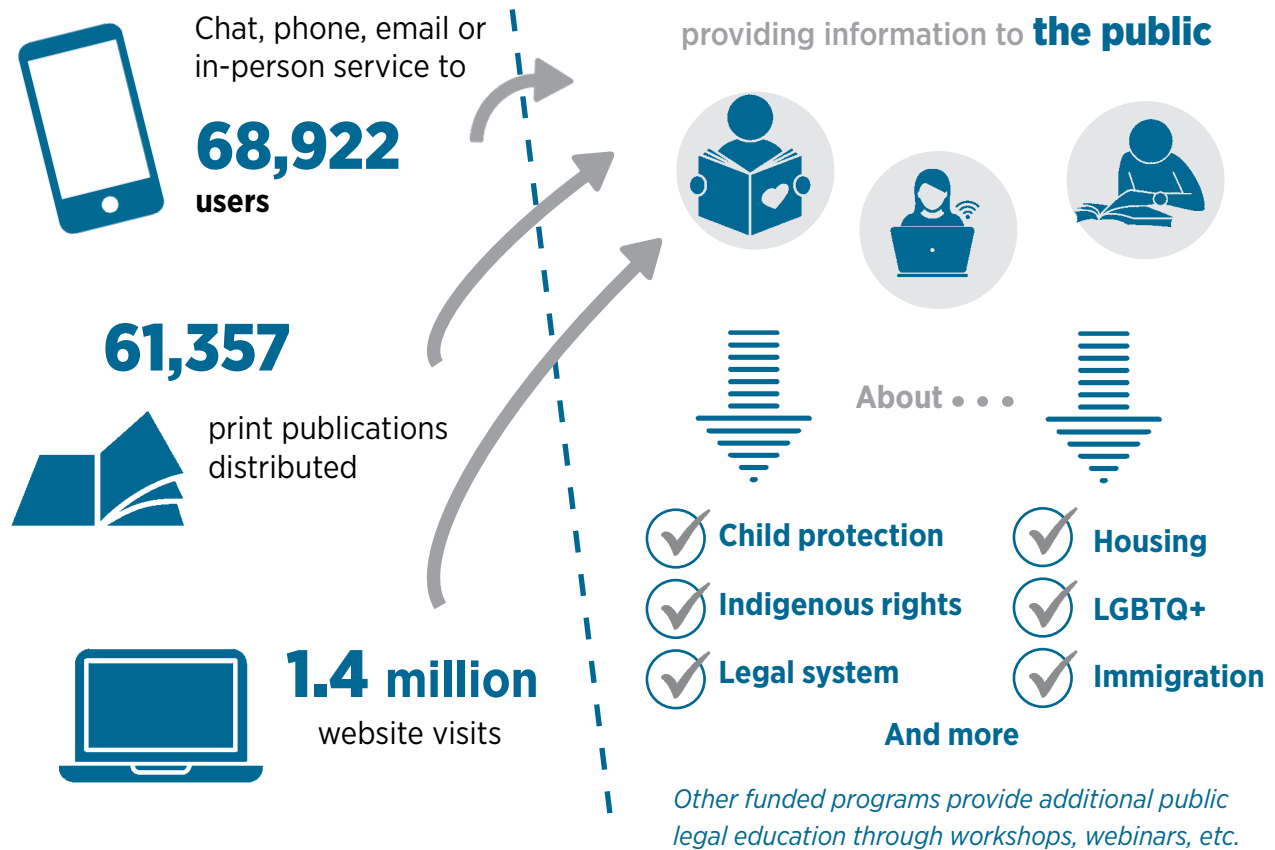
\$120,000



LAW FOUNDATION OF BC The Education and Training Fund to support the professional development of Law Foundation funded advocates, executive directors and supervising lawyers through an annual provincial conference for advocates, training for new advocates, meetings of executive directors and supervising lawyers, and other supports	\$550,000
LAW SOCIETY OF BC The Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC) at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, and bursaries for students who must relocate to attend PLTC training	\$240,000
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	
Innocence Project A program that engages law students to review claims of wrongful convictions in British Columbia	\$55,000
Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) For-credit program at the student-run legal clinic	\$30,000
POVNET SOCIETY An online resource and networking tool for anti-poverty advocates, community workers and the general public	\$100,000
PROVINCIAL COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA A program that allows law students doing Provincial Court judicial internships to attend circuit courts around BC	\$25,000
PUBLIC INTEREST ARTICLES Articles designed to support the work of public interest groups and provide students with experience in the sector	
<i>BC Civil Liberties Association</i>	\$60,000
<i>Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, Indigenous Community Legal Clinic</i>	\$60,000
<i>University of Victoria, Faculty of Law, Law Centre Clinical Program</i>	\$60,000
<i>West Coast LEAF Association</i>	\$60,000
PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS Awards to fund second and third-year law students who combine academic achievement with a commitment to public interest legal work	
<i>Thompson Rivers University School of Law</i>	\$40,000
<i>Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia</i>	\$65,000
<i>University of Victoria School of Law</i>	\$45,000
PUBLIC INTEREST WORK PLACEMENTS Funding for law students in work placements with public interest and advocacy groups	
<i>Thompson Rivers University School of Law</i>	\$50,000
<i>Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia</i>	\$90,000
<i>University of Victoria School of Law</i>	\$90,000
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, WIYASIWEGIN MIKIWAHP NATIVE LAW CENTRE A program for Indigenous students planning to enter law school	\$25,000
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF LAW Work by the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence to support research and scholarship on access to justice issues	\$100,000
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS	\$2,000,000



Public Legal Education



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BC BRANCH	Support for Access to Justice Week 2019	\$10,000
DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION OF BC	A program to support high school students in the province-wide Law Foundation Cup Debates on legal topics	\$25,000
JUSTICE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BC	Programs to provide legal education and information about the justice system to students and the public	\$385,000
