



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 grantmaking, our grantees, and our justice system.
- Continue the ongoing evaluation of Law Foundation programs and projects.

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Report from the Chair

I acknowledge the *ləkʷənjən* peoples on whose traditional territory I am presently sitting and recognize the historic relationships Indigenous peoples have had and continue to have with the land.

If I had one word to describe the 2021 year at the Foundation, it would be “optimism.” The second would be “evolution.” The pandemic has dominated our lives and work and changed the future that many of us envisioned.

Through this year, the Foundation focused on meaningful self-reflection. I am exceptionally proud of the work the organization is doing in this regard, most importantly, by recognizing that the longlasting impacts of colonization and associated policies and institutions in the justice sector, of which the Foundation is a part, have served to impose harmful economic and cultural practices upon Indigenous peoples. More work is required but the first steps have been taken to change the way the Foundation approaches its grant processes to prioritize resources going to fund work of Indigenous communities aimed at transforming aspects of the justice system, and rebuilding and adapting legal orders, that those communities identify as being needed. The Foundation has joined with many other

philanthropic institutions Canada-wide in signing the *Philanthropic Community's Declaration of Action* in relation to funding Indigenous initiatives, and is committed to taking on this long-term work.

The Foundation has also committed to working with communities to identify, and to fill, gaps in legal services for historically and currently under-served people in BC, including racialized people—in a way that the Foundation has not previously done. In last year's annual report, the Chair announced that the Board of Governors had created a new funding call dedicated exclusively to legal projects to advance racial justice. This past year, the Foundation developed and publicized this call, and is currently working through a wide range of applications focused on issues ranging from over-incarceration, to refugee and migrant issues, to health law. Part of this work involves changing how the Foundation connects with people around BC, and making our grant process more accessible—including piloting new techniques such as oral grant applications by video or in person to lighten the application burden that might deter smaller community organizations from applying. I am excited to share this year's Annual Report with you as it illustrates the progress that has been made and where we wish to see ourselves in the future.



Josh Paterson joined the Foundation in 2019 as Executive Director and has been a thoughtful leader. Josh approaches his work with empathy, strength, and deep commitment and I want to especially thank him for the work he has done in promoting positive transition within the Foundation. Under Josh's leadership, the Foundation is approaching decision-making with a different lens. As stewards of the funds entrusted to us, we must ensure that resources are going where they are needed most.

The entire team at the Law Foundation is exceptional. Each person is committed to access to justice within the Province and I thank each of you for the work you do. Each of you continues to challenge yourselves in your approach and thinking around the work of the Foundation and we are beginning to see the resulting evolution of the Foundation itself.

Law Foundation governors put in a lot of time and hard work every year. They are volunteers, drawn from the Bar, the Bench and the wider public, who typically volunteer around 15–20 days per year to help guide the Foundation in its work. Committee chairs and governors with special responsibilities contribute even more time. I would like to thank all Governors for their dedication to access to justice and for all the energy and care that they have devoted to our work in 2021.

In 2022, we have welcomed four new governors: Judge Linda Thomas of Williams Lake, Judge Nina Purewal from Smithers, and lawyers Claire Hunter, QC of Hunter Litigation Chambers, and Abigail Cheung from McCarthy Tétrault, both in Vancouver.

Three governors wound up their service in 2021, after six years on the Board. Each of you became true friends and I value the time I was able to serve with you.

Sean Rowell helped to guide the Foundation's finances through one of the most frightening times in our history. As Finance Chair, Sean provided steady leadership as the Foundation's income fell precipitously due to the pandemic interest

rate drop. His guidance was critical in helping the Foundation's Board and staff get through that difficult adjustment with confidence. Sean's volunteering with the Board came on top of the significant time he devotes to supporting his community — and communities around the province during wildfire season — as a volunteer firefighter at the Smithers Volunteer Fire Department.

Jim Sullivan, QC, provided steadfast support and leadership within the Foundation and, as Chair of the Class Actions Committee, Jim was instrumental in helping the Foundation respond to its new role as recipient of a portion of class action *cy près* awards under the *Class Proceedings Act* which created an entirely new source of funds to draw upon for the Foundation.

Bill Younie, QC, was particularly devoted to the cause of improving legal education, as the governor responsible for our work with the three law faculties in the Province. In particular, Bill helped to secure the Foundation's most significant support to date for work in Indigenous legal education and research, through the Foundation's \$5 million seed grant for the construction of the National Centre for Indigenous Laws at the University of Victoria.

Finally, I want to recognize Geoff White, QC, for his strong but gentle leadership of the Foundation's Board of Governors in 2019–2020. Geoff led the Foundation at a pivotal time with grace and vision. While he was Chair, the Foundation undertook the first executive leadership transition in nearly 20 years, supporting our new Executive Director as he began the process of organizational renewal. Geoff kept the Foundation's eyes focused on our goals as the pandemic and the drop in our income threatened to knock us off course. And he oversaw significant transformation in our grantmaking processes and organizational structure, helping to set a strong foundation for the years ahead. Thank you, Geoff, for your wonderful leadership.

Lindsay LeBlanc, Chair, 2021–2022
(July 2022)



2021 Highlights

While the Law Foundation continued to feel the impact of a considerable drop in its income due to low interest rates, the Grant Stabilization Fund permitted us to continue providing grants for access to justice services and programs, research, and education at pre-pandemic levels and to continue investment in new initiatives. The purpose of the Grant Stabilization Fund is to allow the Foundation to provide ongoing support to core programs even when interest from lawyers' pooled trust accounts falls. We anticipate that rising interest rates in 2022 will allow the Foundation to replenish the Grant Stabilization Fund.

Over the past year the Foundation provided support for a number of new initiatives and continued the transformations in the way the Foundation does its work. These initiatives include:

- With financial support from the Province of British Columbia, the Foundation was able to fund a new Child and Youth Provincial Legal Clinic. This clinic provides legal representation for young people experiencing problems related to family law, child protection, and human rights.
- The Joe Arvey Initiative for Public Interest Law was launched in 2021. The Initiative was created through the generosity of its founding donor the ILLAHIE Foundation, the family foundation of Julia and Ed Levy, and has been supported with an additional major donation from Jacqueline Koerner as well as from law firms and individuals. The Arvey Initiative supports a more sustainable pathway into public interest legal practice, providing financial assistance to support public interest law work and access to justice innovation.
- Public Interest Articling grants were increased to allow for improved salaries for articled students and funding for the Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC). The grants are now awarded on a regular cycle to allow host organizations more time to plan for hiring. The Foundation supports more articling opportunities now than ever before.
- The Foundation continues to simplify the grant application process and streamline reporting for grantees, reducing the administrative burden while also ensuring that the data the Foundation needs is collected efficiently.
- There has been continued structural change at the Foundation. The Finance department has been redesigned and there have been changes on the Program team to increase specialization, resulting in a new Director of Legal Service Grants position, as well as a new Program Director position that focuses on Indigenous justice.



NICOLA VALLEY, BC, PHOTO: MAXVIS, ISTOCK

- The Disbursement Fund was created to support legal clinics with funding for interpretation and translation, expert reports, transcripts and other exceptional costs associated with the representation of clients.
- The Foundation launched the Racial Justice Grants Call, aimed at responding to systemic discrimination and expanding access to legal services for racialized communities that have been historically under-served in the justice system. In 2022, over 100 applications for funding were received from organizations in every part of the province. These will be adjudicated with assistance from an advisory group drawn from the legal profession and the wider community.

In 2022, the Foundation will complete its strategic planning process, setting the framework for its work in the five years to come. In response to the increasing costs of service delivery for many funded programs, the Foundation will work to ensure that its level of support is appropriate and sustainable. We will continue our work to modernize and improve the support that we provide for direct civil legal aid services through legal advocacy programs and legal clinics across BC. The Foundation's Board of Governors is also in the process of creating an Indigenous Advisory Circle to help guide the Foundation in supporting work prioritized by Indigenous communities on Indigenous justice revitalization and justice system transformation.

The Government of BC introduced amendments to the Legal Profession Act which means that the Law Foundation of BC has the authority to approve the interest rates and service charges on lawyers' pooled trust accounts. This will prove beneficial in improving the availability of legal services to BC communities by promoting certainty and reliability for the funding that the Foundation distributes as grants to support access to justice. We would like to thank the Government of British Columbia and the Legislative Assembly of BC for their unanimous support for the change.

Thank you

The Law Foundation of BC 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.



