

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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 an independent 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.

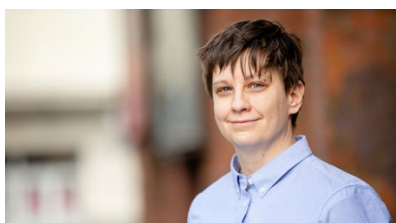


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Report from the Chair

At the conclusion of my two-year term as Chair of the Law Foundation of BC, I am pleased to provide this report to the legal profession and the public.

The past year has been a time of renewal and change at the Foundation. The Foundation has a new leadership team. We are developing a new strategic plan, and we have implemented, or are in the process of working on, many changes to our internal operations and grant making processes. These include a redesign of our electronic grant making systems, an overhaul of our IT infrastructure, and — as with many actors in the justice system — taking a fresh look at how we measure the impact of the programs that the Foundation supports.

We have also responded to the challenges of a sharp drop in the income that we use to support programs across British Columbia, due to low interest rates in response to the pandemic. The Foundation is in a strong position to deal with the reduction in income thanks to its Grant Stabilization Fund, the purpose of which is to assist us to support programs when the interest revenue from

lawyers' pooled trust accounts drops. We relied on that fund heavily in the aftermath of the 2009 recession and the years of low interest rates that followed it. In recent years, strong revenue allowed the Foundation to return the fund to its optimal level equivalent to two years' worth of grant spending and operations. This will enable us to weather the coming years in which interest rates are expected to remain low, and to continue to support the access to justice programs and services, research, and education that people in BC rely upon.

The past year has been a time of renewal and change at the Foundation. The Foundation has a new leadership team. We are developing a new strategic plan, and we have implemented, or are in the process of working on, many changes to our internal operations and grant making processes.



Highlights of 2020

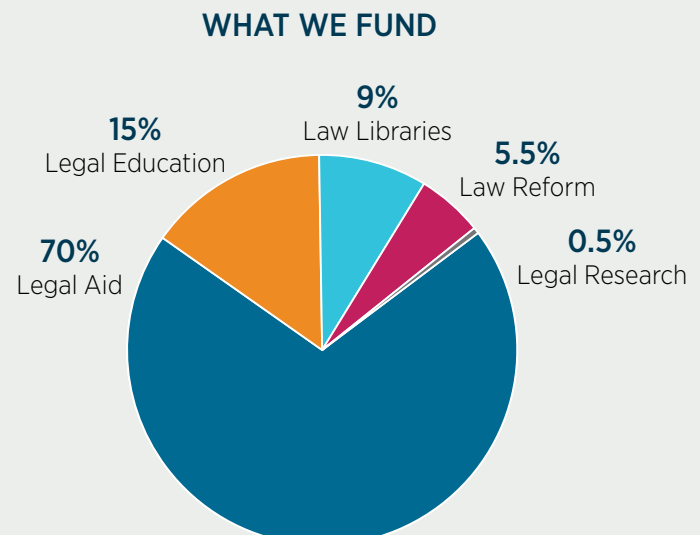
Some highlights of the Law Foundation's work in 2020 were:

- The Foundation was able, despite the pandemic's impact on our revenue, to see through our commitment to fund several major, multi-year projects to begin in 2020 and 2021. These projects include:
 - funding the opening of a new courthouse library in Abbotsford — the first location in the Fraser Valley region;
 - a multi-year project to enhance access to justice for teenage girls living in poverty;
 - a new project focused on integrating human rights principles into mental health legislation;
 - the creation of the Better Justice Lab aimed at creating solutions to unmet legal needs in BC through data science and user-experience research, focusing on everyday legal issues faced by people who are not engaging at all with lawyers or the formal civil justice system, and prioritizing problems that, if solved, would affect a large number of people;
 - a project to enhance access to justice and outcomes for young people and adults living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder who are involved in the criminal justice system; and,
 - a project, in partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, to create a child welfare community of practice among legal advocates, front-line advocates, parents and community members to build skills and wise practices aimed at improving outcomes for families engaged in the child welfare system.



Grants

In 2020, the Law Foundation provided \$27,298,460 for 149 continuing and on-track grants, \$2,367,833 for 13 projects, and \$233,963 to other grants. The total of grants provided by the Law Foundation in 2020 was \$29,900,256.





- The Foundation's Board of Governors authorized funding for a new legal clinic for trans and gender-diverse clients in BC — the first staffed, dedicated legal clinic focused on the unique and disproportionate needs of trans and gender-diverse individuals in Canada. The clinic is expected to begin serving clients in late 2021.
- The Board of Governors approved a new funding call dedicated exclusively to legal projects to advance racial justice. This funding call will go live in 2021.
- Following the successful transition to new leadership under Executive Director Josh Paterson in late 2019, the Foundation engaged in an overhaul of its internal structure, establishing new teams and leadership in order to better handle the Foundation's significantly-expanded work. The new staff leadership team includes Dr. Darcie Bennett, Director of Policy and Programs; Andrea Gutierrez, Director of Operations; and Patrick McNary, Director of Finance.

Priorities in 2021

This year, the Foundation is continuing the process of streamlining its application and reporting requirements to better serve grantees. We are beginning a move to multi-year grant applications to save significant time and resources for long-term grantees who receive ongoing grants. The Foundation is also in the midst of its work to determine new metrics to better analyze the contributions made by its grantees to access to justice. The Foundation wants to make sure that

it is measuring what matters, while ensuring that the data-gathering effort that we request from grantees is reasonable given their capacity and resources.

The Foundation is developing its new strategic plan, which we expect will be adopted by the Board of Governors in 2022. We expect that this will include a review and renewal of our Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Plan. The Plan was adopted by the Board in 2016 before the release of the Calls to Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and needs to be revised in light of those calls, and in light of the new First Nations Justice Strategy adopted by the First Nations Justice Council and the province, and the Métis Nation Justice Strategy which is in development. We anticipate that work to support reconciliation and the resurgence of Indigenous legal orders will be a core part of the plan. We will also be consulting and critiquing the Foundation's own work in a process aimed at identifying how the Foundation can better help people in BC to access justice and positive life outcomes, with a special focus on communities that have historically been under-served and/or experienced systemic discrimination in the criminal and civil justice system.

The Law Foundation knows that its success in achieving its mandate depends on the people who work with the agencies that we fund. They work passionately to serve individuals and communities through advocacy, public legal education, legal representation, and research. Investing in the human capacity of the sector is critical in order to strengthen access to justice in BC and ensure that services can help people over the long haul. We are continuing our work to develop a Human



PEACE RIVER VALLEY, NEAR FORT ST. JOHN, BC / PHOTO AMY MITCHELL

Resources Sustainability Strategy for the access to justice sector. One new facet of the program is that the Foundation is investing in articling more heavily than in the past in order to help ensure that there are opportunities for more people leaving law school to find a pathway into public interest work.