KINBRACE COMMUNITY SOCIETY	Information for refugees about the refugee application, hearing, and appeal process	\$40,000
MEDIATE BC SOCIETY	A public legal education program focused on building awareness of mediation and other dispute resolution services	\$70,000
PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL SOCIETY		
	Major public legal education and information programs	\$370,000
	Dial-a-Law program ongoing costs	\$150,000
VANCOUVER SUMMER MENTORSHIP SOCIETY	Summer mentorship program for historically disadvantaged high school students interested in studying law	\$10,000
TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION		\$1,060,000



Legal Education Projects

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools Projects

BC HEAR THE CHILD SOCIETY

A training program on non-evaluative interviewing and report-writing, integrating the child's voice into family justice decision making

\$25,000

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

A conference on the impact of artificial intelligence and social media on legal institutions

\$15,000

BC SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES

Legal education for BC anti-violence workers and women about how to respond to technology-facilitated violence

\$75,000

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER SOCIETY FOR BC

Educational resources for professionals supporting clients with FASD in court

\$75,000

GOLDEN EAGLE RISING SOCIETY

Development of a trauma informed practice toolkit for legal professionals

\$75,000

LAW SOCIETY OF BC

Developing new core competencies for the Professional Legal Training Course

\$75,000

PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

Provincial legal education skill share event on Indigenous child welfare

\$60,000

PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Curriculum development in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

\$75,000

POVNET SOCIETY

Development of a new community of practice platform

\$55,000

SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BC

Cultural Competency Training

\$2,000

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2019-2023)

A time-limited grant to support first year law students

\$30,000

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS PROJECTS

\$562,000



PHOTO: #WOCINTECH CHAT LICENSED UNDER CC BY 2.0

Public Legal Education Projects

CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

To provide legal education workshops about topics and issues meaningful to residents of the Downtown Eastside, low-income people, Indigenous people, and those impacted by homelessness, substance use/misuse, mental health, discrimination, and poverty

\$17,000

COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

Legal education in Indigenous communities about human rights issues

\$75,000

HAVEN SOCIETY

Updating training sessions on navigating the legal system for women who have experienced violence

\$19,000

JUSTICE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BC (2019–2021)

Curricular resources for grades K–12

\$175,000

KELOWNA COMMUNITY RESOURCES SOCIETY

Workshops for non-profit organizations about legal issues

\$6,000

M.O.S.A.I.C.