MASI ALLAHVERDI

Kinbrace Ready Tours — Pre-hearing support for refugee claimants

For most people who do not work in the legal system, participating in a tribunal process can be confusing and intimidating. That experience is amplified for refugee claimants attending a hearing that may determine whether they will be able to stay in the country they've begun to call home. Many refugee claimants are contending with an unfamiliar language and a new cultural context, making it even more difficult to engage with the Canadian legal system. Add to that the number of documents required, and the complexity involved in filling them out correctly — the challenge can seem insurmountable. Kinbrace Community Society's Ready Tours support refugee claimants to get comfortable with the tribunal processes before their hearing.

Established in 1998, Kinbrace Community Society's mission is to welcome refugee claimants with housing, education, and support. In 2008 Kinbrace cofounded Ready Tours with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada-Refugee Protection Division. The Law Foundation of British Columbia supports Kinbrace's Accessing Refugee Protection program by providing ongoing funding to the Ready Tour initiative. The program's aim is to provide legal education that readies each refugee claimant for their refugee hearing. This is just one of several programs that the Law Foundation supports in providing legal assistance in refugee and immigration matters.

“Ready Tours provide refugee claimants with valuable information at all stages of their refugee determination process and specifically before their hearing. They prepare them for this long and tough journey.” — Masi Allahverdi

Ready Tours are available to all refugee claimants in Canada, regardless of place of origin. Tours are virtual via Teams and consist of a presentation explaining the refugee claim process, including who participants can expect to meet, each of the attendees’ roles, legal issues that are commonly addressed, day-of check-in procedures, as well as a 30-minute Q&A session. Participants are provided with an interpreter to ensure they get the most out of their sessions.

Masi Allahverdi, a Ready Tour organizer, is proud of the work she does in helping refugees become more empowered and confident as they prepare for their upcoming hearings. Originally from Iran, Masi not only coordinates the tours but also supports tour attendees through email and phone calls. As Masi says, refugee claimants need someone to trust and support them during the very stressful and unsure time, so she helps them by answering any questions they might have.

“Ready Tours provide refugee claimants with valuable information at all stages of their refugee determination process and specifically before their hearing. They prepare them for this long and tough journey. I really enjoy seeing claimants’ feedback in surveys or emails, when they are thankful for having the opportunity of getting accurate information and asking their questions. I receive messages that say refugee claimants feels less anxious and more prepared for their hearing after their Ready Tour session. Sometimes refugee claimants inform me about their positive hearing decision and that is a real celebration in my professional and personal life!”

The complexity of Canada’s refugee determination system can be confusing and disorienting. Ready Tours empowers refugee claimants by reducing anxiety and helping people who have participated in the program better prepare for hearings that will determine their future.



PHOTOS SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

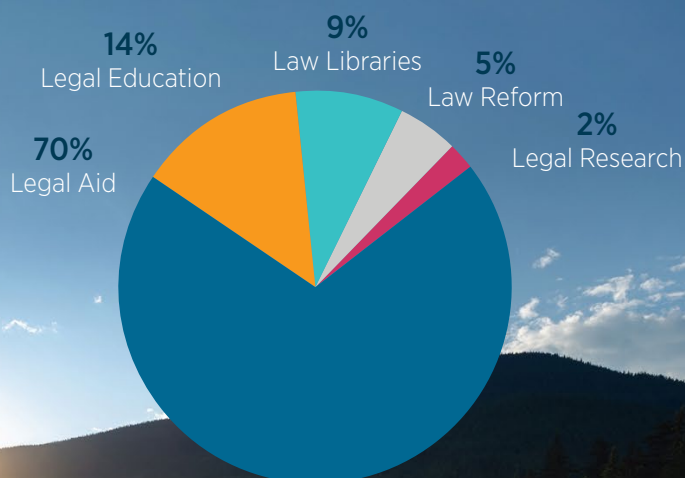
Programs and Projects Funded in 2021

This annual report provides a snapshot of work done in 2021 with Law Foundation funding. The listings include grants approved for 2021 as well as ongoing multi-year grants. Multi-year ongoing grants listed include the annual approved amounts. While multi-year project grant listings include the duration, annual amount, and total grant amount. For a list of our grant adjudications in 2021 which include total amounts for multi-year ongoing grants, please visit: lawfoundationbc.org/our-work/adjudications

GRANTS

In 2021, the Law Foundation provided \$28,222,346 for 171 continuing and on-track grants, \$4,001,636 for 38 projects and \$237,884 to other grants. The total grants provided by the Law Foundation in 2021 was \$32,461,866.

WHAT WE FUND

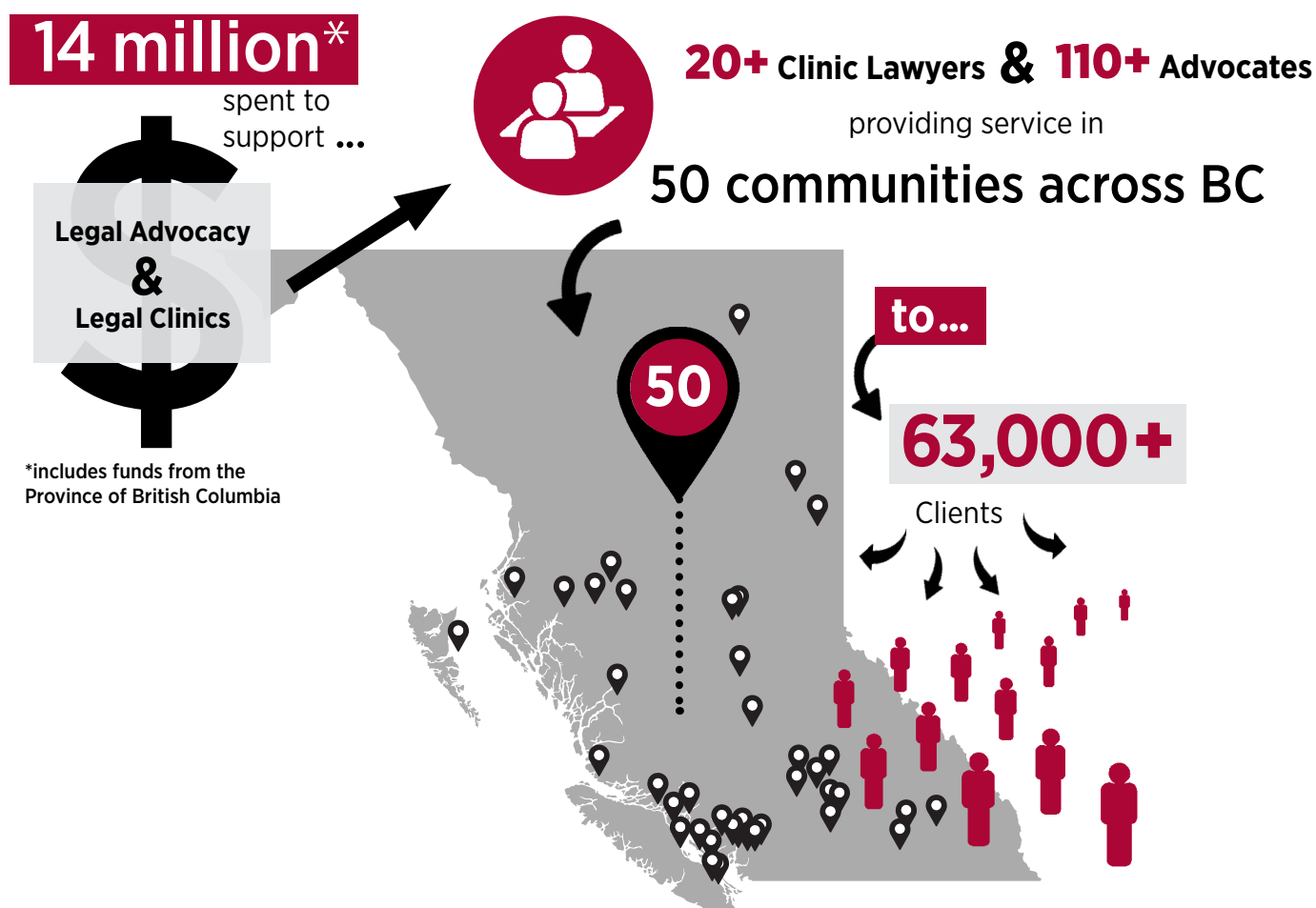




Legal Aid

\$22,467,149

Community-Based Advocacy





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 2021:

Archway Community Services *Fraser Valley*

Battered Women's Support Services *Lower Mainland*

Chilliwack Community Services

Chimo Community Services Society *Richmond*

Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
East Kootenays

Contact Women's Group Society *Williams Lake area*

Fort St. John Women's Resource Society

Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society *Kelowna area*

M.O.S.A.I.C. *Lower Mainland*

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services

Nelson CARES Society

North Shore Community Resources Society

Opportunities Career Services Society
Campbell River area

Penticton and Area Access Society

Port Alberni Friendship Center

Prince George Native Friendship Centre

Quesnel Tillicum Society

SHARE Family and Community Services Society
Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas

Sources Community Resources Society *Surrey*

Sources Community Resources Society *Surrey*

Terrace and District Community Services Society

The Law Centre, University of Victoria Faculty of Law

Wachiy Friendship Centre Society *Courtenay area*

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

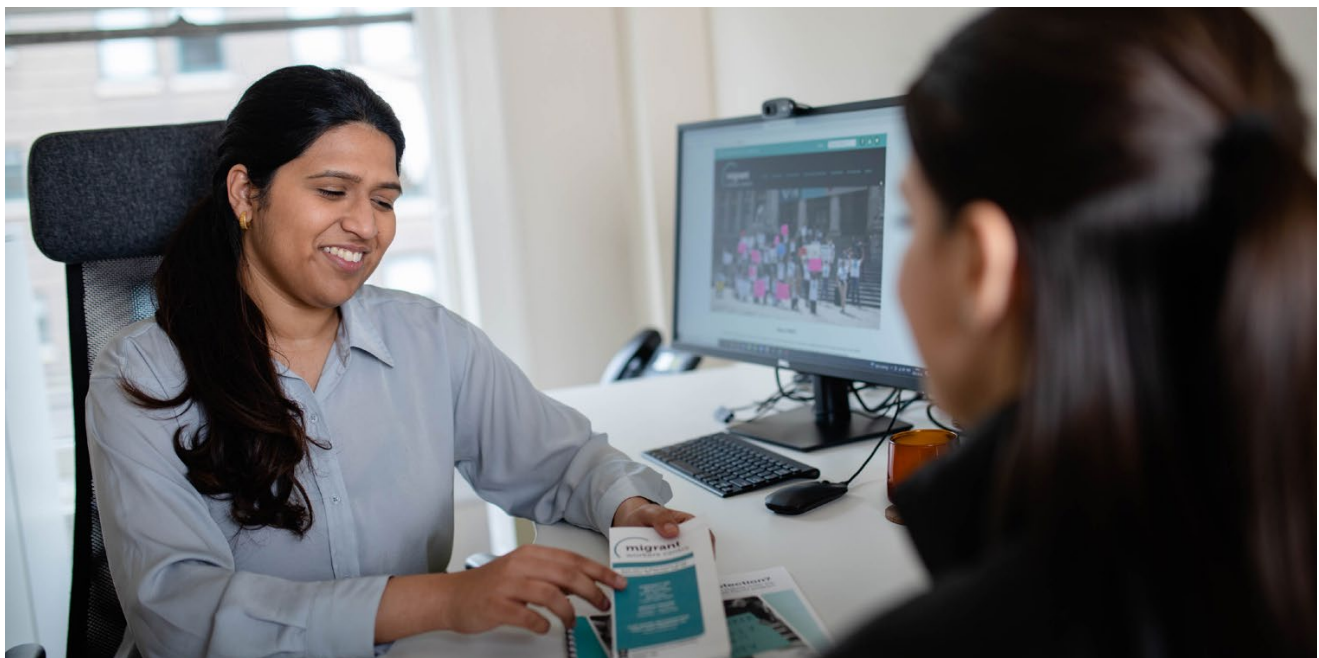


PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



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
BC First Nations Justice Council <i>Prince George area</i>	\$95,000	Penticton and Area Access Society	\$95,000
Burnaby Community Services Society	\$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
Contact Women's Group Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$95,000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$95,000
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society <i>Duncan</i>	\$95,000	Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Society <i>Port Hardy area</i>	\$95,000
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society <i>Smithers area</i>	\$95,000	Sea to Sky Community Services <i>Squamish</i>	\$95,000
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver <i>New Westminster</i>	\$95,000	SHARE Family and Community Services Society <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>	\$95,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society	\$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 <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	\$95,000
Kitimat Community Development Centre	\$95,000	Terrace and District Community Services Society	\$95,000
Langley Community Services Society	\$95,000	Together Against Poverty Society <i>Victoria area</i>	\$190,000
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services	\$95,000	Trail FAIR Society	\$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	Wachiay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$95,000
North Shore Community Resources Society	\$95,000	TOTAL POVERTY LAW ADVOCACY	\$4,285,000



Prisoners' Legal Services – How one local organization is changing the face of prison advocacy

The West Coast Prison Justice Society operates Prisoners' Legal Services (PLS), the only program focused exclusively on prison-related legal advocacy in western Canada.



JEN METCALFE

“This allows our office to speak with over 1,000 people in prison each year, to gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting people in prison, and to work for systemic change to reduce suffering.” — Jen Metcalfe

“Prisoners' Legal Services is unique in Canada because we administer all prison legal aid in our jurisdiction, other than appeals”, says Jen Metcalfe, Executive Director and Supervising Lawyer. “This allows our office to speak with over 1,000 people in prison each year, to gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting people in prison, and to work for systemic change to reduce suffering.”

In late 2020 the Society published a Law Foundation-funded report entitled “Solitary by Another Name” which examines how Correctional Service Canada continues to use isolation even after the elimination of administrative segregation, and the effects of these practices on prisoners' liberty rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The report details how the use of isolation practices can cause psychological harm to vulnerable people in federal prisons who often already struggle with mental health challenges, substance use, or histories of trauma and poverty. These practices include lockdowns, restrictive movement routines, and use of isolation to manage prisoners with mental health challenges.

While researching the report, PLS heard from clients who contributed stories and reflections from their own lived experience with prison isolation practices. PLS spoke with 231 clients incarcerated at the Kent Institution in the year leading up to the report's publication.

Their stories were poignant and often detailed harrowing feelings of anxiety, panic, and hopelessness. Clients shared their stories with the hopes of contributing to something broader. PLS has developed a high level of trust with their clients and a reputation for treating people in prison with dignity, and so, while contributing to the report, clients knew they were speaking to people who were serious about helping them, and were taking action to identify systemic issues in order to change policies.

PLS does face some unique obstacles in their day-to-day operations, however. Due to the strict regimen in prisons, clients can only call PLS during limited timeframes, and may have to deal with interruptions from guards and other incarcerated people. Because of the pandemic, some prisons experienced lockdowns which meant even further restrictions and the stop of in-person info fairs where PLS used to distribute resources. During this time, PLS has advocated for clients to be allowed out of their cells, and has continued to provide legal services by phone in addition to providing written materials to clients.

Nicole Kief, PLS's Legal Advocate, explains why this work is so important: "As Angela Davis has observed, prisons disappear people, not problems. As a legal advocate at PLS, I am lucky to work alongside people who, despite the dehumanizing conditions they are forced to live in, show kindness, love, humour, and a commitment to justice not only for themselves but for all incarcerated people. I hope PLS' work can publicly affirm the fundamental human rights and dignity of people in prison."

"I am lucky to work alongside people who, despite the dehumanizing conditions they are forced to live in, show kindness, love, humour, and a commitment to justice not only for themselves but for all incarcerated people." — Nicole Kief



NICOLE KIEF

PHOTOS: 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
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC	
Advocacy services for migrants, immigrants, and refugees	\$95,000
Community legal worker pilot project	\$95,000
INDIGENOUS COURT COORDINATOR PROJECTS	
<i>Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society</i>	\$25,000
<i>Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society</i>	\$25,000
<i>Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc</i>	\$25,000
<i>Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society</i>	\$55,000
<i>Yeqox Nilin Justice Society</i>	\$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
A mental health advocacy program providing legal information and assistance on income assistance matters in the Lower Mainland	\$95,000
M.O.S.A.I.C.	
A legal advocacy and information program for low-income immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland	\$95,000
MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE BC SOCIETY	
A legal advocacy and information program for low-wage temporary foreign workers	\$150,000
MPA — MOTIVATION, POWER & ACHIEVEMENT SOCIETY	
Courtworkers to assist people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system in Vancouver	\$140,000
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	\$32,346
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 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
WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY	
A program to provide legal services to prisoners on human rights and health care issues	\$100,000
TOTAL SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY	\$2,287,346

Legal Clinics

Student Legal Clinics

Legal services provided at the following legal clinics are delivered by students who are supervised by lawyers. Students provide legal information, advocacy, and assistance to individuals in the community on various matters.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

Law students provide year-round assistance to low-income residents of Kamloops and the surrounding area with a variety of legal matters including residential tenancy, income security, and employment \$250,000

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE CLINIC, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW

Law students, staff, and external pro bono lawyers provide legal services, legal research, and law reform on environmental issues to community organizations, individuals, and First Nations throughout BC \$190,000