Acknowledgments

Governors of the Law Foundation volunteer significant amounts of their time and attention to guide our work and to act as stewards of the resources entrusted to them. For most governors, this adds up to a minimum of fifteen days per year on Foundation work — a commitment that increases for governors who assume additional responsibilities such as chairing a committee. This past year was my last year on the Board, but I was not the only Governor to bid farewell to the Foundation. Jan Lindsay, QC, also completed her service on the Board, capping six years of leadership and contribution to our work. I know the Foundation is sad to see her go, and on the Foundation's behalf, I want to thank her for her service.

In January 2021, the Foundation welcomed two new governors for three-year terms: Zara Suleman, a family lawyer and the principal of Suleman Family Law in North Vancouver, and Sarah Runyon, a criminal lawyer and principal of Marion & Runyon Criminal Lawyers in Campbell River.

As the justice sector transforms, including through changes spurred by the pandemic, the Law Foundation intends to be in a position to support changes that expand meaningful access to justice in the province. We are grateful for the ongoing support that we receive from our partners in the

profession, which sustains us as we engage in this work. I also want to acknowledge the government of BC, including the Attorney General, David Eby, QC, and the public servants in the Ministry of the Attorney General. Their work with the Foundation as joint funders of the new legal clinics, and the expansion of family and poverty law advocacy programs across BC in the last few years, significantly expanded access to justice infrastructure in the province.

Finally, I wish to thank Lindsay LeBlanc, who has served the Foundation as chair of its Policy and Planning Committee for the last two years and who has, as of January, assumed the role of Chair of the Law Foundation. I know that she will provide excellent leadership to the Board of Governors in the years ahead.

Thank you

The Foundation is grateful to those 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, HSBC Bank Canada, 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, 2019–2020
(July 2021)



“There has to be a better way”

HOW ONE LAWYER IS WORKING TO SUPPORT TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

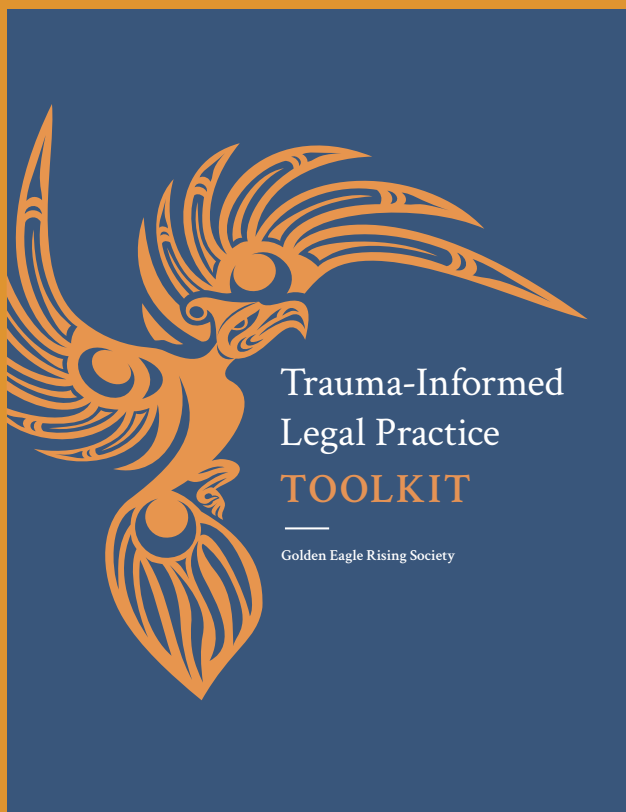
In her almost fifteen years as a lawyer working with clients from all walks of life, Myrna McCallum has come to realize that there was an important piece missing from her legal education.

One key experience came early in her days as a Crown Prosecutor, when she had to prepare a child for the trial process in a case involving sexual assault.

“I had to think, how am I going to do this in a way that does no further harm to this little person who’s already been seriously harmed. And I really had nowhere to look for that information,” she said.

McCallum, a Métis-Cree mother and grandmother from Treaty Six territory (Green Lake & Waterhen Lake First Nation), found that using her great grandmother’s traditional teachings and her own intuition, helped her understand that she had to first build a relationship of trust with the young victim and his parents, before she could guide them through the trial process in an open and transparent way.

TOFINO, BC / PHOTO GAVIN MARTIN



In the first episode of her podcast, *The Trauma-Informed Lawyer*, McCallum considered what lawyers are taught about trauma, noting “I was not prepared for having to deal with the human suffering that I was confronted with every day in the courtroom. And I really wish somebody had given me a heads up on that piece.”

Her own experiences taught McCallum the importance of teaching others about trauma-informed lawyering, for the mental health of both clients and lawyers.

“Learning about how trauma presents in clients, witnesses, and even in ourselves, is a critical competency that we have all missed in our legal education.”

McCallum also saw a strong connection between trauma-informed lawyering practices and avoiding causing further harm to Indigenous communities, which have experienced significant and ongoing trauma from the crown legal system.

With the launch of the toolkit, as well as the growing popularity of her podcast, McCallum has begun to attract interest from law schools seeking to educate their students on trauma-informed lawyering.

At Golden Eagle Rising Society, an organization with a mission to protect Indigenous lives — and where McCallum serves as in-house counsel — she helped to create the Trauma-Informed Legal Practice toolkit, with funding from the Law Foundation. www.goldeneaglerising.org/photos/trauma-informed-legal-practice-toolkit

The 35-page resource has contributions from a diverse list of legal professionals, and includes chapters on the impact of trauma on the brain, building trauma-informed lawyer-client relationships, and trauma-informed practises in the courtroom. It also contains an extensive list of mental health resources to help lawyers manage vicarious trauma.

With the launch of the toolkit, as well as the growing popularity of her podcast, McCallum has begun to attract interest from law schools seeking to educate their students on trauma-informed lawyering.

“I really think that becoming trauma informed is going to transform, not just the way we practice but the way we treat ourselves and the way we treat each other,” said McCallum.

“I’m so passionate about it and I honestly feel like this is going to change the profession.”



Programs and Projects Funded in 2020

This annual report lists all the work done in 2020 with Law Foundation funding. The listings include grants approved for 2020 as well as ongoing multi-year grants.

Each multi-year grant listing includes the annual amount and the duration of the grant. Multi-year project grant listings also include the total grant amount.