Legal education resources on sexual assault and harassment for international students throughout BC

\$68,000

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL SOCIETY (2019–2021)

Dial-a-Law: Enhancing access to justice through innovative IT applications

\$187,500

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, CENTRE FOR EDUCATION LAW AND SOCIETY

Islam and Muslims: A Teacher Resource Portal Project

\$73,000

TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY CENTRE SOCIETY (TRAC)

Updating Renting It Right — a free online course for BC tenants

\$75,000

VANCOUVER ASSOCIATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

A play about restorative justice — Insights, Conflicts and Social Change

\$50,000

VANCOUVER ISLAND HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION SOCIETY

Legal education for youth in rural areas on Vancouver Island about human rights

\$30,000

WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Legal education workshops

\$20,000

TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS**\$795,500****TOTAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS****\$1,357,500**



Law Libraries

\$2,866,000

30,226

info requests from the legal community



35,171

info requests from the public



+600,000

website users

..... & more than



+2,000

website visits/day

BC COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY

Legal information, training, and reference services for lawyers and the public throughout BC

\$2,470,000

LAW SOCIETY OF BC

Contribution to the operating costs of the CanLII Virtual Law Library

\$80,000

TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES

\$2,550,000

Law Libraries Projects

BC COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY

(2017-2019) LawMatters project to support legal collections in public libraries across BC

\$116,000

BC COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SOCIETY

(2019-2021) Law Matters enhancement project to revitalize legal collections and provide increased support to public libraries across BC

\$200,000

CANADIAN LEGAL INFORMATION

INSTITUTE Development of a BC Litigation Practice Manual

\$20,000

TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES PROJECTS

\$336,000

Law Reform



\$1,430,000

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC (2017–2019)	
Work to strengthen the committee's national coordination of access to justice	\$50,000
ACTION COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL AND FAMILY MATTERS	
Co-ordination of the National Access to Justice collaborative work	\$50,000
BC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ASSOCIATION	
A law reform and public legal education program about freedom of information and privacy rights	\$161,000
BC LAW INSTITUTE	
Law reform research leading to improvements in the law and the administration of justice, and support for the Canadian Centre for Elder Law at BCLI	\$400,000
TOTAL LAW REFORM	\$661,000

Law Reform Projects

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL	
Provincial First Nations Justice Forum and regional engagements	\$275,000
ECOJUSTICE CANADA SOCIETY (2019–2021)	
Law reform to secure best practice climate law and legislated climate change accountability frameworks in BC	\$240,000
FIRST CALL: BC CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY COALITION (Vancity Community Foundation)	
Investigate and assess how the law can better protect BC children's right to housing	\$75,000
MÉTIS NATION BC	
Community engagement sessions for input to the provincial government's development of a Métis Justice Strategy	\$30,000
NATIONAL SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS PROJECT — WEST (NSRLP-W)	
Work at Thompson Rivers University School of Law to support research and developing resources for self-represented litigants	\$75,000
WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION	
Research for and production of the annual Gender Equality Report Card	\$74,000
TOTAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS	\$769,000



Legal Research

\$654,000

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR LEGAL RESEARCH

Scholarly research on various legal issues, with an emphasis on research with practical applications \$20,000

LAW FOUNDATION LEGAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS Advancing the knowledge of law, social policy, and the administration of justice by supporting legal research by BC law professors, members of the legal profession, and other faculty and non-profit organizations with expertise in carrying out legal research:

ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY

Angela Sealy: Research on responses to separate entrances (the "poor door") for subsidized housing in housing developments \$20,000

RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Haley Hrymak: Indigenous concepts of family law and barriers experienced by Indigenous women \$20,000

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY

Stephanie A. Wiley, Assistant Professor: The impact of the Youth Criminal Justice Act on Indigenous youth \$20,000