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Law students receive extensive cultural competency training and provide legal advocacy and advice to Indigenous residents of the Greater Vancouver region \$210,000

LAW CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW

Law students provide year-round assistance to low-income Greater Victoria residents with a variety of legal matters including residential tenancy, income security, family law, and summary criminal offences \$375,000

LAW STUDENTS' LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM (LSLAP), GREATER VANCOUVER LAW STUDENTS' LEGAL ADVICE SOCIETY

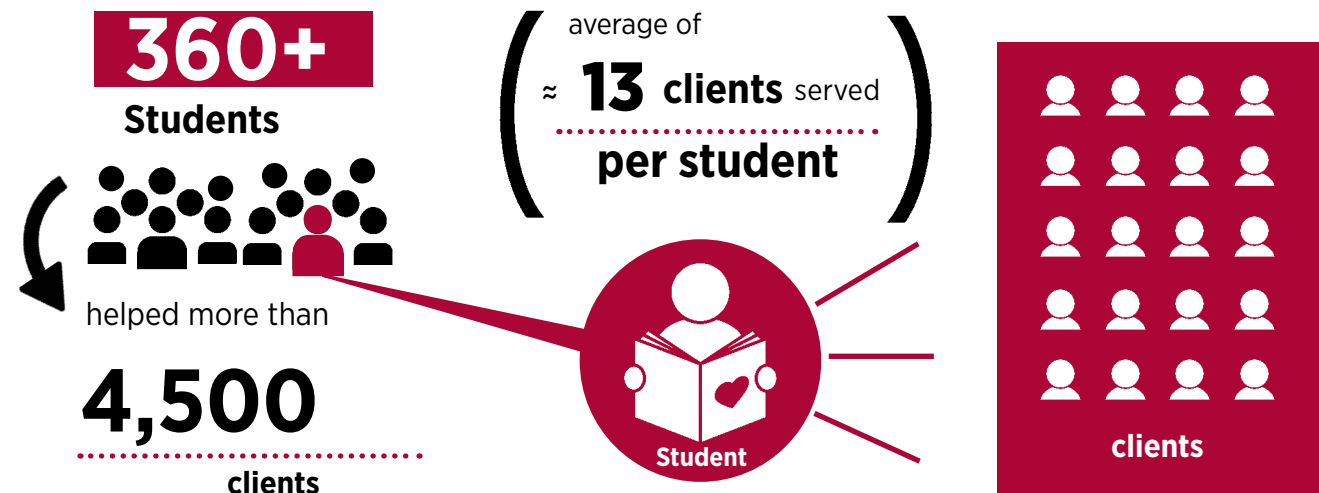
Law students from the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC operate a legal clinic to provide legal information, advocacy, assistance, and advice to low-income residents of the Lower Mainland \$330,000

RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Virtual Legal Clinic and Triage A Virtual Legal Clinic providing services to self-identified women living outside the Lower Mainland and a province-wide triage and navigation service \$175,000

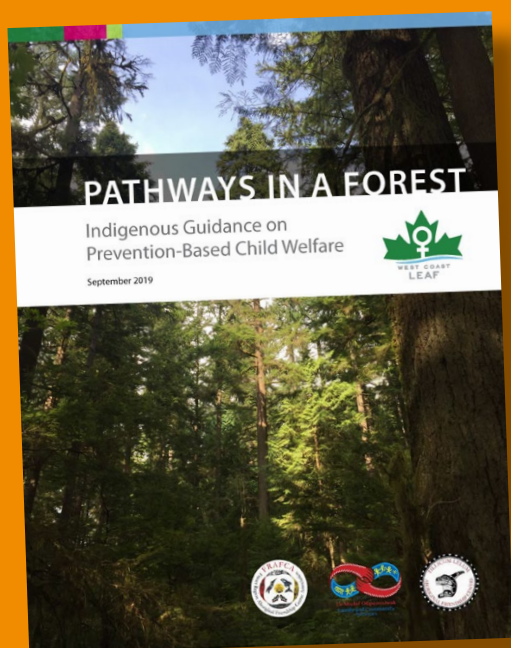
Family Advocate Support Line Staffed by a lawyer, a dedicated phone and online service to assist and train family law advocates and community workers across BC in delivering legal services to their clients \$160,000

TOTAL STUDENT CLINICS **\$1,690,000**





How West Coast LEAF's Community of Practice creates an intentional space for those engaged in the child welfare system



In 2019, the West Coast LEAF released the “Pathways in a Forest: Indigenous Guidance on Prevention-Based Child Welfare” report with funding from the Law Foundation of BC. The report came about as a result of a year-long law reform project entitled “Shifting the Child Protection System”, which was undertaken to determine whether the Ministry of Child & Family Development was meeting its legislative mandate under section 2(c) of the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act*; this mandate requires the Ministry to provide families with adequate supports to ensure that they can parent their children.

The law reform project resulted in West Coast LEAF's Child Protection Community of Practice. Communities of Practice, such as this one, involve groups of people who share a common interest in a particular area and come together to achieve various goals, the result of which usually includes sharing knowledge and wise practices. The Child Protection Community of Practice's working groups include legal

advocates, front-line advocates, parents and community members. The goal is to transform the system and provide those working to protect the legal rights of children and their caregivers including lawyers, advocates, Indigenous Elders, and Knowledge Keepers, a space to come together to develop skills, share wise practices, and collaborate in generating system-wide change.

The Child Protection Community of Practice is a new way of working with families impacted by the child welfare system. Members of these groups get together to collaborate and share knowledge and ideas. For many participants, these groups provide their first opportunity to share their experiences and thoughts on the system. This has led to a sense of community-building. It has also resulted in everyone involved gaining new insight into both the strengths and the weaknesses of current prevention-based efforts and programs. The Community of Practice has also helped participants identify where there are gaps in supports and services, lack of accountability, and individual and systemic barriers to accessing services.

In undertaking this project, West Coast LEAF has been intentional about building relationships with Indigenous communities. Indigenous families in BC continue to be involved with the child welfare



(L-R) BETY TESFAY, SHARNELLE JENKINS-THOMPSON, ALANA PROCHUK, CECILE AFABLE, RAJI MANGAT, CAT HART, AND KATE FEENEY

PHOTO: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

system at a disproportionate rate, mirroring and compounding in the intergenerational harms of the residential school system and the Sixties Scoop. The Community of Practice creates space for Indigenous women to share their stories and insights into the current child welfare system through advocacy planning with the goal of envisioning a new approach to supporting children and their families that centres Indigenous knowledges.

West Coast LEAF's Manager of Community Outreach Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson says, "I am most proud of helping facilitate spaces where people can come together for a collective vision of advocacy that they are excited to take up together and work collaboratively across their regions, roles, visions, and dreams to move transformation forward. We are strengthened in our movements by people's fire and energy, and I am proud this project creates this kind of space."

"I am most proud of helping facilitate spaces where people can come together for a collective vision of advocacy." — Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson



Provincially-Funded Legal Clinics

The Law Foundation funds a number of legal clinics, including eight clinics co-funded with the Government of British Columbia. Each is staffed by at least one lawyer and support staff. Where possible, these clinics are integrated alongside existing Law Foundation-funded advocacy programs to support a broader spectrum of client-focused service.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Society for Children and Youth BC</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to vulnerable children and youth in BC	\$250,000
DISABILITY LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Disability Alliance BC Society</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to people with disabilities	\$250,000
THE ELIZABETH FRY LEGAL CLINIC KAMLOOPS <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Kamloops and surrounding areas	\$250,000
THE ELIZABETH FRY LEGAL CLINIC KELOWNA <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society, previously hosted at the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Kelowna and surrounding areas	\$250,000
HOUSING LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre Society</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to tenants in various court and tribunal processes	\$250,000
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Immigrant Services Society of BC</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to immigrants and refugees	\$250,000
PRINCE GEORGE COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at BC First Nations Justice Council</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Prince George and surrounding areas	\$250,000
SOURCES COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Sources Community Resources Society</i> Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley	\$250,000
LAW FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION TO START-UP SUPPORT COSTS	\$190,000
TOTAL PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$2,190,000

Law Foundation-Funded Legal Clinics

CATHERINE WHITE HOLMAN LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Catherine White Holman Wellness Society</i> Provides summary advice and ID change support to trans and gender-diverse people in BC	\$190,000
Community consultation, development, start-up support grant	\$80,000
CHILD AND YOUTH LEGAL CENTRE <i>Hosted at Society for Children and Youth BC</i> 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 <i>Hosted at Seniors First BC Society</i> Provides summary advice, document preparation, and representation to eligible seniors in BC	\$220,000
POVERTY LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Together Against Poverty Society</i> Legal representation for people on low incomes on Vancouver Island focusing on tenancy, employment standards, income assistance, and disability issues	\$190,000
TOTAL LAW FOUNDATION-FUNDED LEGAL CLINICS	\$1,380,000