Legal Aid

\$20,703,460

Community-Based Advocacy

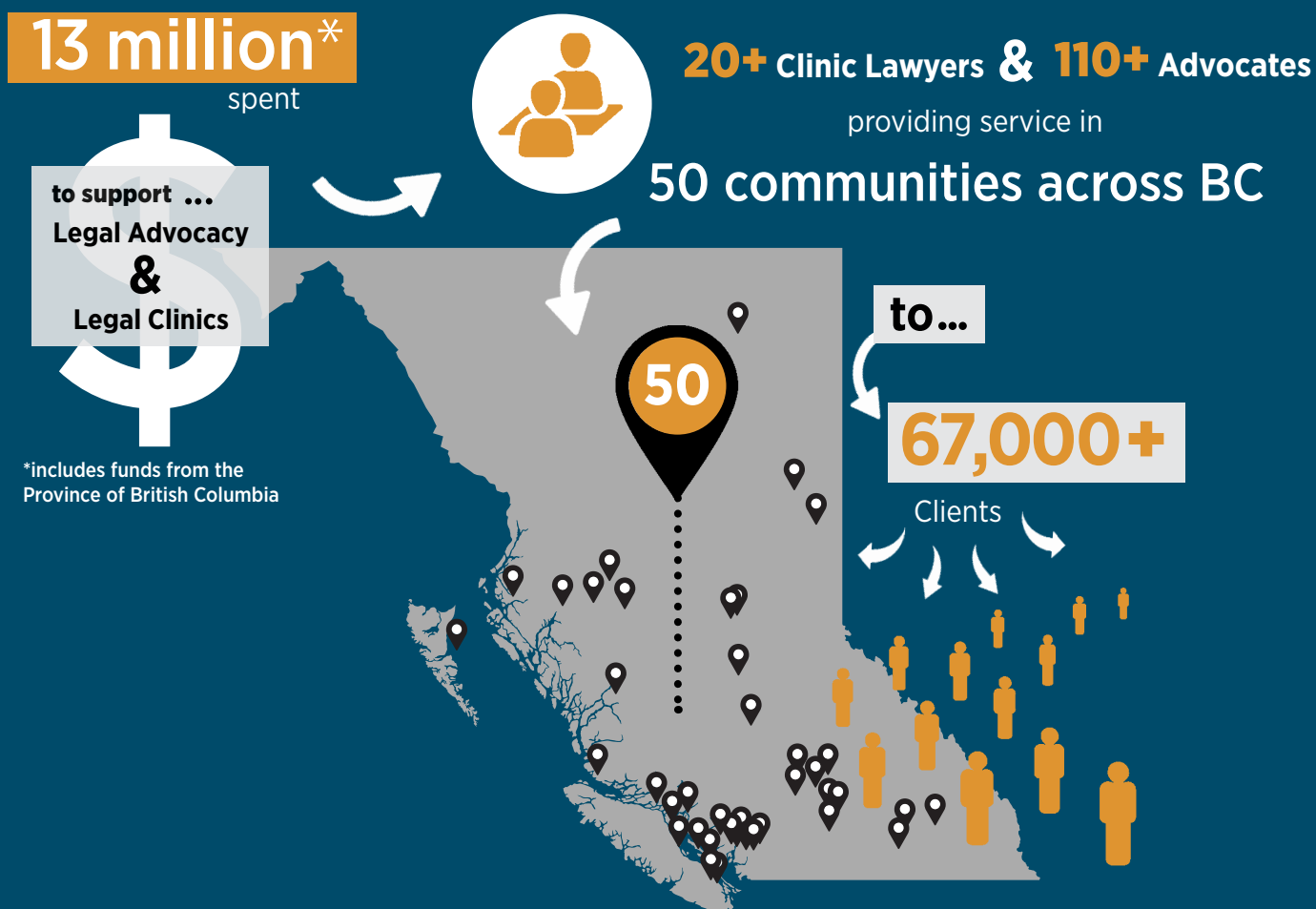




PHOTO: KALYAN STUDIOS

Community-Based Advocacy

Family Law Advocacy

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 2020:

Archway Community Services (2019–2022) *Fraser Valley*

Battered Women's Support Services *Lower Mainland*

Chilliwack Community Services (2019–2022)

Chimo Community Services Society (2018–2021)
Richmond

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

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

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. (2019–2022) *Lower Mainland*

Nelson CARES Society (2019–2022)

North Shore Community Resources Society (2019–2022)

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

Penticton and Area Access Society (2019–2022)

Port Alberni Friendship Center (2019–2022)

Prince George Native Friendship Centre (2019–2022)

Quesnel Tillicum Society

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

Sources Community Resources Society (2019–2022)
Surrey

Sources Community Resources Society *Surrey*

Terrace and District Community Services (2019–2022)

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

Wachiay Friendship Centre Society (2018–2021)
Courtenay area

TOTAL FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY

\$2,280,000



Poverty Law Advocacy

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



Three new specialized legal clinics help to fill gaps in services across BC

Housing security for low-income people, freedom from discrimination for people living with disabilities, and justice for migrants and refugees — with the support of the Province of British Columbia, the Law Foundation has been able to invest in three new specialized legal clinics working to address these pressing and complex legal needs across the province.

Each new clinic is integrated with an existing Law Foundation-funded advocacy program. The addition of a staff lawyer and legal assistant allows the clinics to amplify service. While still in their infancy, these three clinics are already making a difference — filling a gap for legal services that had been out of reach for many.

HOUSING LAW CLINIC AT THE TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY CENTRE (TRAC) SOCIETY



ZUZANA MODROVIC

“People are generally very excited and very grateful to know that we exist.”

— Zuzana Modrovic

With BC experiencing what governments and experts have acknowledged as a housing crisis, many renters are feeling the pressure of low vacancy rates and high rental prices. The Housing Law Clinic builds on TRAC’s 35-year history of providing accessible tenancy assistance for people across the province.

Zuzana Modrovic, staff lawyer, says the new clinic has allowed TRAC to expand its scope and help clients with more complicated tenancy matters such as judicial reviews of Residential Tenancy Branch decisions, and the enforcement of monetary orders.

“We’ve always had calls from tenants who had arrangements that were like tenancy agreements, but were not covered by the *Residential Tenancy Act* for various reasons. Before, we couldn’t assist — but now we can.”

Modrovic adds that prior to the Housing Clinic, there were few legal options for tenants who could not afford to hire a lawyer.

“People are generally very excited and very grateful to know that we exist.”