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF LAW

Sarah Marsden, Associate Professor: A new measurement framework for student clinical programs in BC \$20,000

Samuel Singer, Assistant Professor: Legal issues affecting trans people in BC and trans legal competency for lawyers and judges \$17,000

PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Patricia M. Barkaskas, Associate Professor of Teaching: Assessment of the impact of the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic on providing access to justice in BC \$20,000

Asha Kaushal, Assistant Professor: A comparison of the concept of family in immigration and family law \$20,000

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL POLICY

Nathan Lachowsky, Assistant Professor: Consideration of how interactions with police affect youth \$20,000

TOTAL ACADEMIC OR PRACTITIONER LEGAL RESEARCH \$177,000

Legal Research Projects

BC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ASSOCIATION	\$55,000
Research into privacy concerns around learning management systems in BC schools	
BC LAW INSTITUTE	\$50,000
A study paper on capacity and assessment tribunals — seeking a model for BC	
BC LUNG ASSOCIATION	\$56,000
Investigation into the legal implications of the health and environmental effects of radon	
FOODLANDS COOPERATIVE OF BC	\$68,000
Research into the creation and costs of foodlands trusts	
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL LAW REFORM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY	\$73,000
“E-Gladue”: Using technology to increase access to justice for remote Indigenous communities	
PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC	\$100,000
Research into the state of kinship caregiver families to support advocacy for changes to government policy	
WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION	\$75,000
RELAW 2020: Research and mentoring support for Indigenous Nations engaged in revitalizing traditional laws for application to contemporary issues	
TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH PROJECTS	\$477,000