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

Lawyer Referral Service that facilitates free 30-minute consultations with volunteer lawyers \$142,500

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 **\$720,500**

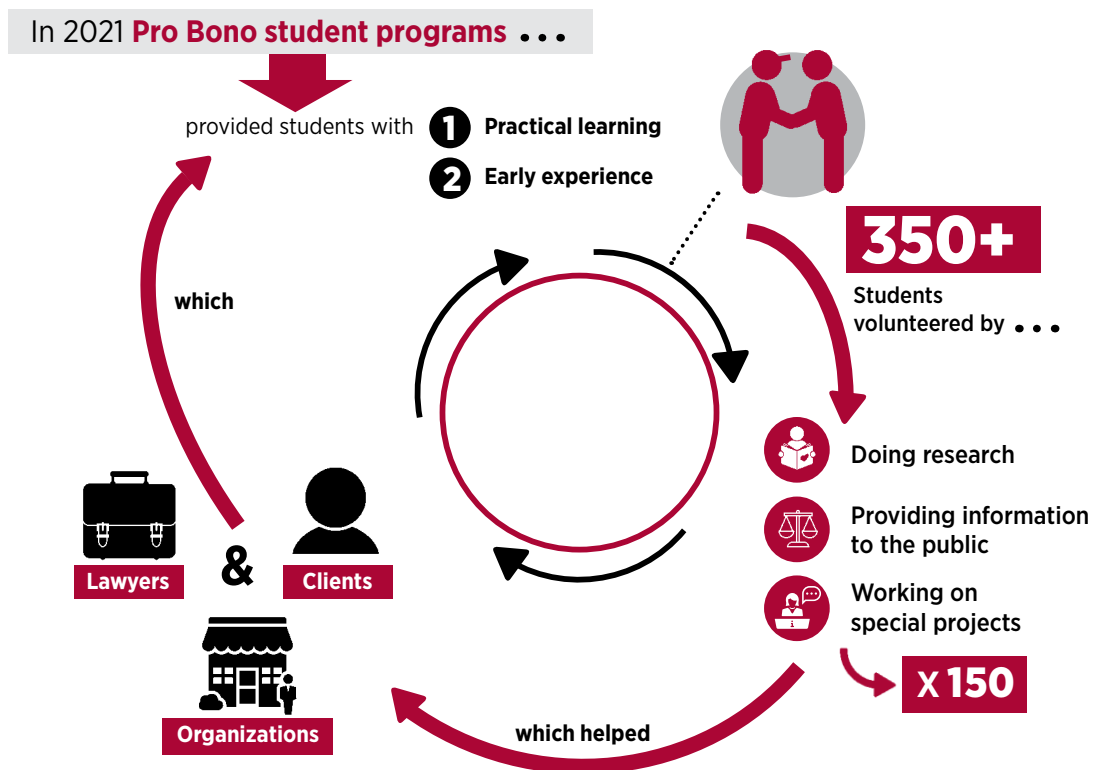




PHOTO: MIKE WIGLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Making waves in the difficult-to-reach Central Coast

For Anne Fletcher, Legal Advocate with the Bella Coola Legal Advocacy Program (BCLAP), reaching clients in the under-served region of the Central Coast used to mean dealing with skyrocketing airfares on chartered flights. With a population of only 8,000 spread out over a large area with challenging geography, flights and an infrequent ferry were the only ways to connect with communities outside of BCLAP's homebase in Bella Coola, prompting the small but dynamic non-profit to seek out a creative, made-for-the-Coast solution.

Enter the Galene, a 40-foot diesel-powered boat that was purchased with the help of a grant from the Law Foundation of BC. The Galene serves as a marine satellite office, providing direct legal advocacy services as part of the "Making Waves" project. The Galene's set-up includes offices, a reception area, a kitchen, bathrooms, and storage space. Along with computers, the boat is also equipped with printers, a wi-fi hotspot and cellphone connections. It also houses a small library containing plain language legal materials.



“This program increases access to justice through the direct provision of legal advocacy services to remote communities. The “Making Waves” project supports sustainable Outreach programming into the future.” — Anne Fletcher

With this boat, Anne and her team are able to deliver outreach to the peoples of the Central Coast and Outer Coast, including communities on the lands of the Nuxalk, Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv, and Kitasoo/Xais-xais. These island and inlet communities are well-suited to being reached by boat, and so the “Making Waves” project has turned out to be a unique solution to a financial and logistical challenge. The Galene even has living quarters for Anne and her team, saving on accommodation costs.

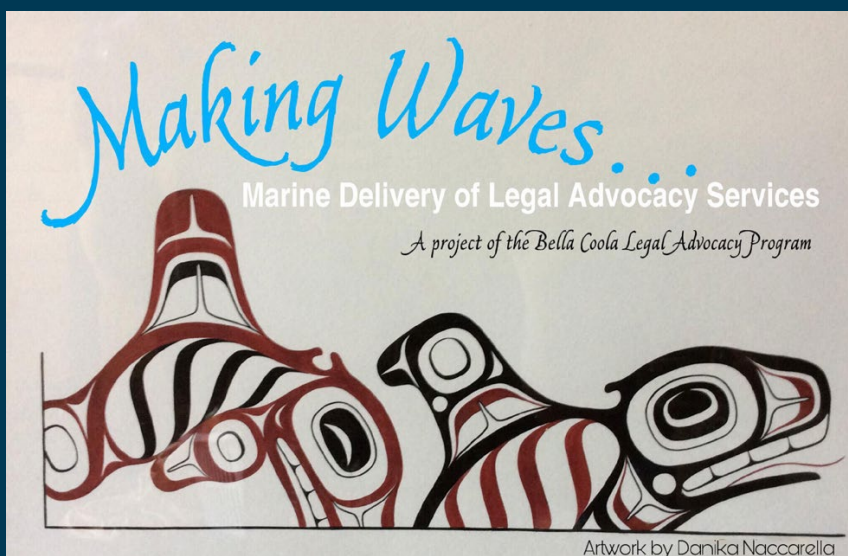
The “Making Waves” project is the only program providing legal advocacy services to the predominantly Indigenous communities in these areas. Services are free and confidential and include support with income and social assistance issues, legal aid applications, Indigenous legal issues, child protection, and elder issues. BCLAP strives to create a culturally-safe and trauma-informed space for all its clients. BCLAP’s programs and approach to service delivery are informed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, as well



PHOTO: ANNE FLETCHER

as by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report recommendations.

For Anne, serving a community she has called home for over two decades has been a humbling experience. Being able to get to the communities is crucial for meaningful engagement and to better understand each community’s unique needs. She says, “I am very happy for the success of this program. It took off from the very beginning because there was such a high need within the communities. This program increases access to justice through the direct provision of legal advocacy services to remote communities. The “Making Waves” project supports sustainable outreach programming into the future.”





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 \$90,000

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

\$2,660,000



PHOTO: ZACKARY DRUCKER / THE GENDER SPECTRUM COLLECTION



Legal Aid Projects

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC An innovation lab designed to evaluate different aspects of user experience in the justice sector and to collaboratively and rapidly redesign or create new services	\$230,000
ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY A legal incubation project to support women lawyers providing access to justice for marginalized women	\$35,000
BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL (2021–2024) Total Grant: \$945,000 Support for the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, including infrastructure, the Indigenous Justice Centres, and articling opportunities for Indigenous law students	\$343,636
HAIDA GWAII LEGAL PROJECT SOCIETY Support for Indian Day School Applications	\$25,000
JUSTICE EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BC A project to advance the development of smart family court forms for child-related matters in Provincial Court	\$75,000
JUSTICE FOR GIRLS OUTREACH SOCIETY (2021–2024) Total grant: \$350,000 Creation of a blueprint for gender-specific and holistic legal advocacy services for teenage girls living in poverty to address the intersecting barriers they face in accessing justice	\$116,667
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
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE The Virtual Legal Advocate is part of the Virtual Legal Clinic and supports a network of advocates and community organizations. <i>This grant was made possible by the Law Society of BC's 2021 Pro Bono and Access to Justice contribution to the Law Foundation of BC</i>	\$60,000
SOCIAL HEALTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY OF BELLA COOLA A project to support legal advocacy outreach to the central coast island and inlet communities accessible only by air or water through the purchase and operation of a marine legal assistance vessel	\$75,000
SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BC One-time funding to recruit, train, support, and manage a roster of lawyers across BC who provide legal services to children and youth (<i>Wayne Robertson, QC, Fund for Children and Youth</i>)	\$85,000
SPIRIT OF THE CHILDREN SOCIETY Enhancing the involvement of Elders in the Aboriginal Family Healing Court Conference process	\$57,000
ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (VANCOUVER) Strategic review of the Advocacy Office	\$42,000
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
WISH DROP-IN CENTRE SOCIETY (<i>On behalf of BC Bad Date Working Group</i>) (2021–2024) Total grant: \$750,000 A Safer Province for All: Provincial Bad Date Reporting System for Sex Workers in BC	\$250,000
TOTAL LEGAL AID PROJECTS	\$1,724,303