DISABILITY LAW CLINIC AT DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC

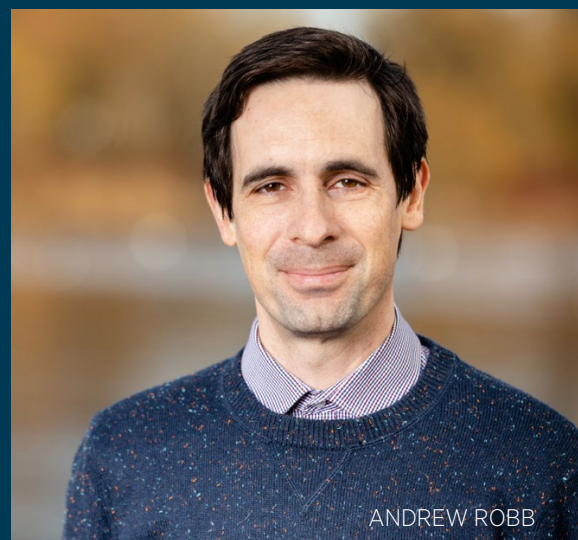
The Disability Law Clinic serves people with disabilities, a population that faces a high rate of discrimination and significant barriers to accessing the justice system. The clinic was created to address a growing need for legal services in this area that exceeded the capacity of existing pro bono legal clinics.

Andrew Robb, staff lawyer at the Disability Law Clinic, offers services on a spectrum from individual to systemic advocacy.

“I contribute to policy advocacy, I represent clients who have legal disputes in relation to disability rights, and I also support our advocates who help people get government disability benefits,” he said.

One of Robb’s proudest moments over the past year was when he helped a client with disabilities who was facing eviction and “falling through the cracks.” If she had been evicted before she found accessible housing, she would have been forced to move into a long-term care facility, at a very risky time. The case emerged just as pandemic restrictions came into place, so clinic staff had to navigate an entirely new remote court process.

“It really felt like a life-or-death situation. We were able to ultimately get before a judge and to convince them to postpone the eviction to give the person time to find other housing.”



ANDREW ROBB

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC AT THE IMMIGRANT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC

The Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic is one of the only legal clinics in BC focused on serving refugees, immigrants and migrants. The clinic fills a need for legal services for people engaged with the immigration system who often have no other support systems in place and are not able to access a lawyer. The clinic provides individual client representation as well as advocacy related to systemic issues.



JULIANA DALLEY

Juliana Dalley, one of the Clinic’s staff lawyers, notes that it has addressed a previously unmet need for legal support in complex immigration and refugee cases that are not covered or easy to handle in the traditional legal aid system.

“We assist with complex refugee hearings, as well as appeals where someone’s refugee claim has been denied. We also do judicial reviews, where clients have exhausted their appeals and the last option is to go to court to seek judicial oversight of the refugee decision making process.”

“We also assist people in the areas of immigration, such as helping people with humanitarian and compassionate applications for permanent residence.”

Legal assistant Omar Chu says that the need for this type of legal support cannot be overstated, particularly in cases in which families are facing deportation or separation.

“I think in a lot of cases, there really isn’t anywhere else that people could go. It’s hugely important that the clients have an opportunity to be represented and have the opportunity to have the best chance to stay in Canada or be reunited with their family.”



OMAR CHU

PHOTOS BY SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Specialized Legal Advocacy

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

ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

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 throughout BC \$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 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

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

(2019–2022): Courtworkers to assist people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system in Surrey and Port Coquitlam \$130,000

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY BC & YUKON DIVISION

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

PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES

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

SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY

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

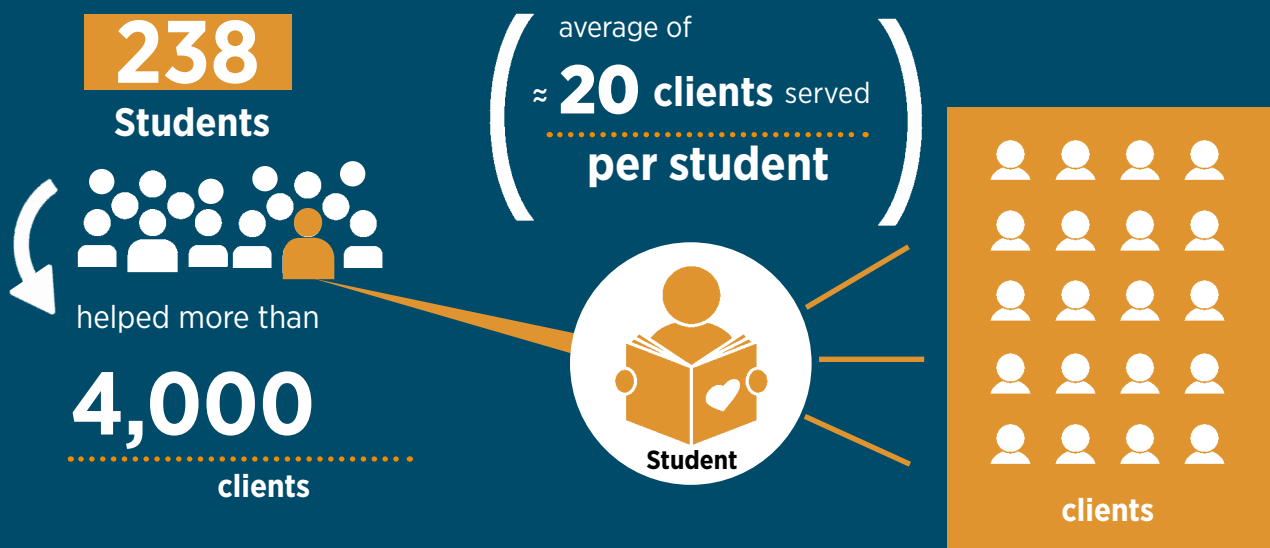
TOTAL SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY \$2,237,000

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, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW A clinical program for law students providing legal services to low-income people in Kamloops	\$250,000
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY 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
GREATER VANCOUVER LAW STUDENTS' LEGAL ADVICE SOCIETY (LSLAP), PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA The Law Students' Legal Advice Program operates free clinics in the Greater Vancouver area	\$330,000
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA A clinical program for law students providing legal services to the Indigenous community	\$210,000
LAW CENTRE CLINICAL PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW A clinical program for law students providing legal services to low-income people in the Greater Victoria area	\$375,000
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE Virtual Legal Clinic and Triage (2019–2022)	\$175,000
Family Advocate Support Line (2019–2021)	\$160,000
TOTAL STUDENT CLINICS	\$1,690,000





Articling program provides young lawyers rare opportunities for public interest experience

In 2005, the Law Foundation's Board of Governors approved an initiative to grant Public Interest Articling Fellowships to non-profit organizations that might otherwise not have had the resources to hire an articling student. These grants build on the long-term aims of the Law Foundation to develop a strong bar that values public interest work, and to provide needed services to people across the province.