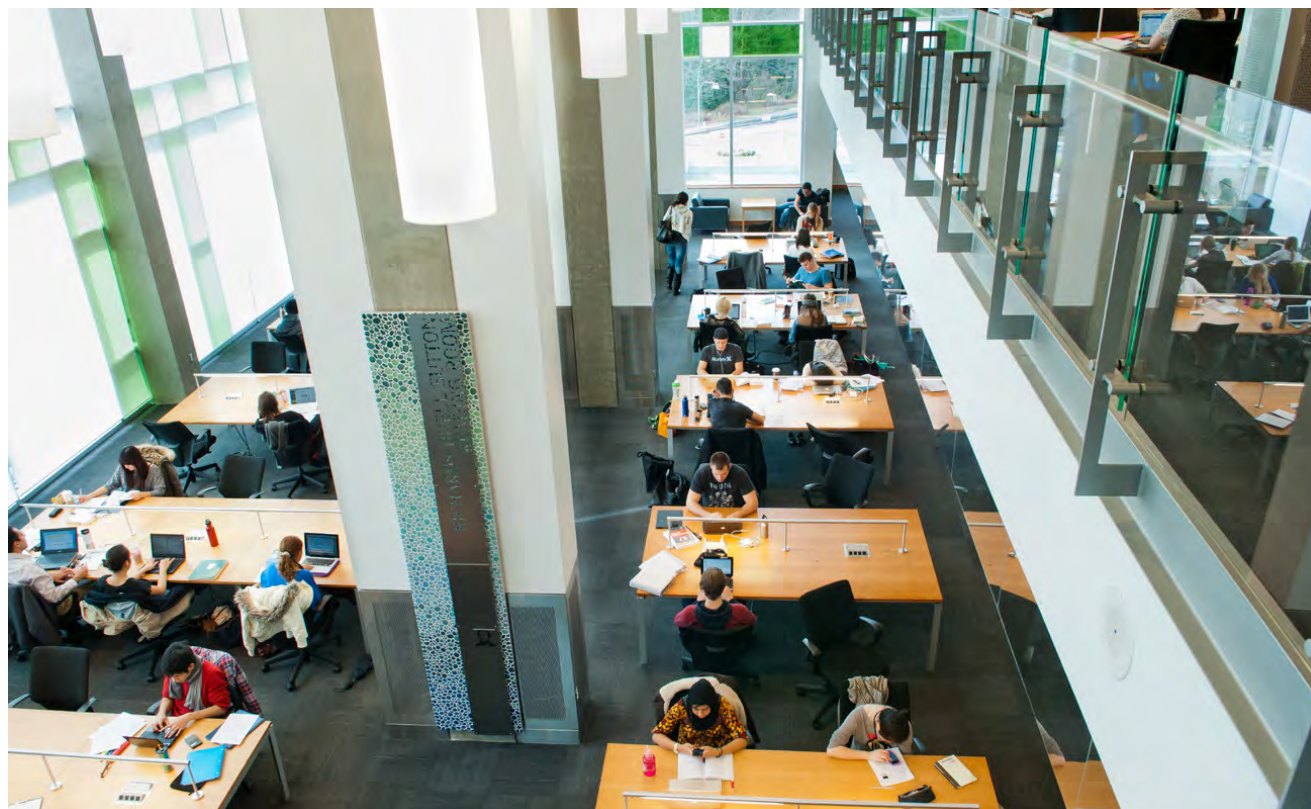


PHOTO: MARTIN DEE, UBC COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING



Special Purpose Funds

Legal Services Society (now Legal Aid BC) / Law Foundation Research Fund **\$432,000**

The Legal Services Society (Legal Aid BC) / Law Foundation Research Fund is a fund administered jointly by the two groups to support research on, and evaluation of, legal aid and other access to justice programs to enhance the quality of, and access to, justice for British Columbians

FRASER THOMPSON INDIAN SERVICES SOCIETY (Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council)

Update of the Wrapping Our Ways publication and development of Indigenous Ways of Resolution Training	\$75,000
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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL LAW REFORM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY

Comparative analysis of Gladue Report delivery programs	\$96,000
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LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY (LEGAL AID BC)

Indigenous Client Survey A survey of Indigenous clients about the LSS services designed for them	\$75,000
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Community Dialogue Project Research on how LSS can better serve low-income clients	\$92,000
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Evaluation of Community Partner Information and Outreach Services An evaluation of community partner services	\$40,000
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OTHER EVALUATIONS

Cost Benefits of PLEI Project Research into and the development of resources on cost-benefit analysis of public legal education and information	\$21,000
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Child and Youth Legal Centre Evaluation Project A grant to the Society for Children and Youth for an evaluation of the work done by the Child and Youth Legal Centre	\$33,000
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TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY (LEGAL AID BC) / LAW FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUND	\$432,000
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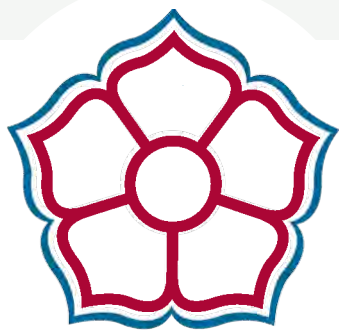
Access to Justice Fund **\$205,000**

The Access to Justice Fund administers monies given to the Law Foundation for a particular purpose (directed funds), or class action cy-près settlement funds arising out of actions commenced before the *Class Proceedings Act* was amended to provide that certain cy-près settlements be paid directly to the Law Foundation.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL	
Provincial First Nations Justice Forum and regional engagements	\$40,500
LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY (LEGAL AID BC)	
Mentorship for those writing Gladue Reports	\$92,000
MÉTIS NATION BC	
Justice Consultation Strategy Project	\$27,500
WIYASIEWIN MIKIWAHP NATIVE LAW CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN	
Gladue Benchbook Project	\$45,000
TOTAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FUND	\$205,000