Legal Education

\$4,552,500

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 \$14,500 each for graduate legal studies by BC lawyers and graduates of BC law schools:

Lindsay Keegitah Borrows – Research exploring an emergent area of Indigenous legal research—looking beyond textual resources and instead exploring methods for how to interpret the more-than-human world as legal precedent in rigorous and thoughtful ways for application in contemporary contexts

Katherine (Kate) Gower – Research considering how new tools and technologies used in hearings in the digital environment can improve access to justice while preserving the integrity of legal processes

Michael Johnson – Research examining whether guardian decision-making can be more effective for involved adults when it is reorganized around the concept of citizenship using three contexts as examples: voting, sex, and institutional care

Oludolapo Makinde – Research investigating the practicability of adopting an integrated approach to effectively tackle corruption involving Canadian multinationals **\$101,500**

Karlan Modeste – An analysis of how health policies in controlled environments, including correctional and long-term care facilities, disparately impact the health of African-Canadians

Justin Ng – Interdisciplinary research on how neuroscience can impact health and medical laws, in particular, how developments in neuroscience will impact how disability is viewed in health and mental health law

Gideon Odionu – Research identifying international and domestic legal tools for integrating sustainable development into investment law

LAW FOUNDATION OF BC – EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUND Supporting 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 **\$778,000**

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 Coaching and peer mentorship for Indigenous students entering law school **\$10,000**

Innocence Project Supervised law students assist criminal lawyers to review wrongful conviction claims **\$55,000**

Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) For-credit program at the student-run legal clinic **\$30,000**



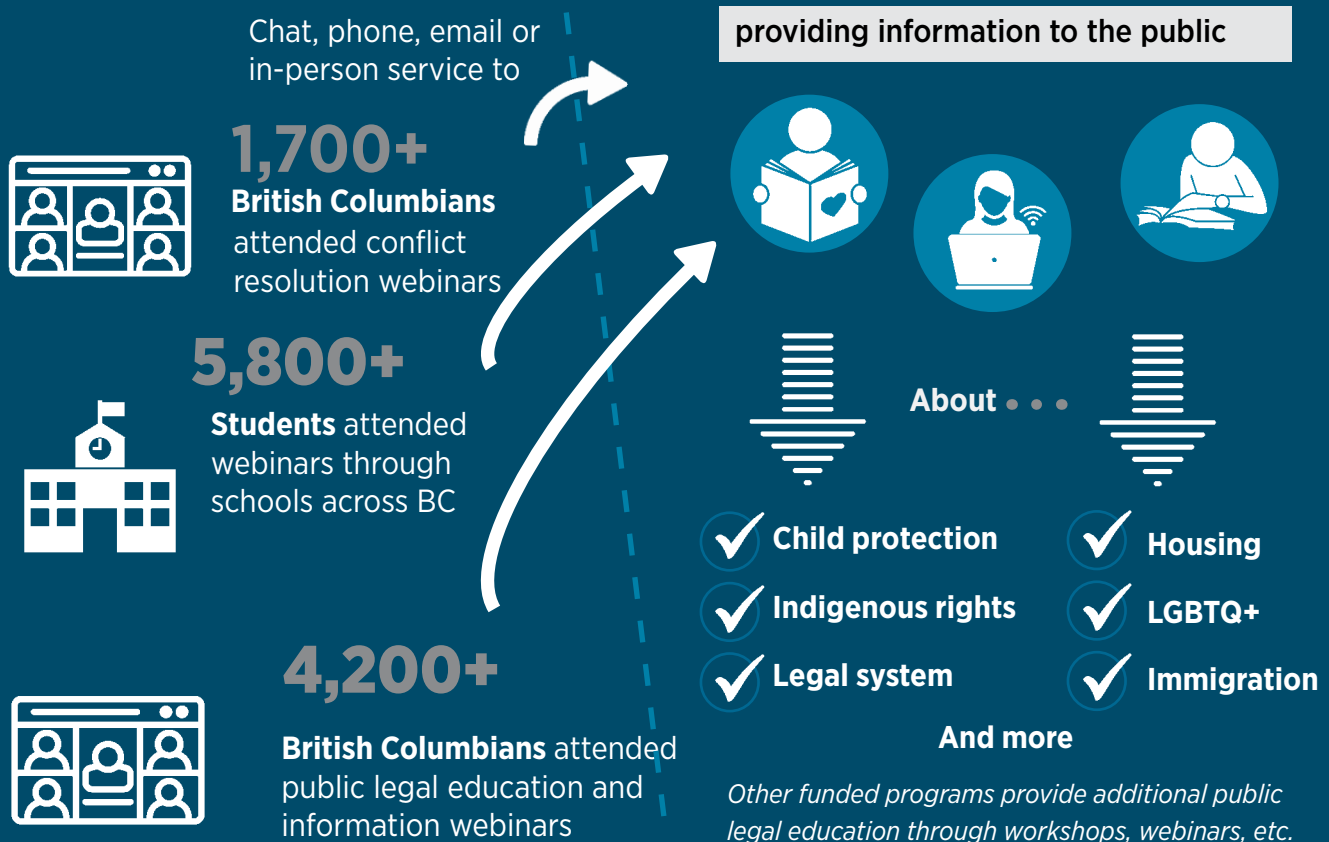
POVNET SOCIETY An online resource and networking tool for anti-poverty advocates, community workers and the general public	\$100,000
PROVINCIAL COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA Supporting law students in the Judicial Interns Circuit Court Program to attend circuit courts in rural and remote communities in BC	\$25,000
PUBLIC INTEREST ARTICLES Articling positions that support the work of public interest groups and provide students with experience in the sector:	
Access Pro Bono Society (2020–2022)	\$60,000
Atira Women's Resource Society (2020–2022)	\$60,000
BC Civil Liberties Association (2020–2022)	\$70,000
Child and Youth Legal Centre (2020–2022) Society for Children and Youth BC <i>(Wayne Robertson, QC, Access to Justice Fund)</i>	\$60,000
Community Legal Assistance Society <i>(David Mossop, QC, Public Interest Articling Fellowship)</i>	\$60,000
Community Legal Clinic (2020–2022) Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	\$60,000
Ecojustice Canada Society (2021–2023)	\$60,000
Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kamloops (2021–2023) Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society	\$60,000
Environmental Law Centre Clinic University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$60,000
Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic (2021–2023) Immigrant Services Society of BC	\$60,000
Indigenous Community Legal Clinic Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia	\$60,000
Law Centre University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$60,000
Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) Greater Vancouver Law Students' Legal Advice Society	\$60,000
Migrant Workers Centre BC Society (2020–2022)	\$70,000
Poverty Law Clinic (2020–2022) Together Against Poverty Society	\$70,000
Rise Women's Legal Centre	\$60,000
West Coast Environmental Law Association (2021–2023)	\$60,000
West Coast LEAF Association (2020–2022)	\$60,000
West Coast Prison Justice Society (2021–2023)	\$60,000
PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS Semester-long work placements at public interest organizations, advocacy groups	
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, WIYASIWEGIN MIKIWAHP INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE	\$55,000
A program for Indigenous students planning to enter law school	
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS	\$3,019,500

In addition to the amounts listed above, the Law Foundation approved \$1,690,000 in funding to support student legal clinics which provide professional legal education to law students. For details, see Legal Aid: Student Legal Clinics on page 17.



Public Legal Education

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BC BRANCH A program to inspire and support change in the legal profession to achieve greater access to justice for British Columbians	\$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 Legal education programs delivered through schools across BC designed to develop legal capability (knowledge, skills, and confidence) of youth and legal information services for the public	\$385,000
KINBRACE COMMUNITY SOCIETY Ready Tours to educate, orient and support refugee claimants as they navigate the Canadian refugee hearing 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 Legal information programs to make the law accessible to everyone and help British Columbians develop knowledge, skills, and confidence to resolve everyday legal matters Dial-a-Law program providing starting point information on the law in BC in 190+ topic areas	\$370,000 \$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

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

Truth and Reconciliation course component development and implementation for first-year law students	\$75,000
Entrance Scholarship Fund (2019–2024) Total grant: \$150,000	\$30,000
Global Justice and Sustainability Law Virtual Clinic – Feasibility Study	\$15,000
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS PROJECTS	\$120,000

Public Legal Education Projects

THE FEDERATION OF ASIAN CANADIAN LAWYERS (BRITISH COLUMBIA) SOCIETY

A documentary film “But I Look Like A Lawyer” describing the experience of racialized lawyers from the Asian/South-Asian community	\$24,000
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LEVEL. CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LAW (Wayne Robertson, QC, Access to Justice Fund)

A specialized justice education and mentorship program providing law-related experiential learning opportunities for Indigenous children and youth at BC schools	\$15,000
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POVNET SOCIETY Development of a new community of practice platform	\$59,000
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RAVEN (RESPECTING ABORIGINAL VALUES AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS)

A public legal education project designed to increase Canadians’ understanding of Indigenous reconciliation issues and advancing the idea that Indigenous Peoples should have equal access to justice and to the courts	\$75,000
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WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (2020–2023) Total grant: \$540,000

A three-year legal education and mentoring project to support Indigenous nations to develop legal capability to express their ancestral laws in contemporary forms, and to collaboratively develop written laws with four nations	\$180,000
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TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS	\$353,000
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TOTAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS	\$473,000
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PHOTO: WOCINTECH CHAT



Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre — focused on the specialized legal needs of the trans community

ADRIENNE SMITH

The Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre (CWHWC) trans legal clinic is the only free clinic in British Columbia run by and for trans people, focusing on the trans community and its legal needs. The Catherine White Holman Wellness Centre is a non-profit organization that is part of a networked community of professionals who prioritize the autonomy and dignity of trans and gender diverse people. In 2021 the Clinic received a three-year project grant from the Law Foundation of British Columbia. Prior to this grant, the Centre's wide array of free services was provided solely by volunteers. The grant has made it possible for the Centre to grow, expand, be more sustainable, and offer full legal representation.

"Trans people face complex and ongoing intersectional oppression, and legal enforcement of our rights is a critical access to justice issue. Because of the way that many trans people experience discrimination, and because Canada is a safer place for many undocumented trans people to settle, many community members are missing basic legal documents showing who we are," says clinic lawyer Adrienne Smith. "This lack of documentation prevents people from accessing basic government support, such as COVID benefits. This exacerbates existing inequalities which see many of us living in precarity, often participating in the grey economy, and experiencing routine harassment and violence."



“Trans people face complex and ongoing intersectional oppression, and legal enforcement of our rights is a critical access to justice issue.” — Adrienne Smith

The Clinic provides summary advice and ID change support to trans and gender-diverse people. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Clinic was forced to stop holding regular in-person meetings. The team quickly pivoted their services to an almost exclusively online model. This change not only allowed the Clinic to continue reaching their local clients, but also allowed the Clinic to extend their reach to serve people in areas outside of the Lower Mainland, the greatest growth being on Vancouver Island.

This time was also used to focus and regroup and think about what meaningful access to justice might look like for the trans community. The Clinic is mindful that, while online services have made the Clinic more accessible to some, it has also introduced accessibility challenges for others. A remote affidavit requires an exchange of documents, a video call with a lawyer requires a webcam and high-speed internet, and a formal hearing requires private uninterrupted access to these things for days or weeks at a time.

In response, the Clinic reallocated some funds from other areas in order to buy clients data minutes, and to physically mail them cameras and phones. The team at CWHWC held in-person clinics for people who needed them and even made house calls where necessary. The Clinic also started to advocate for public access video equipment at places like offices of administrative tribunals to ensure all clients can participate in video hearings.

As the Clinic continues to adapt its services to the needs of its clients and community, it is building its reputation as a culturally-safe place that supports and improves the lives of trans folk.



PHOTO: ZACKARY DRUCKER/VICE





Law Libraries

\$3,000,000

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

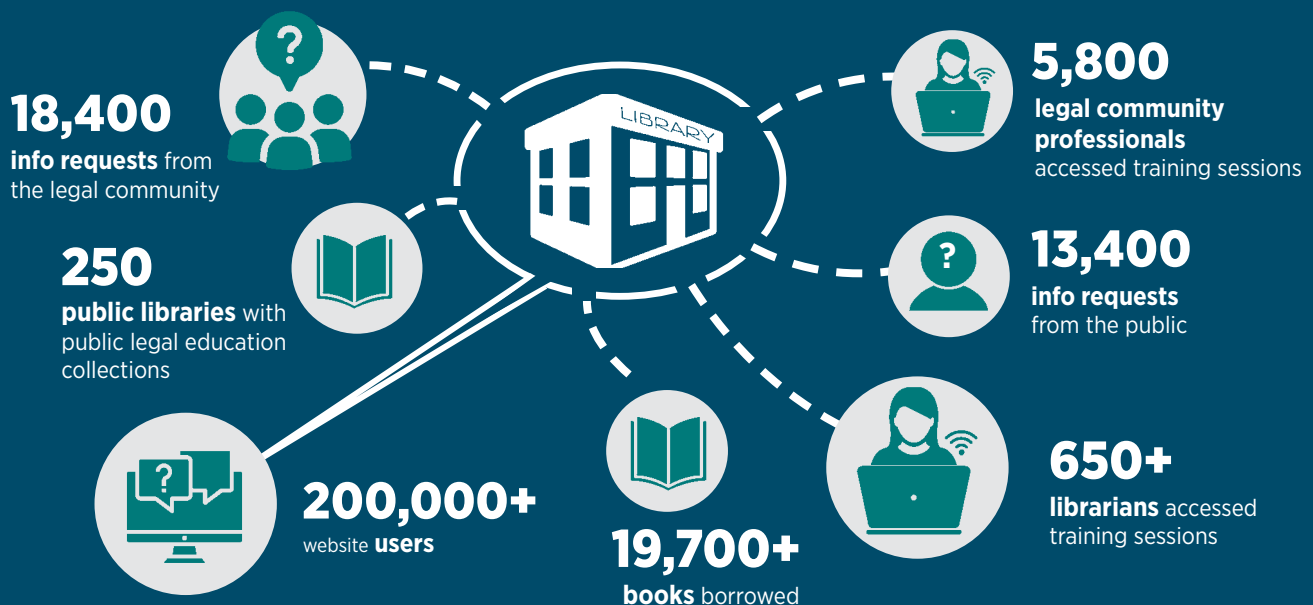
\$200,000

Abbotsford Courthouse Library Implementation Project to set up the new law library with a legal collection, public access computers and for staffing

\$250,000

TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES PROJECTS

\$450,000





Law Reform

\$1,573,333

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC

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

\$150,000

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

Law reform and public legal education focusing 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

\$850,000

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

HEALTH JUSTICE SOCIETY (2020–2023) 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

TOGETHER AGAINST POVERTY SOCIETY (2021–2024) Total grant: \$465,000

The Vacancy Control project employs staff in Vancouver and Victoria to conduct legal research and advocacy focused on municipally-driven vacancy control

\$155,000

UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

A project to develop materials that will be accessible and make a difference in empowering Indigenous Peoples to access and enforce their right to be free from discrimination at the BC Human Rights Tribunal

\$75,000

TOTAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS

\$723,333



Legal Research

\$631,000

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW

Research and scholarship on access to justice issues

\$100,000

A study of some of the impacts of the Civil Resolution Tribunal on access to justice for marginalized communities

\$6,420

BC LAW INSTITUTE

Oversight of the Work of Health Care Assistants in BC: Protecting Vulnerable Workers and Patients/Clients

\$20,000

ECOTRUST CANADA

Partnership research project with the Tsilhqot'in National Government to support the practical application of Indigenous legal principles to land tenure and residential and commercial real estate development

\$75,000

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER SOCIETY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

(2021–2024) Total Grant: \$844,000

Increasing capacity to identify and support individuals with FASD and complex neurodevelopmental needs in British Columbia

\$281,000

MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE BC SOCIETY

Research on the deployment and use of the Vulnerable Worker Open Work Permit program by the Federal government

\$20,000

RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

A survey and report on achievable methods to create greater safety for women fleeing domestic violence when attending rural courthouses

\$20,000

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

Researching the extent and format of agreements and other relationships between local governments and Indigenous governments

\$16,020

A survey and report regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health for people in detention

\$17,560

WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY

Research with Indigenous prisoners aimed at evaluating and recommending culturally appropriate and Indigenous-run healing services for individual and multi-generational trauma, in federal and provincial prisons

\$75,000

TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH

\$631,000



Special Funds

\$517,889

Legal Aid BC / Law Foundation Research Fund

LAW FOUNDATION OF BC

Family Law Advocacy Network Evaluation

\$25,000

LEGAL AID BC

Discovery Research Project for LABC Virtual Family Advice Services

A discovery research project focusing on the needs of self-represented litigants to help inform the design and implementation of a new Virtual Family Services model

\$95,205

Evaluation of the Family Limited Representation Contract

An evaluation project of the Family Limited Representation Contract which provides for unbundled legal services for clients with family law issues

\$60,000

Indigenous Women's Legal Needs Assessment

A research project to identify priorities and recommendations for addressing the criminal legal aid needs of Indigenous women with achievable medium-term and long-term solutions for reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous women in the criminal justice system

\$99,800

TOTAL LEGAL AID BC / LAW FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUND

\$280,005

Special Purpose Law Foundation Funds

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PARTICIPATION FUND

Enhances public participation in public interest law and regulatory proceedings by supporting interventions or the presentation of submissions by individuals and organizations with financial need

\$35,000

SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

Supports organizations with unforeseen or emergency needs identified throughout the year

\$202,884

TOTAL SPECIAL PURPOSE LAW FOUNDATION FUNDS

\$237,884



(L-R) JONATHON BRAUN, BRÍD MCKEOWN, NATALIE DROLET, MARCELA SANTOS, AND RAVNEET RIAR

How the Migrant Workers Centre has been a voice for migrant workers during the pandemic

The Migrant Workers Centre (MWC) was originally established over 35 years ago as the West Coast Domestic Workers Association. The non-profit organization dedicates itself to legal advocacy for migrant workers in British Columbia. The Law Foundation provides ongoing support for the organization's advocacy program. The MWC is a national leader in advancing the rights of migrant workers, providing access to justice through legal education, legal reform, legal advice, and full representation in legal proceedings.

Executive Director and Staff Lawyer Natalie Drolet says there is a huge need for legal services for migrant workers. Migrant workers come from diverse cultural backgrounds and often find themselves in vulnerable and precarious situations, facing serious exploitation and abuse. In addition, lack of labour market mobility is a systemic issue that intensifies marginalization, as well as other issues, including those that disproportionately affect racialized women.



“MWC helps ‘level the playing field’ for migrant workers facing legal issues. Our public legal education is freely accessible online in multiple languages and helps increase awareness of immigration and employment laws and rights.” - Jonathon Braun

MWC supports migrant workers who are contributing to Canada’s economy but often fall through the cracks when faced with work-related or legal obstacles. MWC Staff Lawyer Jonathon Braun explains that in providing legal advice and representation to clients who might otherwise not be able to afford it, “MWC helps ‘level the playing field’ for migrant workers facing legal issues. Our public legal education is freely accessible online in multiple languages and helps increase awareness of immigration and employment laws and rights. Our advocacy work helps ensure that our services are not just reactive, but proactively engage in addressing systemic barriers to justice for our clients. By advocating for the rights of some of the province’s most marginalized workers, MWC works to uplift the rights of all workers in this province.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the need for creative ways for the MWC to provide access to services. Through first-hand experience, MWC knows that migrant workers have disproportionately been affected by the pandemic. Many lost their jobs and have been vulnerable to losing their immigration status due to lack of work.

Many of these workers work in positions such as caregivers and farmworkers, and in locations such as factories and care facilities, putting them at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19. Many of the workers MWC has spoken with reported

a lack of personal protective equipment and inadequate or non-existent social distancing measures in their workplaces. Recognizing that access to technology could be an issue for some potential clients, especially for those without a Canadian phone number, MWC added the popular global messaging app, Whatsapp, to their roster of tools that can be used to reach clients.

The staff at MWC bring together expertise in both employment law and immigration law. It is that specialized legal knowledge, combined with a client-centered approach to service design and delivery, that makes MWC so effective in addressing the unique challenges facing migrant workers in British Columbia.



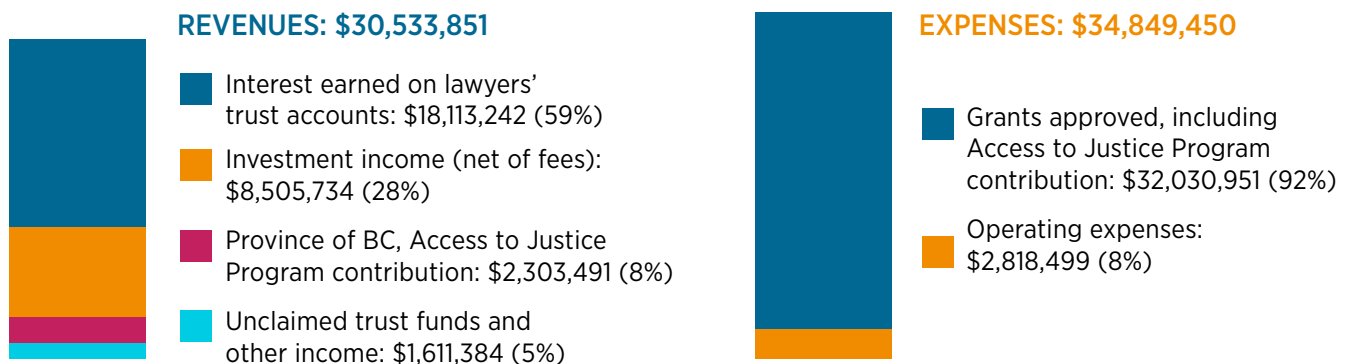
PHOTOS: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Financial Highlights

During 2021, the Law Foundation realized \$30.5 million in revenues: \$18.1 million in interest on lawyers' trust accounts; \$8.5 million in investment income; and \$3.9 million in other income. The Foundation's expenses for 2021 were \$34.8 million, including more than \$32 million of approved grants. The Foundation's administrative expenditures of \$2.8 million increased from \$2.6 million in 2020, primarily due to investment in operational staff, technology, and other critical infrastructure. A net deficit of \$4.3 million was drawn from the Grant Stabilization Fund, which is used to support the continuation of grant funding during periods of reduced revenues. This deficit was smaller than expected; while interest rates remained at historic lows throughout 2021, lawyers' pooled trust account balances climbed to record highs, resulting in higher revenues than we had forecast during the first months of the pandemic. At the end of 2021, the Fund was \$101.3 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 2021 and report 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 2021. 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

Executive; Finance and Administration; Policy and Planning (Chair)

Felicia Ciolfitto

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Justice Tom Crabtree

New Grants; Policy and Planning

Paul Craven**John Greschner**

Executive; Policy and Planning; Special Needs

Kathy Kendall, QC

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

Lindsay LeBlanc

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

Deanna Ludowicz, QC

Executive, Policy and Planning; Special Needs (Chair)

Sean Rowell

Executive, Finance and Administration (Chair); Special Needs

Sarah Runyon

Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Zulie Sachedina

Finance and Administration; New Grants

Zara Suleman

New Grants

W. Laurence Scott, QC

Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Jim Sullivan, QC

Class Actions (Chair); Executive; Finance and Administration

Bill Younie, QC

Finance and Administration; New Grants (Chair); Policy and Planning

Robert Zeunert

Finance and Administration; New Grants

As of December 2021.

Our Staff

Tim Bailey

Program Director

Darcie Bennett

Director of Policy & Programs

Kayla Black

Digital Transformation Specialist

Sue Bradley

Grants Manager

karima budhwani

Program Director

Leah Combs

Program Director, Indigenous Justice

Andrea Gutierrez

Director of Operations

Helen Halbert

Grants Process Specialist

Jo-Anne Kaulius

Associate Director of Finance

Varma Kalidindi

Finance Assistant

Ykram Khaldi

Operations Assistant

DJ Larkin

Director of Legal Service Grants

Tong Lin

Senior Financial Analyst

John Mesa

Interim Director of Finance

Jessi McCallum

Governance & Executive Coordinator

Diane MacFarlane

Program Assistant

Patrick McNary

Director of Finance

Hannah Mondwa

Communications Specialist

Sandra Morgenstern

Program & Operations Coordinator

Josh Paterson

Executive Director

Veenu Saini

Program Director

Lois Shelton

Legal Advocate Training Manager





CASTLEGAR, BC

If you would no longer like to receive our annual report, or would prefer to receive it by email, please visit: lawfoundationbc.org/ar-mailing-list to update your preferences



Suite 1340, 605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3
Tel: 604-688-2337 / Fax: 604-688-4586
info@lawfoundationbc.org

lawfoundationbc.org

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