HEATHER WOJCIK (LEFT)
WITH RAMAN SEHMBI



Over the past 15 years, the program has continued to grow. In late 2020, the Foundation's Board of Governors authorized funding for seven new articling positions in 2021-22 — and, for the first time ever, this funding will allow some organizations to hire students back for their first year of legal practice.

According to Heather Wojcik, director of legal services at Access Pro Bono, "Having an articling student is important because the additional legal mind helps us meet the ever-growing demand for pro bono legal services. On a grander scale, having an articling student means that we're training up the next generation of public interest lawyers."

Access Pro Bono's articling student, Raman Sehmbi, says that the program provides the unique opportunity to practice in an area of law that is of keen interest to her.

"I've been very fortunate to get experience doing hands on work on a lot of different files. There aren't many public interest articling opportunities, or even organizations, for the number of people who are actually interested in working in this area. Being given the opportunity is something that I'm very grateful for."

For Natalie Drolet, executive director and staff lawyer at the Migrant Workers Centre, taking on an articling student means being able to both support more at-risk migrant workers across the province, and offer an important opportunity for students to learn about immigration law.



RAVNEET KAUR RIAR

Ravneet Kaur Riar, articling student for Migrant Workers' Centre, is grateful for the opportunity to work in an area of law that she has long been passionate about.

"It's rare to have public interest organizations that do immigration law, and that is the kind of work I want to do," she says. "Having seen all the work that everyone does here, and seeing the impact, you realize that there is immense power in the law to change lives."

Whitney Vicente, who is currently articling for West Coast LEAF, says she was attracted to the organization for its commitment to social and gender-based justice, as well as the opportunity to work on child welfare cases.

"I think it's important because it shows you that law isn't just being in a courtroom or working on a client file — it affects so many different aspects of everybody's life."

Kate Feeney, director of litigation at West Coast LEAF, notes that taking on an articling student is important both for her organization, and for the larger legal community in BC. She hopes the program will help to foster a public interest mindset, no matter where the student ends up working as a lawyer.

"We give a lot of consideration to what articling experiences are going to serve both the individual who's



NATALIE DROLET



KATE FEENEY

just entering the legal profession, and the public interest sector as a whole — with the goal of fostering a legal community that has an ethos around public interest work."

PHOTOS BY SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Provincial Legal Clinics

The Government of British Columbia provides funding for a network of seven legal clinics, each with a lawyer and a legal assistant, to provide free legal services for low-income people across BC. The staff are integrated with existing Law Foundation-funded advocacy staff at the host agency, creating a full-service legal clinic. The addition of a staff lawyer allows these clinics to assist individuals with complex matters that cannot be taken on by non-lawyer advocates.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC Hosted at Immigrant Services Society of BC	\$250,000
KAMLOOPS ELIZABETH FRY LEGAL CLINIC (2020–2022)	\$250,000
KI-LOW-NA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY LEGAL CLINIC, KNXIT I? SNQSILX* HELP THE RELATIVES	\$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
TOTAL PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$1,750,000

Other Legal Clinics

The following clinics provide legal information, representation and advocacy to individuals and communities within their specific mandates.

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
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	\$1,110,000
TOTAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$4,550,000

Legal Aid BC

LEGAL AID BC

Support for Indigenous services, Family LawLINE, community engagement, and public legal information **\$3,250,000**

Pro Bono Legal Aid

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 **\$468,000**

ACCESS PRO BONO SOCIETY OF BC

Lawyer Referral Service that facilitates free 30-minute consultations with volunteer lawyers (includes startup costs) **\$156,460**

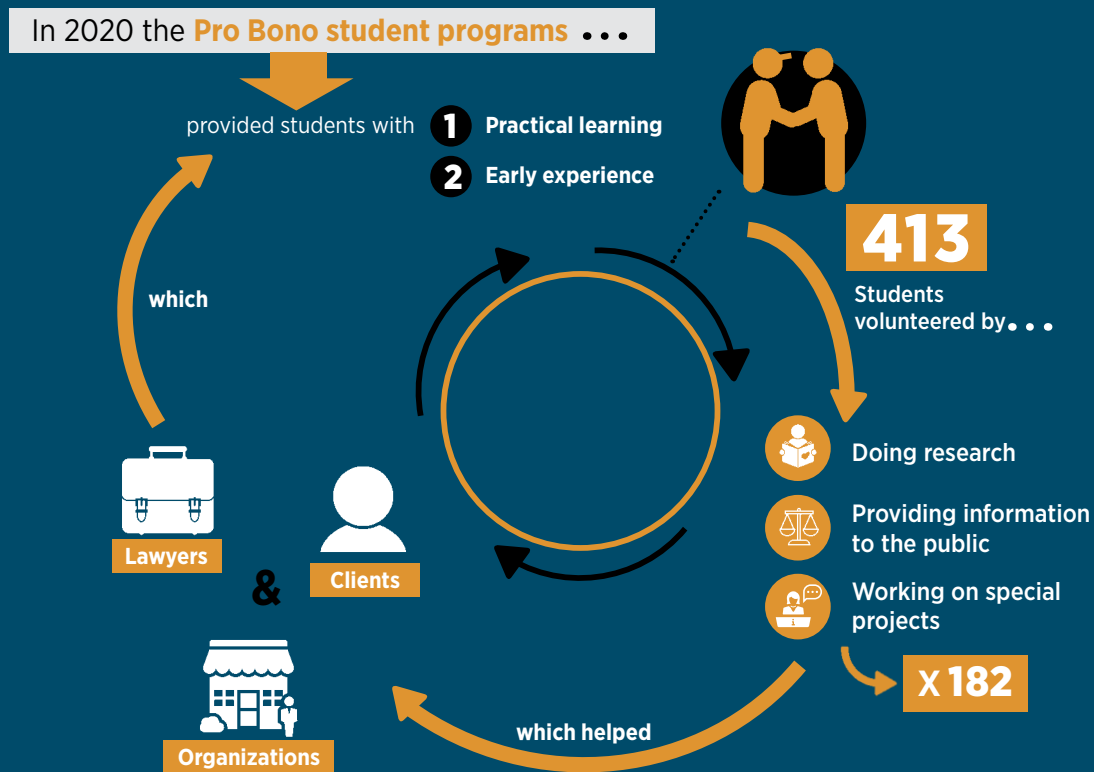
PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA

Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia **\$40,000**

Thompson River University Faculty of Law **\$35,000**

University of Victoria Faculty of Law **\$35,000**

TOTAL PRO BONO LEGAL AID **\$734,460**





Indigenous Community Legal Clinic celebrates 25 years



PATRICIA BARKASKAS

For the past 25 years, the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (ICLC) has become known for its decolonizing approach to legal education, grounded in connection to BC's Indigenous communities.

First established in 1995 at the University of British Columbia law school, the ICLC started as a small legal clinic running out of a storefront in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The clinic provided pro bono legal services to self-identified Indigenous people in Vancouver and across BC, while also providing an opportunity for students to gain experience in Indigenous legal issues. In the early days when the clinic was relatively unknown to the Downtown Eastside community, staff would walk down to the courthouse on Main Street in search of people in need of legal support.

The ICLC has grown tremendously since then, and recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Academic Director Patricia Barkaskas says the aim of the clinic has remained the same through the years — to serve the Indigenous community, and to educate the next generation of lawyers in a decolonizing approach to law that incorporates Indigenous knowledge and practices.

"Deconstructing all of the normative violence of legal education and colonial education is a big part of what students come to the clinic to do," says Barkaskas, who first began working at the clinic in 2010 as a student clinician, and then as an assistant lawyer after she was called to the bar in 2012.

"They're also providing excellent legal services to our clients, of course, but doing it in the way they do — that is what really matters."

Over the years, the ICLC has developed a relationship of accountability with the Indigenous communities they serve — and through that, created meaningful change for both clients and students alike.

In recent years, the clinic has been able to forge connections with Indigenous communities outside of Vancouver. In 2018, with the funding provided by an anonymous donor, the ICLC began a Travelling Clinic program that allows students to bring legal services to more remote parts of the province such as Bella Bella and Bella Coola. The ICLC has also taken on Indian Day School settlement applications: demand has been so extensive that they had to take on an additional full-time articling student to help manage the demand.

To Barkaskas, having both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at the clinic is important. “From my perspective, Indigenous students come to the clinic and they bring their own decolonizing knowledge and thinking, and that’s an amazing thing,” she said. “But it’s also really important that non-Indigenous students are doing this work and learning how to do it from the context of settler harm-reduction, decolonization and Indigenization.”

Barkaskas says that many students have gone on to pursue careers in Indigenous law — but even for those who choose not to, what they learn at the clinic can be carried with them throughout their careers. “More importantly, all students who move forward into law are practising in a way that has some Indigenous cultural competency, they’re doing it with a sense of some cultural humility and with an awareness of Indigenous cultures and laws,” she said.

Barkaskas says that over the years, the ICLC has developed a relationship of accountability with the Indigenous communities they serve — and through that, created meaningful change for both clients and students alike.

“As an Indigenous woman, it matters so much that this work is being done,” she said. “It matters, even when it’s imperfect and we have to respond by changing and adapting, and doing better and doing different. I’ve seen the evidence of that over and over and over again in the lives of our clients and of our students.”



Darwin Hanna and Cynthia Callison, long-time supporters and members of the ICLC’s first cohort, presenting gifts at the ICLC 25th anniversary event to Patricia Barkaskas and Mark Gervin, Director of Legal Services.

Print: Alano Edzerza, Tahltan, “Thinking Like a Raven.”
Blanket: Coast Salish from Musqueam (unattributed).



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

BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL Provision of legal services to Indigenous people throughout the province through Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC)	\$290,000
HAIDA GWAIH LEGAL PROJECT SOCIETY Support for Indian Day School Applications	\$25,000
NATIVE COURTWORKER & COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BC Out-of-court community support services for people involved with the criminal justice system in New Westminster and Duncan	\$150,000
SPIRIT OF THE CHILDREN SOCIETY Enhancing the involvement of Elders in the Aboriginal Family Healing Court Conference process	\$57,000
WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION (2020–2023) Total grant: \$540,000 Creating a Community of Practice for lawyers, advocates and others working to protect the legal rights of children (and their caregivers) involved in the child welfare system. The Community helps to develop skills, share best practices, generate and support collaboration, and support system-wide change	\$180,000
TOTAL LEGAL AID PROJECTS	\$702,000



Legal Education

\$4,399,500

In addition to the amounts listed below, the Law Foundation approved \$1,500,000 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 with law firms that allow law students to experience legal practice in rural communities **\$75,000**

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS Fellowships of \$17,000 each for graduate legal studies by BC lawyers and graduates of BC law schools:

Christina Gray – Research focusing on the representation of gender within the Ts'msyen legal tradition

Michael Johnson – Consideration of how guardians make decisions for adults with profound mental disability, and the potential of a model organized around a concept of citizenship

Jason Leslie – A review of the Canada Mortgage Bonds program and whether it is fair to the public, given the financial risks it poses to the Canadian government **\$102,000**

Eva Linde – A comparison of how courts in different jurisdictions have limited their own competencies when reviewing the actions of legislators and governments regarding climate change

Andrew Luesley – Consideration of the extent to which auto-execution and technological complexity make digital auto-executing smart contracts vulnerable to fraudulent and exploitative uses

Esteban Vallejo Toledo – Research into the potential of land-value taxation to promote urban inclusion and alleviate the negative impacts of gentrification-driven displacement

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, executive directors and board members; human resources support for grantees; and other supports **\$850,000**

LAW SOCIETY OF BC Supporting the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC) at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, and providing bursaries to students who must relocate to attend PLTC training **\$240,000**



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

Indigenous Legal Studies Academic Leadership Certificate	\$10,000
Support for Indigenous students entering law school	
Innocence Project A program that engages law students to review claims of wrongful convictions in BC	\$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
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PROVINCIAL COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA A program that allows law students doing Provincial Court judicial internships to attend circuit courts around BC	\$25,000
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PUBLIC INTEREST ARTICLES Articles designed to support the work of public interest groups and provide students with experience in the sector (\$60,000 each):

Access Pro Bono Society (2020–2022)

Atira Women's Resource Society (2020–2022)

BC Civil Liberties Association (2020–2022)

Community Legal Assistance Society (David Mossop, QC, Public Interest Articling Fellowship)

Community Legal Clinic (2020–2022) Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law

Environmental Law Centre Society University of Victoria Faculty of Law

Greater Vancouver Law Students' Legal Advice Society (LSLAP)

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

\$840,000

Indigenous Community Legal Clinic Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia

Law Centre Clinical Program University of Victoria Faculty of Law

Migrant Workers Centre BC Society (2020–2022), *this grant was made possible by the Law Society of BC's 2020 Pro Bono and Access to Justice contribution to the Law Foundation of BC*

Rise Women's Legal Centre (2020–2022)

Society for Children and Youth (2020–2022) (Wayne Robertson, QC, Access to Justice Fund)

Together Against Poverty Society (2020–2022)

West Coast LEAF Association (2020–2022)

PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS Awards to fund second and third-year law students who combine academic achievement with a commitment to public interest legal work

Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia	\$65,000
Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	\$40,000
University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$45,000

PUBLIC INTEREST WORK PLACEMENTS Funding for law students in work placements with public interest and advocacy groups

Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia	\$90,000
Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	\$50,000
University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$90,000

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, WIYASIEWIN MIKIWAHP NATIVE LAW CENTRE	\$55,000
A program for Indigenous students planning to enter law school	

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS	\$2,762,000
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Public Legal Education

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BC BRANCH Support for Access to Justice Week 2020	\$15,000
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	
Public legal education and information programs	\$370,000
Dial-a-Law program	\$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	\$1,065,000



Chat, phone, email or in-person service to

54,000+
users



65,000+

print publications distributed



1.9+ million
website visits

providing information to the public



About . . .



Child protection



Housing



Indigenous rights



LGBTQ+



Legal system



Immigration

And more

Other funded programs provide additional public legal education through workshops, webinars, etc.



Legal Education Projects

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools Projects

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW, ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2019–2024) Total grant: \$150,000 A time-limited grant to support first-year law students	\$30,000
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS PROJECTS	\$30,000

Public Legal Education Projects

JUSTICE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BC (2019–2021) Total grant: \$350,000 Curricular resources for grades K–12	\$175,000
PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL SOCIETY (2019–2021) Total grant: \$375,000 Dial-a-Law: Enhancing access to justice through innovative IT applications	\$187,500
WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (2020–2023) Total grant: \$540,000 Indigenous Law-making for the 21st Century	\$180,000
TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS	\$542,500
TOTAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS	\$572,500



PHOTO: GENDER SPECTRUM COLLECTION

Law Libraries



\$2,750,000

COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES BC

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

COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES BC

(2019–2021) Total grant: \$600,000
LawMatters enhancement project to revitalize legal collections and provide increased support to public libraries across BC

\$200,000

TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES PROJECTS

\$200,000





Law Reform

\$1,693,333

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC

Support for the Access to Justice BC collaborative's efforts to advance access to justice in BC

\$100,000

ACTION COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL AND FAMILY LAW

Coordination of the action committee's collaborative work across Canada

\$50,000

BC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ASSOCIATION

A law reform and public legal education program that focuses on freedom of information and privacy rights

\$250,000

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

\$400,000

TOTAL LAW REFORM

\$800,000

Law Reform Projects

ECOJUSTICE CANADA SOCIETY (2019–2021) Total grant: \$480,000

Law reform to secure best practice climate law and legislated climate change accountability frameworks in BC

\$160,000

FIRST NATIONS ENERGY AND MINING COUNCIL

Work with Indigenous representatives and legal experts to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in relation to mining law reform

\$400,000

HEALTH JUSTICE SOCIETY (2020–2022) Total grant: \$1,000,000

Law reform to advance discussion and consensus around immediate and long-term changes to the Mental Health Act in order to modernize the provincial legislative system and integrate human rights into mental health law

\$333,333

TOTAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS

\$893,333



Legal Research

\$120,000

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR LEGAL RESEARCH

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

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW

Work by the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence to support research and scholarship on access to justice issues \$100,000

TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH

\$120,000

The Foundation-Funded Legal Research grants that were active in 2020 were listed in the 2019 annual report. Grants made under this funding stream in November 2020 will start in 2021 and will be listed in next year's annual report.



Special Purpose Funds

Legal Aid BC / Law Foundation Research Fund **\$430,000**

This jointly administered fund supports research on, and evaluation of, legal aid and other access to justice programs

FAMILY JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB SOCIETY

Develop, apply, and evaluate a practical method and tool for collecting user-experience data on unbundled family law services \$15,000

LEGAL AID BC

Achieving Digital Equity A study of non-technical barriers that may limit the use of digital legal education resources among clients, intermediaries and advocates \$90,000

Evaluation of Criminal Early Resolution Contract (CERC) Initiative An evaluation to determine if the CERC is meeting its objectives and what changes should be made to improve outcomes \$75,000

Everyday Legal Problems Survey Project An updated legal needs survey to determine how legal needs have changed during the pandemic \$40,000

Pandemic Legal Needs Research Project Multi-disciplinary collaborative work to develop a framework for modelling the need for legal services by considering the incidence of legal needs created by the pandemic \$140,000

WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION

Research and community engagement work to ensure that West Coast LEAF's legal education services and resources are accessible, appropriate and effective \$70,000

TOTAL LEGAL AID BC / LAW FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUND

\$430,000

Special Purpose Law Foundation Funds **\$233,963**

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PARTICIPATION FUND

Supports litigants without funds to participate in public interest cases \$9,300

SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

Supports organizations with unforeseen or emergency needs identified throughout the year \$224,663



New legal clinics step up

PROVIDING AUGMENTED SERVICES DURING CHALLENGING TIMES



DANIEL JACKSON

PHOTO BY KALYAN STUDIOS

For years, British Columbia has lacked an important asset that provides significant benefits to people in other large provinces like Alberta and Ontario — a network of legal clinics serving low income people. While the Law Foundation's network of poverty law advocates provided important support for clients dealing with income assistance, housing, and other legal challenges, they did not displace the need for specialized lawyers able to represent clients in court and at tribunals, appeal decisions, and manage complex cases. Now, as a result of a funding partnership between the Law Foundation and the Province, new regional Poverty Law Clinics are able to provide these services.

In 2018, the Law Foundation piloted the idea of funding legal clinics by placing a staff lawyer in an existing advocacy program: Victoria's Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) was awarded a three-year grant to pilot the idea of adding a staff lawyer to their team to help clients with issues relating to disability benefits, employment standards, and tenancy issues. In 2019, the Province built on this initiative, announcing that it would partner with the Foundation to create four new regional Poverty Law Clinics housed in community-based agencies already offering legal advocacy services.

These clinics were just getting off the ground when the COVID-19 pandemic struck... The new clinics were able to adapt and rise to the challenge.

These clinics were just getting off the ground when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, making access to legal support more essential as unemployment numbers skyrocketed, and housing became precarious for thousands across the province. The new clinics were able to adapt and rise to the challenge.



Daniel Jackson, the staff lawyer at TAPS, worked with the agency as an advocate for several years before transitioning into his new role. As the pandemic wore on, Jackson noticed there was an uptick in the need for legal support with tenancy-related issues, as well as access to information.

“I pivoted my role in the clinic a bit to try to meet some of the need around the CERB, and to address people’s economic uncertainty around their housing, their work, and the government benefits available.”

Jackson said the clinic shifted “seamlessly” to a remote office most of the time, while still maintaining some in-person hours for clients without access to technology.

In Kamloops, Odette Dempsey-Caputo, staff lawyer at the Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic, had also just begun to establish her new clinic’s presence when she was forced to put a pause on in-person visits and community meetings. Nonetheless, Dempsey-Caputo is proud that the clinic has provided services throughout the pandemic — especially because the community saw an increase in clients needing assistance with human rights and employment issues. Despite the restrictions, the clinic still helped a far greater number of clients than anticipated over the course of 2020.

“We actually didn’t end our services at all — we worked from home, but we were able to serve our clients throughout,” she said.

Sharon Kearney, staff lawyer at the Community Law Clinic at SOURCES Legal Resource Centre in the Fraser Valley, also said that shutdowns did not stop high numbers of clients coming to the clinic, especially those seeking housing and tenancy support.



ODETTE DEMPSEY-CAPUTO

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN FISHER

In the brief time the clinic has been open, Kearney is proud of the change they have been able to make. In one case, she was able to prevent a frontline health worker, who had waited years to get a spot in a housing co-op, from being evicted.

Kearney said the response from the larger community has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Often we get emails from clients saying, thank you so much, you saved my life. Or you saved my living situation,” she says. “It’s just a wonderful feeling giving back to the community.”

“We actually didn’t end our services at all — we worked from home, but we were able to serve our clients throughout.”

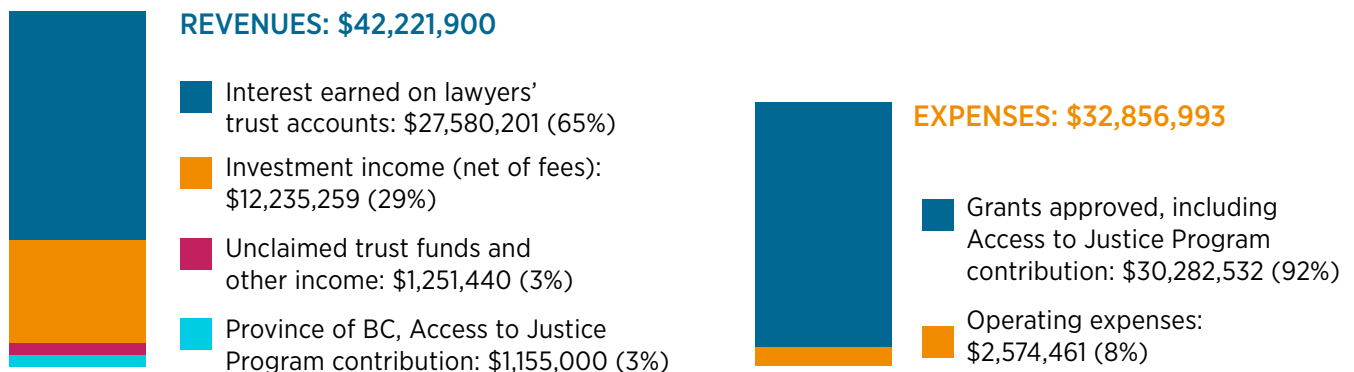
— Odette Dempsey-Caputo



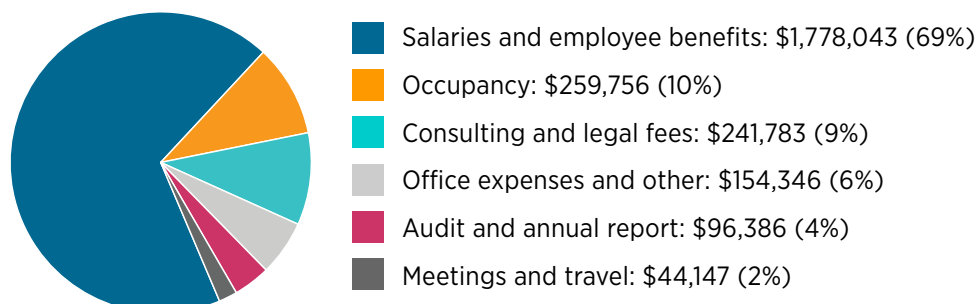
Financial Highlights

During 2020, the Law Foundation realized \$42.2 million in revenues: \$27.6 million in interest on lawyer's trust accounts; \$12.2 million in investment income; and \$2.4 million in other income. The Foundation's expenses for 2020 were \$32.9 million including more than \$30.2 million on approved grants. The Foundation's administrative expenditures of \$2.6 million accounted for 8% of total expenses. This year, \$1.7 million of previously approved grants were returned – a higher amount than usual due to the inability of some grantees to conduct project work during the pandemic. A net surplus of \$11.7 million was added to the Grant Stabilization Fund, which is used to support the continuing of grant funding during economic downturns. At the end of 2020, the fund was \$105.6 million, enough to cover three years of grant funding and operations.

These financial highlights are derived from the Foundation's audited financial statements and do not align precisely with the grant listings in this Annual Report. The financial highlights are based on grants approved in 2020 and record the full amount of multi-year grants as an expense in the year in which they are approved. The Annual Report listings report grant amounts allocated to single and multi-year grants in 2020. The full audited financial statements are available at lawfoundationbc.org/annual-report/



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

Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Felicia Cioffitto

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Justice Tom Crabtree

New Grants; Policy and Planning

John Greschner

Policy and Planning; Special Needs

Kathy Kendall, QC

Fellowships and Research (Chair); New Grants; Policy and Planning

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); Policy and Planning

Robert Zeunert

Finance and Administration; New Grants

As of December 2020.

Our Staff

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Program Director

Darcie Bennett

Director of Policy and Programs

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Project Co-ordinator

Sue Bradley

Program Assistant

karima budhwani

Program Director

Leah Combs

Program Manager

Andrea Gutierrez

Director of Operations

Helen Halbert

Program Manager

DJ Larkin

Program Director

Jessi McCallum

Governance Coordinator & Executive Assistant

Patrick McNary

Finance Director

Sandra Morgenstern

Program Assistant

Josh Paterson

Executive Director

Veenu Saini

Program Director

Lois Shelton

Legal Advocate
Training Manager

As of date of printing.





TRAIL, BC / PHOTO ERIC GONZALEZ



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