Special Purpose Law Foundation Funds **\$447,500**

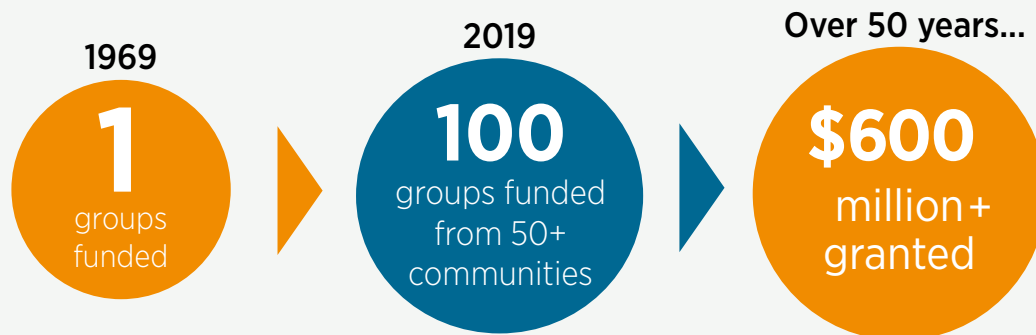
PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTER FUND supported groups that needed computers accessible to the public to support their work	\$45,900
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PARTICIPATION FUND supports litigants without funds to participate in public interest cases	\$34,500
SPECIAL NEEDS FUND supports organizations with unforeseen or emergency needs identified throughout the year	\$289,400
TECHNOLOGY FUND supported groups that needed to update their technology in order to provide services remotely	\$77,700



1969–2019
50
YEARS

50 years supporting access to justice in BC

THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BC's 50th year provided an opportunity to reflect on where we have come from, and to look forward. From its early days of funding one group for \$5,000, the Foundation now supports more than 100 groups in over 50 communities around BC.



As the first of its kind in North America, the Law Foundation of BC has long been a trailblazer. BC lawyers introduced the concept of a Law Foundation to the province and, in 1969, legislation was passed that made interest on trust accounts available for work on legal aid, legal education, law reform, legal research and law libraries in BC. By 1986, they followed BC's lead: there were law foundations across Canada and, in one form or another in nearly every US state.

Over the past 50 years, the Foundation has responded to changing times and the needs of the groups it supports: it has evolved into an organization that has helped to shape and strengthen access to justice in BC. the Groups funded by the Law Foundation have championed the rights of marginalized communities, and been responsible for significant steps forward in promoting access to justice. In recent years, the Foundation has made increased efforts to support work on Indigenous legal issues and child protection, and to support legal services in rural BC.

ADDRESSING GAPS IN SERVICES: Despite a constant need for legal services and education across BC, gaps continue to exist, especially in remote areas and for particular communities. The Law Foundation has made it a priority to help fill these gaps and help thousands of individuals and families have access to legal representation, education and advice. The Foundation now funds 26 family and 64 poverty law advocates, 33 specialized legal services, and 16 legal clinics. It also has funded programs to increase the number of lawyers working in rural BC. Support for law libraries throughout the province also helps clients in rural areas.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE: People living in poverty, people of colour, immigrants, and Indigenous people are often the most in need of legal support, but are also the most likely to face barriers in accessing these supports. Through major contributions to family and poverty law initiatives, the Law Foundation has been able to help fulfill that need. Through its grants, the Foundation has supported work to achieve systemic change in diverse areas of the law, with innovative initiatives addressing prison reform, women's rights, gendered violence, the rights of immigrant and migrant workers, child protection, health law, and housing. For example, in 2007 the Foundation supported the Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network to introduce the idea of a Registered Disability Savings Plan—an initiative that continues as a key element of government support for people with disabilities.

RECONCILIATION, INDIGENOUS JUSTICE AND RESURGENCE OF INDIGENOUS LEGAL ORDERS: After reviewing the Truth and Reconciliation Report and its Calls to Action for the legal profession, in 2016 the Law Foundation of British Columbia's Board of Governors approved the Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Plan. A \$5 million grant to the National Centre for Indigenous Laws at the University of Victoria, and financial support for the creation of the First Nations Justice Strategy and Métis Justice Strategy are central elements of the Foundation's actions under this commitment. Four years after the plan's adoption, the Foundation is now in the process of revising the plan to account for the recommendations of the National Commission of Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the joint commitment of the First Nations Leadership Council and the BC government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into provincial law.

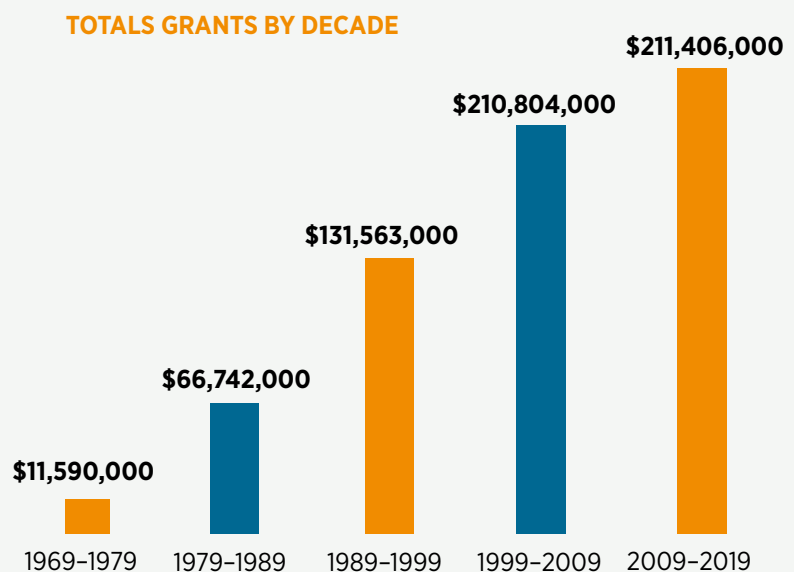


TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA'S BENTWOOD BOX

CARVING: LUKE MARSTON (COAST SALISH ARTIST)
PHOTO: ASHLEY MARSTON PHOTOGRAPHY

SUPPORTING OUR GRANTEEES: Above all, the Foundation recognizes that the progress of access to justice in BC is fueled by the work of the groups it funds: it is committed to supporting them. Over the years, the Foundation has provided support at crucial moments to important initiatives such as free access to online versions of provincial and federal legislation so that funded advocates and their clients can do legal research. In the last 25 years the Foundation has developed training and support for advocates, executive directors and supervising lawyers. This work will continue to develop.

LOOKING FORWARD to the next 50 years, the Foundation continues to focus on its core vision of a society where access to justice is protected and advanced.



Financial Highlights

During 2019, the Law Foundation realized \$71.5 million in revenues: \$57.8 million in interest on lawyers' trust accounts; \$10.1 million in investment income; and \$3.6 million in other income (over \$2.5 million from the province of BC).

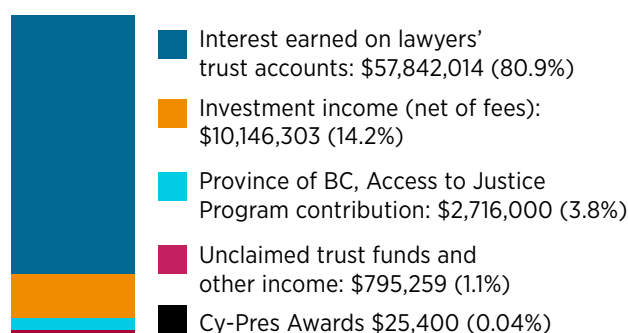
Foundation expenses in 2019 were \$36.3 million (over \$33.7 million to approved grants, several of which were multi-year commitments). Administrative expenses of \$2.5 million were 7% of total expenses.

The net surplus of \$35.2 million was added to the Grant Stabilization Fund, which is used to ensure the continuation of grant funding during economic downturns. At the end of 2019, the Fund was \$93.9 million, enough to cover two to three years of grant funding and expenses.

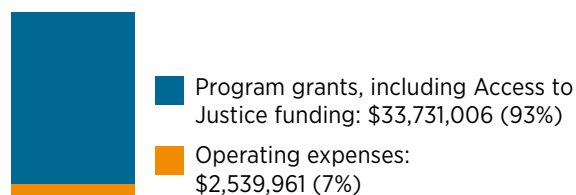
Please note: These financial highlights do not align precisely with listings in the Annual Report: the financials are based on grants approved in 2019, while the Annual Report is based on funds dispersed in 2019.

The full audited financial statements are available at lawfoundationbc.org/annual-report/

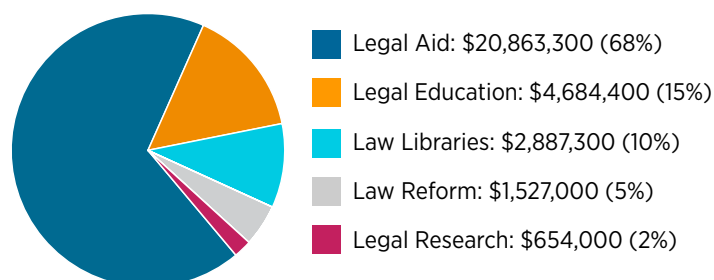
REVENUES: \$71,524,976



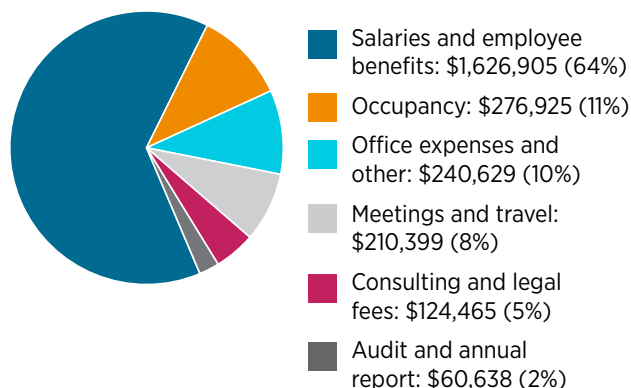
EXPENSES: \$36,270,967



2019 GRANTS BY MANDATE AREA



BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING EXPENSES



Our Board of Governors (and committee assignments)

Judge Patricia Bond

Fellowships and Research; Finance and Administration

Maureen Buchan

Fellowships and Research; New Grants

Mary Childs

(from Jan. 2020)
Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Felicia Ciolfitto

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Justice Tom Crabtree

New Grants; Policy and Planning

John Greschner

Policy and Planning; Special Needs

Kathy Kendall

Fellowships and Research (Chair); New Grants

Lindsay LeBlanc

Finance and Administration; Policy and Planning (Chair)

Jan Lindsay, QC

Policy and Planning

Deanna Ludowicz, QC

Policy and Planning; Special Needs (Chair)

Sean Rowell

Finance and Administration (Chair); Special Needs

Zulie Sachedina

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Kurt Sandstrom, QC**W. Laurence Scott, QC**

Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Jim Sullivan, QC

Class Actions (Chair); Finance and Administration

Geoff White

Chair of the Board of Governors; Ex-officio member of all committees

Bill Younie, QC

Finance and Administration; New Grants (Chair)

Robert Zeunert

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Governors who departed in 2019:

Eileen Vanderburgh

Our Staff

Tim Bailey

Program Director

Darcie Bennett

Director of Policy and Programs (from March 2020)

Kayla Black

Project Co-ordinator (from Feb. 2020)

Sue Bradley

Program Assistant

karima budhwani

Program Director

Michael Cowan

Program Director

Jacqueline Courchene

Program Assistant (from Feb. 2020)

Jo-Anne Kaulius

Associate Finance Director

Andrea Gutierrez

Director of Operations (from July 2020)

Diane MacFarlane

Program Assistant

Sandra Morgenstern

Program Assistant

Josh Paterson

Executive Director

Helen Sawchuk

Finance Director

Lois Shelton

Legal Advocate
Training Manager

Veenu Saini

Program Director

Shannon Williams

Program Director

Staff who departed in 2019:

Wayne Robertson, QC

Executive Director (until August 2019)

Amy Tam

Program Assistant (until June 2019)

Leanne Wood

(until Dec. 2019)

As of date of printing.



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The Law Foundation operates from the shared lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam),
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ4 (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples