



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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 people in BC.

MISSION STATEMENT

Through funding, collaborative relationships, and shared learning, we invest in work that empowers people and strengthens communities.

VISION

A future where systems of law and justice support all people to live and thrive in dignity.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

The following values guide the Foundation's work:

- **RECIPROCITY** — We listen and learn with humility, and we cultivate trusting, transparent, and supportive relationships, both within the Foundation, and with those with whom we interact, valuing the time, commitment, expertise, and energy that each contributes.
- **EQUITY** — We acknowledge and respond to the ongoing harms to equity-denied people and groups caused by the legal system and philanthropy. We take an anti-racist, intersectional approach to counter systemic racism and discrimination.
- **DECOLONIZATION** — We acknowledge and respond to the ongoing harms resulting from colonization and the role of the legal system and philanthropy in perpetuating those harms. We decolonize our practices, centering the self-determination of Indigenous peoples and their leadership, knowledge, and expertise in justice transformation through their own laws, and Canadian law.
- **SUSTAINABILITY** — We ensure that our work, practices, finances, and the programs we support are sustainable over time, and consistent with good environmental stewardship.
- **TRANSFORMATION** — We encourage creative solutions to problems, prioritizing work informed by, and building with, people and communities facing systemic inequity.



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to increase access to justice / 8



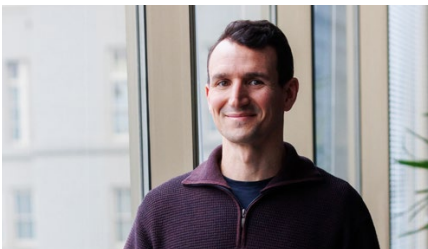
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Message from the Chair



often spread thin. The impact these organizations achieve with the resources available is a testament to the strength, power, and dedication of the people on the frontlines. Getting to know those organizations in my capacity as Governor underscored the magnitude of the Board's responsibility for ensuring that the Foundation allocates its resources in an equitable and principled way that maximizes the positive benefit for communities now and into the future.

Resource allocation decisions became more difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic with the resulting cuts to interest rates. I am grateful for the sound fiscal planning of past Boards, which allowed the Foundation to continue to fund ongoing programs. I am also proud of the quick and creative actions the Foundation took to support organizations transitioning to remote work while continuing to serve clients, but the crisis only highlighted the level of need in the community and the importance of ensuring that service providers have the resources to sustain themselves in this challenging work. I was glad the Foundation could approve some funding increases in my final year as Chair when interest rates started to rebound and as exceptional rates of inflation began to impact organizations, their staff, and the people they serve.

When I was asked to join the Foundation's Board of Governors, I admittedly didn't know very much about the Law Foundation and needed to educate myself. I was immediately drawn to the opportunity to support organizations across the lands colonially known as British Columbia focused on issues I care deeply about, but that I do not often get a chance to connect with in my own solicitor and litigation practice. What I did not know when I agreed to serve as a Governor was that this would be one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.

It was an honour to serve as a Governor for six years, two of them as Foundation Chair, even when there were challenges. The needs in this province are always greater than the dollars available. That means the organizations the Foundation funds are

There were many highlights during my time as a Governor. One of the first was the change to the *Class Proceedings Act*, which now entitles the Foundation to receive at least 50% of all *cy-près* awards resulting from class actions in British Columbia unless doing so is impractical or impossible or unless the claim concerns damage or loss suffered by Indigenous people. This innovative legislative change will have a real positive impact on people and communities. The Foundation has the relationships, experience, and infrastructure in place to efficiently administer funds to a large number of organizations, working in a wide range of areas within the access to justice field.

I also saw the Foundation prioritize funding for programs and projects designed by Indigenous people, for the benefit of Indigenous people. I am



proud of the Foundation boosting its contribution to support the construction of a dedicated building for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws at the University of Victoria from \$5 million to \$11 million. Securing funding for large capital projects is challenging. Yet, fellow Governors recognized the ground-breaking potential of this project and mobilized resources for this one-of-a-kind development.

The Foundation has also re-examined the way it works with grant seekers and grantees. While we steward funds in the public interest, we are not and cannot be experts in the needs of every community and organization to which we make grants. Recognizing that important fact has resulted in policies that offer more autonomy to grantees. It also helped drive the biggest highlight during my time on the Board: a transformative new strategic plan, with new mission, values and vision statements.

In many ways, the strategic plan captures the work the Foundation has already been doing over the last several years. It is also a starting point for a more relational, flexible, and reciprocal way of working in community to help us deliver on the Foundation's statutory mandate.

The strategic plan is guided by community as well. Ongoing grantees providing legal aid services, law libraries, and grantees engaged in legal research,

education and law reform were surveyed to check alignment and gather feedback that would help the Foundation finalize the focus areas for the plan. The surveys were supplemented with focus groups and consultations with specific communities and sectors and organizations within the Bar. The feedback and input from the community helped guide us in developing new vision, mission, and values statements that reflect the Foundation's evolving way of working as well as its intentions and aspirations.

The focus areas in the strategic plan are “new” in that they are being publicly expressed in a consolidated way for the first time. But they also reflect the ongoing work the Foundation has engaged in for the last three years. By the middle of 2022, the Foundation had a good sense of the high-level priorities for the next strategic plan and continued to build on work already underway to advance the objectives of the emerging plan alongside the development of the final document.

Some of the highlights of that work include:

- Making major investments in Indigenous justice, including the expanded capital grant to support the construction of the National Centre for Indigenous Laws, and expanded ongoing support for the Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria.

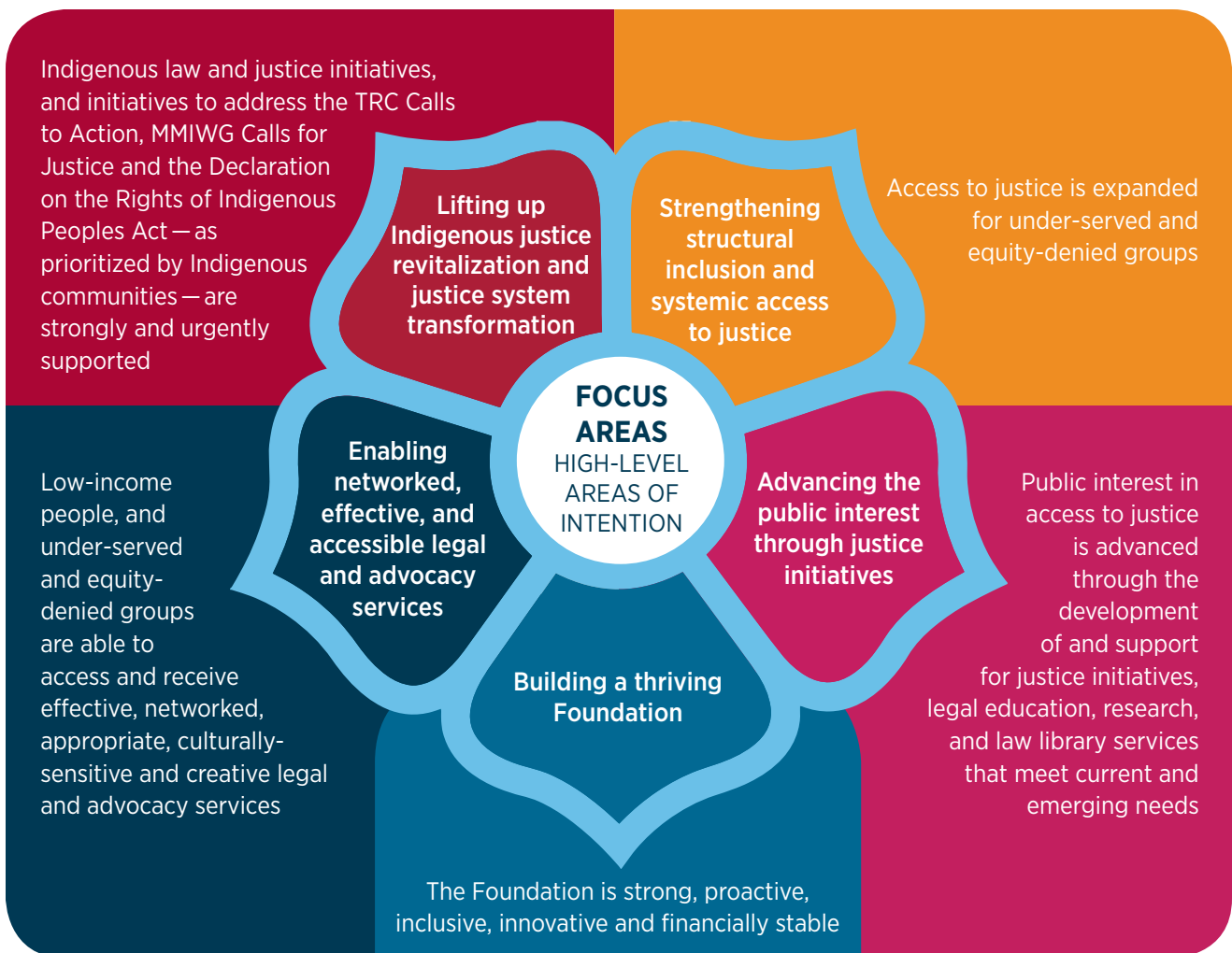


NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS LAWS, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA – RENDERING: TEEPLE ARCHITECTS

- Making the largest program grant in the Foundation’s history – \$11.5 million over three years – to support the transformative work of the BC First Nations Justice Council, responsible for carrying out the First Nations Justice Strategy, an ambitious roadmap to both reform the justice system to make it safer and more responsive to Indigenous peoples, and to restore First Nations justice systems, legal traditions and structures.
- Becoming a member of The Circle on Philanthropy, which transforms philanthropy and contributes to positive change between philanthropy and Indigenous communities by creating spaces of learning, innovation, relationship-building, co-creation, and activation. The Foundation has integrated The Circle’s Partners in Reciprocity educational

program into its ongoing staff professional development initiatives.

- Launching a call for Expressions of Interest in joining the Foundation’s newly envisioned Indigenous Advisory Circle. The Indigenous Advisory Circle will help guide the Foundation in supporting work prioritized by Indigenous communities on Indigenous justice revitalization and justice system transformation.
- Investing over \$9 million to develop community infrastructure and support work that advances racial justice and combats systemic racism and discrimination in the legal system and beyond, as part of the Foundation’s first Racial Justice Grants Call investment.



- Improving access to mental wellness support for frontline, direct legal service providers at grantee organizations.
- Streamlining grant making processes by moving to multi-year grant applications for ongoing programs and simplifying administration to increase flexibility for grantees.

Lastly, I want to extend my gratitude to those that make the Foundation such a rewarding experience.

To the executive team and staff, I thank you for your dedication to the work the Foundation undertakes. It is apparent from the onset that you each deeply care about creating an environment for sharing, reflection and action and I thank you for sharing that space with me. To my fellow governors, I valued our time together and what we were able to achieve in moving access to justice forward. Your volunteered time made a significant difference to many throughout the province.

Three inspirational Governors departed with me at the end of 2022:

- **Judge Pat Bond:** While maintaining a full judicial docket, Judge Bond was generous with her time and wisdom. The Foundation was and is forever enriched due to her contributions. Judge Bond provided

guidance and insight that helped shape the Foundation’s new strategic plan. A not-so-known fact about Judge Bond — in six years served, a typo was not missed in our minutes even if it was on page 1487.

- **Deanna Ludowicz, KC:** While serving on the Board, Deanna maintained a law practice in Grand Forks which allowed her to provide valuable insights into the nuances of providing legal services in smaller communities. Deanna is a true champion of ensuring small and remote communities have access to necessary legal resources. I recall all the times Deanna struggled through days of weather-related flight delays to attend meetings and offer her time to the Foundation.

- **W. Laurence Scott, KC:** If you have met Laurence, you know that he approaches his work with understated effectiveness. Laurence has an invaluable way of listening and offering meaningful insight and advice. As a Family Law Arbitrator, Mediator and Parenting Coordinator, I valued Laurence’s knowledge in family law and child protection as we reviewed the resources being provided in those areas.

— Lindsay R. LeBlanc, Chair, 2021–2022 (April 2023)

The Foundation is grateful to financial institutions that provide competitive rates of return on lawyers’ pooled trust accounts. We thank members of the legal profession who choose financial institutions that provide competitive rates as this ensures that the Foundation can continue to provide funding that strengthens communities through access to justice. We acknowledge our competitive interest rate agreements with:

- TD Canada Trust
- RBC Royal Bank
- BMO Bank of Montreal
- Scotiabank
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- First West Credit Union
- Vancity
- Coast Capital Savings
- HSBC Bank Canada
- Coastal Community Credit Union
- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China



Lois Shelton never stopped learning or working to support advocates.

PHOTO: SARAH RACE

Building community capacity to increase access to justice

Lois Shelton reflects on a career supporting frontline advocates across BC

In October 2022, the Foundation hosted the first in-person Provincial Advocates Training Conference (the “Conference”) since the onset of the pandemic, in partnership with Legal Aid BC. This annual conference brings together legal advocates, lawyers, and others working on the frontlines of access to justice to learn and connect. The 2022 conference was significant not only because it brought people together to reconnect in-person and online, but also because the Foundation’s Legal Advocate Training Manager, Lois Shelton, announced her retirement.

Fifteen years ago, Lois joined the Foundation to support a growing network of community-based advocacy programs funded by the Foundation. Her work supporting frontline legal advocacy services goes back much further. After law school, Lois took a position with West Coast Domestic Workers Association (now Migrant Workers Centre) as its first Foundation-funded staff lawyer. “That’s how I became familiar with the Foundation and interested in what it does,” says Lois. She later joined the team at what is now Legal Aid BC as a fieldworker. In this role, she began working on the Conference and enjoyed the opportunity it provided to support people on the frontlines.

Since the inaugural Conference in 2000, Lois has collaborated with Legal Aid BC, the Foundation, PovNet and other key partners to create a shared vision for the Conference and build a system to deliver on that vision. “I’ve worked on the Conference for 22 years and that is still the darling of my work. I will not miss spending

“Watching them come to the work, take the training, and then develop their skills over the years to become experienced advocates who are training and supporting other new advocates, it is really satisfying. I appreciate the commitment that advocates have to the work they do.”

so much of each summer pinning down the agenda,” she says, “But I will miss gathering every fall with all these kind and engaging people who have similar values to me and do work I respect.”

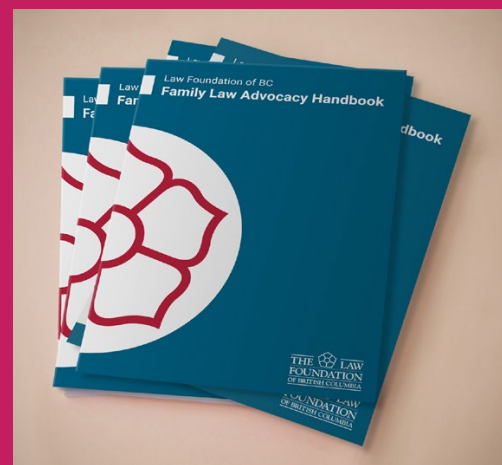
In 2008, Lois joined the Foundation where, in addition to the Conference, she took on the challenge of developing a new training initiative for Foundation-funded community-based advocates. Since the legal aid service reductions in 2002, the Foundation had steadily taken on an increased role in funding for advocacy programs at community-based agencies. With this training initiative, the Foundation took on the role of providing training on important advocacy skills, and legal topics such as income security and housing. In developing the course, Lois collaborated with advocates, content experts, and other advisors to develop a one-of-a-kind program. “I was familiar with the legal issues,” Lois explains. “But I had not done curriculum development. The entire process of assessing the knowledge and skills that advocates need, and then working back to develop the curriculum was new for me.”

The network of advocates grew quickly, as did the demand for advocacy services across diverse areas of law. In response to that demand, the Foundation piloted funding for some family law advocacy programs, which began providing services in 2015. With that pilot project, Lois was once again called upon to develop the training that would prepare family law advocates for success. She launched a course for family law advocates in 2019, explaining that “once you have the model, you can adapt it to new areas of law.”

Lois never stopped learning or working to support advocates: “With COVID-19, I had to learn Zoom and other technology to share information and keep people connected. It was bumpy at times, but now we have a system that allows us to provide training remotely.” These new approaches are part of the Foundation’s work to deepen its relationships with advocates and ensure that training is available to new advocates when they need it.

For Lois, one of the most meaningful aspects of her work has been witnessing the development of advocates over time. “Watching them come to the work, take the training, and then develop their skills over the years to become experienced advocates who are training and supporting other new advocates, it is really satisfying. I appreciate the commitment that advocates have to the work they do.”

The Foundation is working hard to carry on this legacy and to evolve advocate training to continue meeting all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



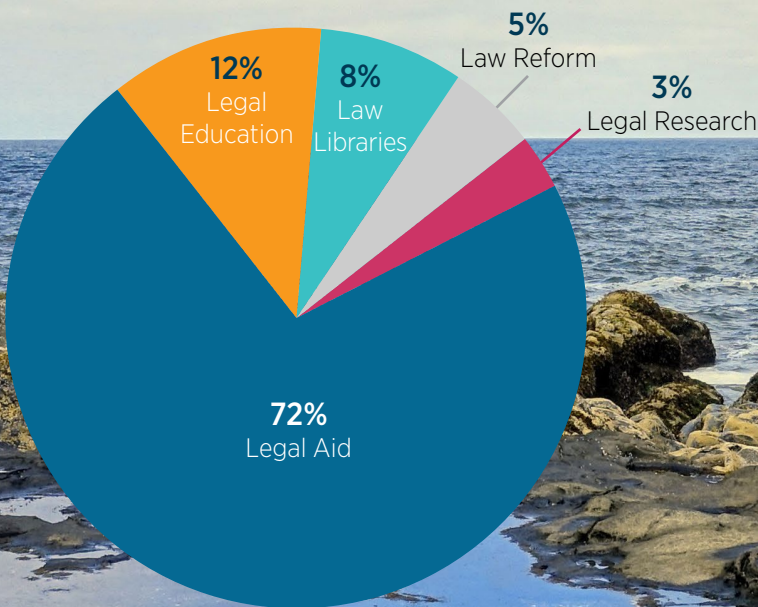


Programs and Projects Funded in 2022

In 2022, the Law Foundation provided more than \$34 million across more than 200 grants to advance access to justice in communities around BC.

This annual report provides a snapshot of work done in 2022 with Law Foundation funding. The listings include grants approved for 2022 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 2022 which include total amounts for multi-year ongoing grants, please visit: lawfoundationbc.org/our-work/adjudications

WHAT WE FUND

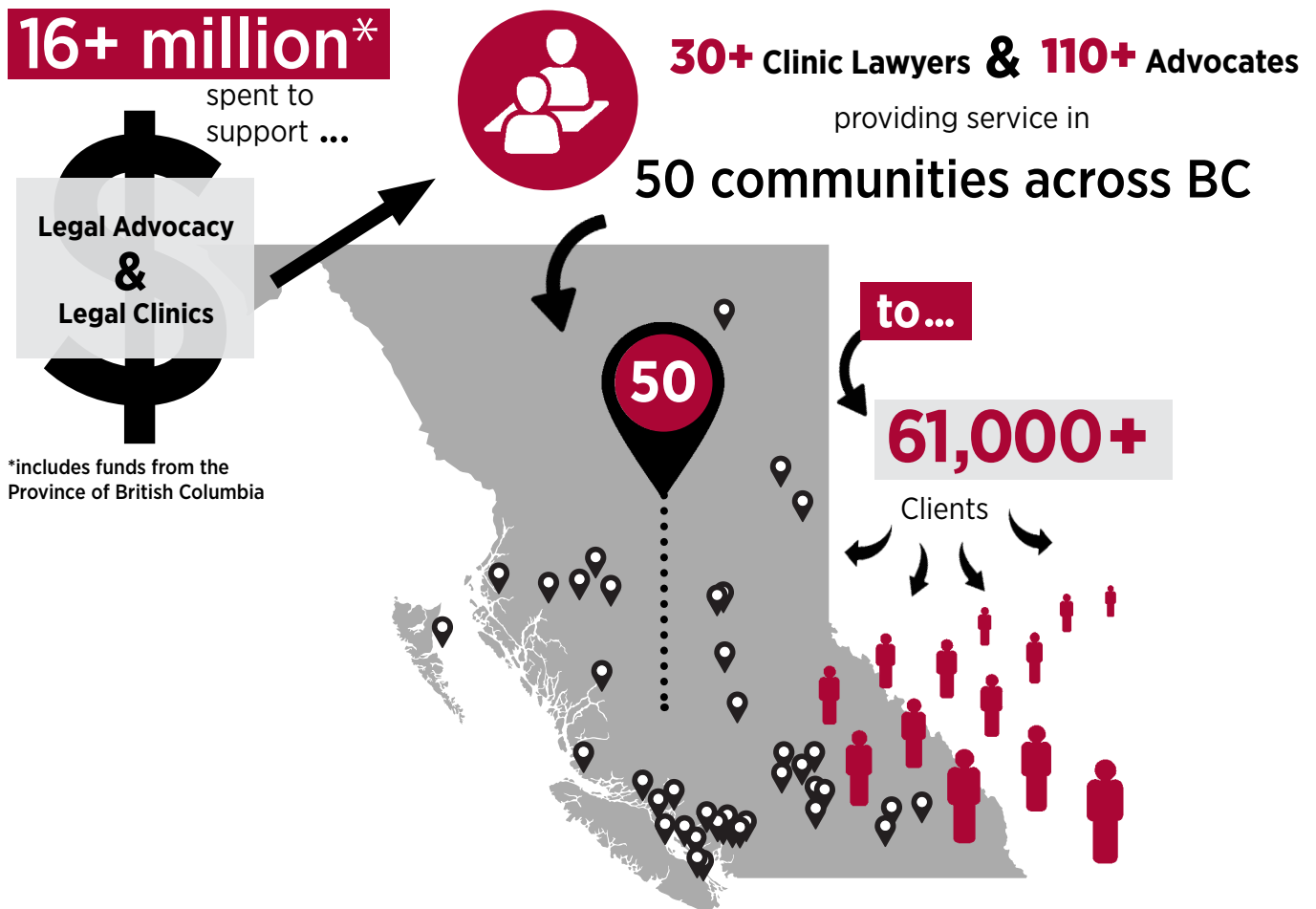


Legal Aid



\$24,825,667

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.

Archway Community Services <i>Fraser Valley</i>	\$110,000
Battered Women’s Support Services <i>Lower Mainland</i>	\$110,000
Chilliwack Community Services	\$110,000
Chimo Community Services Society <i>Richmond</i>	\$110,000
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC <i>East Kootenays</i>	\$110,000
Contact Women’s Group Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$110,000
Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kamloops <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</i>	\$110,000
Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kelowna <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</i>	\$110,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society	\$55,000
Fort St. John Women’s Resource Society	\$110,000
M.O.S.A.I.C. <i>Lower Mainland</i>	\$110,000
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services	\$110,000
Nelson CARES Society	\$110,000

North Shore Community Resources Society	\$110,000
Opportunities Career Services Society <i>Campbell River area</i>	\$110,000
Penticton and Area Access Society	\$110,000
Port Alberni Friendship Center	\$110,000
Prince George Native Friendship Centre	\$110,000
Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$110,000
SHARE Family and Community Services Society <i>Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas</i>	\$110,000
Sources Community Law Clinic <i>Hosted at Sources Community Resources Society Surrey</i>	\$220,000
Terrace and District Community Services Society	\$110,000
The Law Centre, University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$110,000
Wachiyay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$110,000
TOTAL FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY	\$2,695,000



VANCOUVER, PHOTO: SUZANNE RUSHTON/UNSPASH



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>	\$110,000	Opportunities Career Services Society <i>Campbell River area</i>	\$110,000
Archway Community Services <i>Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope areas</i>	\$220,000	Penticton and Area Access Society	\$110,000
Burnaby Community Services Society	\$110,000	Port Alberni Friendship Center	\$110,000
Chimo Community Services Society <i>Richmond</i>	\$110,000	Powell River Community Services Association	\$110,000
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC <i>East Kootenays</i>	\$120,000	Prince George Community Legal Clinic <i>Hosted at Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society</i>	\$110,000
Contact Women's Group Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$110,000	Prince Rupert Unemployed Centre Society	\$110,000
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society <i>Duncan</i>	\$110,000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$110,000
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society <i>Smithers area</i>	\$110,000	Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Society <i>Port Hardy area</i>	\$110,000
Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kamloops <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</i>	\$110,000	Sea to Sky Community Services <i>Squamish</i>	\$110,000
Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kelowna <i>Hosted at Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</i>	\$110,000	SHARE Family and Community Services Society <i>Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas</i>	\$110,000
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver <i>New Westminster</i>	\$110,000	Shuswap Family Resource & Referral Society <i>Salmon Arm area</i>	\$110,000
First United Church Community Ministry Society <i>Vancouver's Downtown Eastside</i>	\$260,250	Social Health & Economic Development Society of Bella Coola	\$110,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society	\$55,000	Sources Community Law Clinic <i>Hosted at Sources Community Resources Society Surrey</i>	\$110,000
Fort St. John Women's Resource Society	\$110,000	South Peace Community Resources Society <i>Dawson Creek area</i>	\$110,000
Haida Gwaii Legal Project Society	\$116,000	Sunshine Coast Resource Centre Society	\$110,000
Kitimat Community Development Centre	\$110,000	Terrace and District Community Services Society	\$110,000
Langley Community Services Society	\$110,000	Together Against Poverty Society <i>Victoria area</i>	\$220,000
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services	\$110,000	Together Against Poverty Society <i>Nanaimo</i>	\$125,000
Nelson CARES Society	\$115,000	Trail FAIR Society	\$110,000
Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society	\$110,000	Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society <i>Hazleton area</i>	\$110,000
North Shore Community Resources Society	\$110,000	Wachiay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$110,000
Okanagan Advocacy and Resource Society <i>Vernon area</i>	\$110,000	TOTAL POVERTY LAW ADVOCACY	\$5,081,250



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	\$160,000
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ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY

Advocacy services for women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside on poverty, family, and criminal law issues	\$110,000
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DISABILITY LAW CLINIC

<i>Hosted at Disability Alliance BC Society</i>	
A specialized advocacy, legal education, and referral program for people with disabilities throughout BC	\$365,000
Additional staff lawyer support project	\$170,000

ELDER LAW CLINIC

<i>Hosted at Seniors First BC Society</i>	\$110,000
A legal information and advocacy program for older adults in BC	

HOUSING LAW CLINIC

<i>Hosted at Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre Society</i>	
A legal information and advocacy service for tenants on residential tenancy issues, with an information line available throughout BC	\$325,000

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC

<i>Hosted at Immigrant Services Society of BC</i>	
Advocacy services for migrants, immigrants, and refugees	\$110,000
Community legal worker pilot project	\$110,000

INDIGENOUS COURT

COORDINATOR PROJECTS

<i>Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society (Merritt)</i>	\$55,000
<i>Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society (Kamloops)</i>	\$55,000
<i>Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society (Prince George)</i>	\$25,000
<i>Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society (Hazelton)</i>	\$63,250
<i>Yeqox Nilin Justice Society (Williams Lake)</i>	\$25,000

KETTLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

A mental health advocacy program providing legal information and assistance on residential tenancy, child protection and income assistance matters in the Lower Mainland	\$330,000
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M.O.S.A.I.C.

A legal advocacy and information program for low-income immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland	\$110,000
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MPA – MOTIVATION, POWER & ACHIEVEMENT SOCIETY

Courtworkers to assist people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system in Vancouver, Surrey, and Port Coquitlam	\$330,000
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WATARI RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

A system negotiator at Vancouver's Downtown Community Court to support accused persons who are chronically mentally ill	\$110,000
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TOTAL SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY	\$2,563,250
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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.

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 \$250,000

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 \$270,000

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 \$435,000

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 \$480,000

RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Virtual Legal Clinic Providing services to self-identified women living outside the Lower Mainland and a province-wide triage and navigation service \$225,000

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

TOTAL STUDENT CLINICS	\$2,070,000
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RACIAL JUSTICE GRANTS

PLANNING JAN. 2023



Supporting racial justice in the legal system

The Foundation makes a significant investment to advance racial justice

Systemic racism and racial injustice impact racialized people and communities in BC in many different ways. Racialized people, including Indigenous Peoples, Black people and people of colour, experience systemic racism that affects many facets of their lives, and that is a part of many of the systems through which our communities are governed and receive services. For Indigenous and Black communities, racial injustice manifests — among other ways — as overrepresentation in the criminal justice system and in child removals. Language and cultural barriers for racialized newcomer communities make navigating the law and legal processes difficult.

The inequities and biases that underpin systemic racism exist in the Canadian legal system too, and funding is required to address those inequities. The Foundation launched the Racial Justice Grants Call as part of its commitment to support the eradication of racial injustice in the legal system. Over the last two years, the Foundation has reviewed its grant making processes to address potential barriers that grant seekers face in their work to advance racial justice and combat systemic racism and discrimination. The Foundation has funded 28 projects in BC that seek to advance racial justice by addressing systemic racism in the justice system, in government processes, and in legal institutions.

The Foundation has funded 28 projects in BC that seek to advance racial justice by addressing systemic racism in the justice system, in government processes, and in legal institutions.

What kind of work advances racial justice?

Because barriers look different for each racialized community, grantees funded through the Racial Justice Grants Call do a diverse range of work. Some grantees strengthen the rights of people who tend to hold limited power in relation to legal systems and government institutions, including migrants, incarcerated people, sex workers, and unhoused people. Some offer multilingual and culturally affirming services to meet the specific legal needs of different racialized communities. Others are creating mentorship opportunities for Black law students and undertaking research and data collection to provide a more robust understanding of racial inequities in institutional processes and decision-making.

Grantees include charities, non-profits, and grassroots organizations. “Many funders are not able to fund community-based organizations because they lack formal charitable status. The Law Foundation has always had the ability to fund non-profit organizations whether they have charitable status or not, and we tried to ensure that smaller grassroots organizations were supported and encouraged throughout the process. Racial justice movements are led by racialized people and are not often set up via charities,” says Vi Nguyen, Director of Grants and Programs. “It’s exciting...we’ve been wanting to fund something like this for a while: multi-year, multi-faceted projects, based on lived experience of the people impacted by racism,” says Veenu Saini, Associate Director of Advocacy.

A more equitable process for more equitable outcomes

The Foundation ensured the process reflected the values and intended outcomes of the grants call by finding ways to make the application process fairer and more equitable. For example, grant seekers could choose between writing their application or delivering it orally in a meeting with the Racial Justice Grants Call team. Most chose the option of meeting with the team to explain their proposal and respond to questions directly, which provided a more meaningful way to build relationships and allowed the Foundation to better understand the work of the grant seekers. An external advisory committee made up of racialized members of the Bar and community members with experience in the justice system was formed to support the grant review and decision-making processes. All this input was synthesized by staff for consideration by the Foundation’s Board of Governors.

Future of the Racial Justice Grants Call

Moving the dial on racial justice will take more than one grant cycle, Nguyen says. The Foundation is reflecting on what it has learned from this inaugural grants call, which includes feedback from community advisors and grantees, and expects to offer this grant call again in the near future.

“This is long-term work. It may take decades to see the changes and results. We’re aware of the challenges these grantees might face, including the fact that this work is done by people who are lived experience experts, so burnout is a factor as well,” says Helen Halbert, Grants Process Specialist.

“Our new strategic plan commits us to taking an anti-racist approach to our work as a funder,” adds Josh Paterson, Executive Director. “This means recognizing the ways in which systemic racism and white supremacy culture show up in the legal system and philanthropy, and working to counter that in our practices and in our decisions.” The Foundation is committed to continued partnership with organizations doing this important racial justice work.



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. These clinics are integrated with existing Law Foundation-funded programs to offer 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</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 Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society</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	\$30,000
TOTAL PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$2,030,000

Law Foundation-Funded Legal Clinics

CATHERINE WHITE HOLMAN LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Catherine White Holman Wellness Society</i> The only free clinic in BC run by and for trans people, focusing on the trans community and its legal needs including ID change, summary legal advice, and some full legal representation services	\$220,000
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	\$770,000
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
MIGRANT WORKERS LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Migrant Workers Centre BC Society</i> Provides legal representation for low-wage temporary foreign workers	\$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	\$220,000
PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES – HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM <i>Hosted at West Coast Prison Justice Society</i> Provides legal assistance to prisoners on human rights and health care issues	\$220,000
TOTAL LAW FOUNDATION-FUNDED LEGAL CLINICS	\$1,870,000



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

A full spectrum of pro bono legal services to qualifying individuals and non-profits, ranging from providing legal information and referrals to full legal representation services before tribunals and the BC courts **\$610,500**

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: SDI PRODUCTIONS



Public Interest Law

BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

Test case litigation, legal education, and law reform to protect the civil liberties and human rights of people in BC

\$380,000

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

\$1,160,000

ECOJUSTICE CANADA SOCIETY

Test case litigation on public interest environmental law issues

\$218,500

PIVOT LEGAL SOCIETY

Support for Pivot's community advocacy 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

\$2,798,500



PHOTO: HIRAMAN



Legal Aid Projects

AMICI CURIAE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Workshops that help the public complete the legal forms necessary to present a matter to court or a tribunal \$150,000

BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL (2021–2024) Total Grant: \$1,245,000

Support for the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, including infrastructure, the Indigenous Justice Centres, and articling opportunities for Indigenous law students \$510,000

BC COLLABORATIVE ROSTER SOCIETY (2022–2024) Total grant: \$30,000

A program offering pro bono collaborative law assistance in the area of family law \$15,000

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

LILLOOET FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY

Support to develop plans for a proposed Indigenous court in Lillooet \$3,500

NATIVE COURTWORKER & COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BC (2022–2024) Total grant: \$440,000

Out-of-court community support services for people involved with the criminal justice system in New Westminster and Duncan \$220,000

POVNET SOCIETY (2022–2024) Total grant: \$75,000

Additional staffing support for Povnet, an online resource and networking tool for anti-poverty advocates and community workers \$57,500

RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

A pilot to establish a centralized legal supervision program for a group of family law advocacy programs \$162,000

The Virtual Legal Advocate which is part of the Virtual Legal Clinic and supports a network of advocates and community organizations \$82,500

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 (On behalf of BC Bad Date Working Group) (2021–2024)

Total grant: \$750,000 Provincial bad date reporting system for sex workers in BC \$250,000

TOTAL LEGAL AID PROJECTS

\$1,747,167



Revitalizing Indigenous laws

SMUDGE, NUU-CHAH-NULTH TERRITORY, PHOTO: MELODY CHARLIE

Indigenous Law Research Unit at UVic takes a relationship-first approach to working with Indigenous nations to revitalize their laws

In 2019, the Government of British Columbia passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (“*Declaration Act*”). Strengthening Indigenous legal orders is essential to fulfilling the *Declaration Act*. That’s why the Foundation granted \$1.2 million in operational funding to the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU). This grant will be paid out over three years, allowing ILRU to build strong relationships with the Indigenous communities they work with to revitalize their legal orders.

Indigenous legal orders: what are they?

In the new Professional Legal Training Course practice materials, prepared by ILRU, Indigenous laws are described as the system of “reasoned principles and processes that Indigenous societies used and still use to govern themselves.” Indigenous societies have always had legal orders and systems and each Indigenous society has its own set of legal orders. For example, Haisla law, Secwépemc law, and WSÁNEĆ law deal with matters differently. While these legal orders never stopped evolving alongside the Canadian legal system, they have existed for many generations in the context of a colonial legal system that sought to extinguish Indigenous legal orders.

“Indigenous law hasn’t been left intact as a result of recent history,” says Val Napoleon, the founding director of ILRU, referring to how colonization stripped Indigenous peoples of their rights to practice their law and customs. She is a research chair holding the title of Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Law.

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Reinvigorating Indigenous laws

ILRU has helped Indigenous communities revitalize governance and decision-making protocols related to the rights and welfare of children, governance structures and citizenship, and collaborative agreements for managing shared resources like water.

Together, ILRU and the communities it works with identify key areas of governance and the substantive and procedural values that the community wants to uphold through the law. Then, they identify decision-makers and map out people’s obligations to each other and to a legal tradition. They also consider possible consequences when a law is breached. This is all part of the process to articulate, re-state, and reform Indigenous laws so that they can be applied to today’s challenges and realities.



VAL NAPOLEON

PHOTO: DEAN KALYAN

Focusing on relationships with Indigenous communities

Napoleon emphasizes that there's no right way to set about understanding, articulating, and reinvigorating Indigenous laws. It's a journey that can take years. ILRU devotes almost as much time to laying the groundwork of strong relationships as it does to legal research. That relationship-building work often includes hosting conversations that get people thinking about what law means to them and understanding the history of Indigenous law.

Indigenous legal orders and legal traditions do not map directly onto Canadian legal systems, which are rooted in the centralized authority of a state government and rely on written statutes and court precedents.

In contrast, Indigenous laws are often recorded and passed down through stories, songs, dances, art, and ceremonies. This might also happen in texts and practices that are not always recognized as legal resources in Canadian law. Indigenous law also tends to focus on relationships and what people owe to each other as family — in societies where definitions of the family might extend to the entire community. “What we're creating space for is Indigenous peoples to articulate the law of their own non-state, decentralized societies. From this place of strength, Indigenous law can speak to Canadian law and negotiate its terms,” explains Napoleon.

Indigenous laws are often recorded and passed down through stories, songs, dances, art and ceremonies. This might also happen in texts and practices that are not always recognized as legal resources in Canadian law.

Operational funding makes ILRU's work possible

ILRU focuses on building relationships with people to ensure successful projects. While legal scholars draft project outputs, participants are invited to revise their contributions before the research is finalized. This practice is meant to restore people's power and agency over their words. The emphasis on building relationships is why the Foundation felt it was crucial to offer operational, multi-year funding.

“Funding individual projects on a time-limited basis results in a precarious situation that makes this type of long-term work really difficult,” says Leah Combs, Program Director for Indigenous Justice at the Foundation. “Multi-year operating funding will help ILRU to invest in building ongoing relationships with the communities that they engage with.”

With stable funding in place, ILRU continues to work towards a future where, as Napoleon has written, a resurgence of Indigenous law “will make a symmetrical relationship possible with Canadian law — leaving behind the colonial asymmetry which denied and disregarded Indigenous legal traditions.”

Learn more about Indigenous Law Research Unit's on its website: ilru.ca



“TEACHER” BY VAL NAPOLEON
USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE ARTIST
PHOTO: IAN CRAWFORD



Legal Education

\$4,183,709

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools

<p>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</p>	\$86,250
<p>GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS \$17,000 each for graduate legal studies by BC lawyers and graduates of BC law schools:</p> <p>Bradley Por — Research on Indigenous blockades as a source of law</p> <p>Caity Goerke — Research focused on Indigenous child welfare issues, specifically, access to kinship care placements for Indigenous families</p> <p>Eva Linde — Research on climate litigation and the legislative powers of courts</p> <p>Jessica Thompson — Research exploring and offering a trans-systemic definition of somatic legal theory; engaging agential realism into legal theory</p> <p>Karlan Modeste — Analysis of how health policies in controlled environments, including correctional and long-term care facilities, disparately impact the health of African-Canadians</p> <p>Summer Okibe — Research on Indigenous spirituality, religious freedom, and Aboriginal Title and how to reconcile conflicting rights</p> <p>Temitayo Olarewaju — Research investigating the potential of international criminal law to abate land grabs of marginalized people</p>	\$119,000
<p>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</p>	\$396,459
<p>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</p>	\$240,000
<p>PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</p> <p>Indigenous Legal Studies Academic Leadership Certificate Coaching and peer mentorship for Indigenous students entering law school</p> <p>Innocence Project Supervised law students assist criminal lawyers to review wrongful conviction claims</p> <p>Law Students' Legal Advice Program For-credit program at the student-run legal clinic</p>	\$10,000 \$55,000 \$30,000
<p>POVNET SOCIETY An online resource and networking tool for anti-poverty advocates, community workers and the general public</p>	\$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:	\$1,293,500
<p>BC Civil Liberties Association</p> <p>BC Law Institute</p> <p>Child and Youth Legal Centre, Society for Children and Youth BC (<i>Wayne Robertson, KC, Access to Justice Fund</i>)</p> <p>Community Legal Assistance Society (<i>David Mossop, KC, Public Interest Articling Fellowship</i>)</p> <p>Community Legal Clinic, Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law</p> <p>Disability Law Clinic, Disability Alliance BC Society</p> <p>Ecojustice Canada Society</p> <p>Elder Law Clinic, Seniors First BC Society</p> <p>Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic Kamloops, Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society</p> <p>Environmental Law Centre Clinic, University of Victoria Faculty of Law</p> <p>Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic, Immigrant Services Society of BC</p> <p>Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia</p> <p>Law Centre, University of Victoria Faculty of Law</p> <p>Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP), Greater Vancouver Law Students' Legal Advice Society</p> <p>Migrant Workers Legal Clinic, Migrant Workers Centre BC Society</p> <p>Prisoners' Legal Services – Human Rights Program, West Coast Prison Justice Society</p> <p>Rise Women's Legal Centre</p> <p>Sources Community Law Clinic, Sources Community Resources Society</p> <p>West Coast Environmental Law Association</p> <p>West Coast Environmental Law Association</p> <p>West Coast LEAF Association</p>	
PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS Awards to 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
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS	\$2,735,209

In addition to the amounts listed above, the Law Foundation provided \$2,070,000 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 15](#).



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

\$11,500

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

Programming to educate, orient and support refugee claimants as they navigate the Canadian refugee hearing process

\$41,500

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, including the Dial-a-Law program, which provides starting point information on the law in BC in 190+ topic areas

\$520,000

VANCOUVER SUMMER MENTORSHIP SOCIETY

Summer mentorship program for historically disadvantaged high school students interested in studying law

\$10,000

TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

\$1,063,000

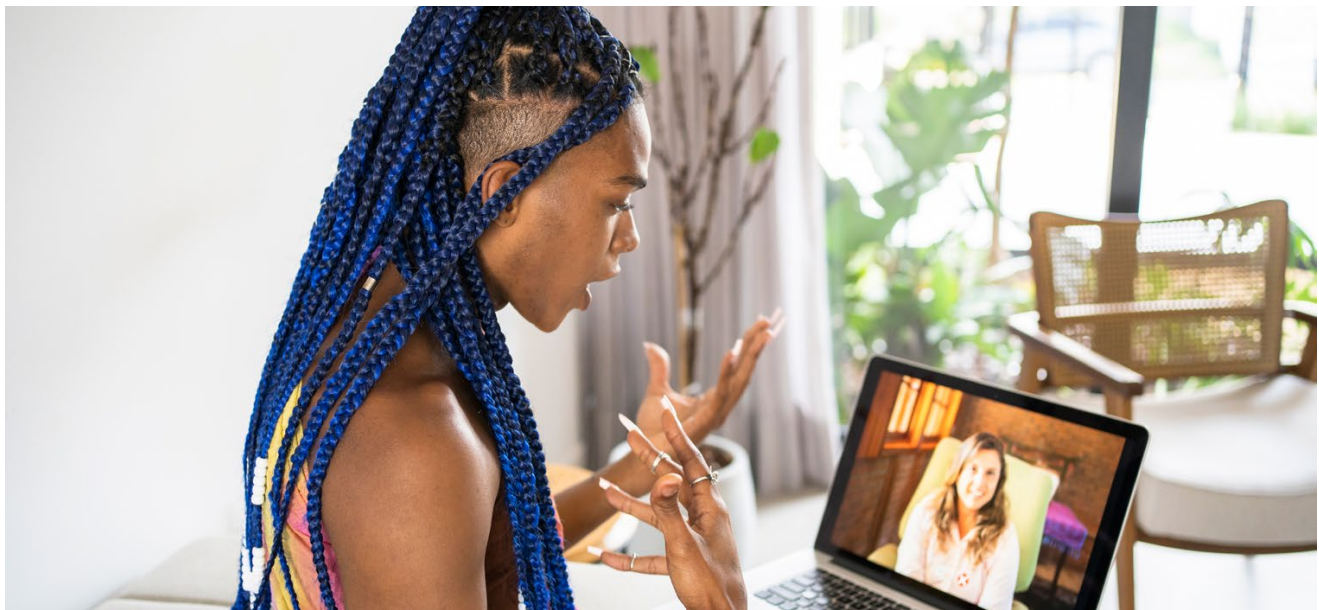


PHOTO: RENATA ANGERAMI



Legal Education Projects

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools Projects

BC HEAR THE CHILD SOCIETY (<i>Wayne Robertson, KC, Access to Justice Fund</i>)	
A training program on non-evaluative interviewing and report writing to integrate the child's voice into family justice decision-making	\$15,000
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW	
Entrance Scholarship Fund (2019–2024) Total grant: \$150,000	\$30,000
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS PROJECTS	\$45,000

Public Legal Education Projects

LEVEL. CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LAW (<i>Wayne Robertson, KC, Access to Justice Fund</i>)	
A specialized justice education and mentorship program providing law-related experiential learning opportunities for Indigenous children and youth in BC schools	\$15,500
SQWEM – SQWEM CONSULTING SERVICES SOCIETY	
Land-based shared learning on Indigenous laws for youth involved in the judicial system in the Upper St'at'imc communities	\$25,000
UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA / UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA	
A summit bringing youth and policymakers together to discuss privacy concerns on e-learning platforms	\$120,000
WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (2020–2023) Total grant: \$540,000	
A 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
TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION	\$340,500
TOTAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS	\$385,500



“There are different questions every single day that we’re resolving, and that’s what I love doing the most.”
— Harman Arora

Courthouse Libraries BC serves the legal community and the public

Newest courthouse library branch in Abbotsford serves the fast-growing Fraser Valley

As a librarian with the Abbotsford Courthouse Library (ACL), Harman Arora has helped hundreds of law students, veteran lawyers, and everyday people access legal information. “There are different questions every single day that we’re resolving, and that’s what I love doing the most,” Arora says.

When people can access legal information, they have a better chance of accessing justice. Courthouse Libraries BC (CLBC) supports this by offering free legal information, training, and reference services to lawyers and the public on substantive law and legal procedures. For someone without legal representation, it can be challenging to find the right resources without help. The team at CLBC helps bridge that gap for members of the public. “It’s like being a detective,” says Tracy McLean, Manager, Information Services.

CLBC also provides lawyers access to collections and services that would otherwise cost them tens of thousands of dollars, which is out of reach for many practitioners.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation made a \$250,000 grant to help launch the ACL. This special grant supplemented ongoing funding to support CLBC, which operates 30 locations in addition to online services and partnerships with public libraries.



ABBOTSFORD COURTHOUSE LIBRARY

Closing the legal services gap in the Fraser Valley

Abbotsford was a strategic location for the newest CLBC branch. Demand for legal services outpaces supply in the Fraser Valley, one of the fastest-growing regions in BC. Because there is a shortage of lawyers in the Fraser Valley, many lawyers travel from Vancouver to represent clients, while Fraser Valley residents previously had to travel to the Vancouver, New Westminster, Surrey or Chilliwack locations to find legal resources.

Each Courthouse Library collection reflects the needs of the local community. The ACL has a broad mix of resources, focusing on family, criminal and civil issues like contract law and real estate law. CLBC developed the ACL's collection by surveying Fraser Valley lawyers and the public libraries, including the Clearbrook Public Library next door.

“We didn’t want to stock a full, complete collection right away. We put in the essentials and then we wanted the community to direct how we were building the print collection,” says McLean.

Launching a library during the pandemic

The ACL opened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health restrictions made reaching out to the community a challenge. “The pandemic just made it harder because I couldn’t go out in community and talk to different organizations,” Arora recounts.

CLBC has long worked with public libraries through its Law Matters program. As part of the program, Arora worked with the Clearbrook Public Library’s librarians to find out what legal information was missing from its collection. She trained the librarians on how to support members of the public seeking support with legal issues and refer them to the ACL. She also helped non-profits like Archway Community Services, Justice Access Centres, and Victim Services get legal information to their clients. Arora continues to seek community input on how the ACL might grow its collection in the future.



TRACY MCLEAN

“It’s like being a detective.” — Tracy McLean, Manager, Information Services

PHOTOS: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Law Reform

\$1,720,833

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC Support for the Access to Justice BC collaborative's efforts to advance access to justice in BC	\$175,000
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
ACTION COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL AND FAMILY MATTERS Coordination of the action committee's collaborative work across Canada	\$57,500
TOTAL ONGOING LAW REFORM PROGRAMS	\$882,500

Law Reform Projects

ABOLITIONIST CARE AND BELONGING Mental health workers, advocates, teachers, and responders developing a community-based alternative to police-based wellness checks	\$25,000
BC COMMUNITY ALLIANCE Development of online anti-racism resources for BC schools in consultation with racialized groups, students and youth, and community partners	\$25,000
CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE Work to transform the family justice system to achieve family wellbeing, including research, education and the development of practical tools	\$100,000
CITY IN COLOUR COOPERATIVE Study of the working conditions of racialized immigrant women working in cleaning and food services within the employment law context	\$25,000
COALITION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND BLACK NURSES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA Development of a mentorship program to increase capacity to address anti-Black racism in BC's healthcare system through policy advocacy to protect and advance the rights of Black healthcare workers and patients	\$25,000
JUSTICE FOR JARED Systemic advocacy focused on police accountability through convening families and survivors	\$25,000
FIRST UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY SOCIETY Creation of a housing justice network rooted in decolonial and Indigenous-centered understandings of place, home, and land	\$25,000
HEALTH JUSTICE SOCIETY (2020-2024) 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



KEEPERS OF THE WATER Legal summit focused on exploring water protection through an Indigenous lens and sharing legal information on land title and rights	\$25,000
ROUNDTABLE EDUCATION SOCIETY Law reform consultations to identify how charity law and policy can better support equity-deserving, racialized and systemically marginalized communities	\$25,000
SWAN VANCOUVER Community consultation to inform immigration law reform for women of various immigration statuses who experience criminalization of sex work	\$25,000
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
WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION Legal research and community consultation to develop a policy framework on the issue of pay equity	\$25,000
TOTAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS	\$838,333



Law Libraries

\$2,615,000

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 ONGOING LAW LIBRARIES PROGRAMS	\$2,550,000

Law Libraries Projects

COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES BC Support for the operations of the new Abbotsford courthouse library	\$65,000
TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES PROJECTS	\$65,000



Legal Research

\$942,330

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW	
Research and scholarship on access to justice issues	\$100,000
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW (2022–2025) Total Grant: \$1,200,000	
Funding to support the core operations of the Indigenous Legal Research Unit	\$400,000
TOTAL ONGOING LEGAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS	\$500,000

Legal Research Projects

CANADIAN ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS	
Research on the scale, scope and nature of evictions faced by women, gender-diverse people, and their dependents; as well as exploration of interventions to prevent such evictions	\$19,901
CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR LEGAL RESEARCH	
Scholarly research on various legal issues, with an emphasis on research with practical applications for practicing lawyers, judges and law instructors	\$20,000
FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER SOCIETY FOR BC (2021–2024) Total Grant: \$844,000	
Increasing capacity to identify and support individuals with FASD and complex neurodevelopmental needs in British Columbia	\$281,000
INTER-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER VICTORIA Evaluating recent immigrant women's familiarity with transition housing and related legal resources in the Capital Region	\$20,000
PACIFIC SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY	
Gathering information to highlight systemic issues in public sector hiring that adversely impact people of colour in order to inform future advocacy	\$25,000
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	
Enhancing access to justice through reimagining criminal justice in Canada	\$17,445
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE	
A study exploring the efficacy of protection orders under the FLA and recommendations for change	\$20,000
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY	
Qualitative study examining community-based police drug diversion efforts in BC from the perspective of police officers and people who use drugs	\$18,984
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW Continued research on the extent and format of agreements and other relationships between local governments and Indigenous governments	\$20,000
TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH PROJECTS	\$442,330



Special Funds

\$275,130

Legal Aid BC / Law Foundation Research Fund

BC FAMILY JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB

Support for the evaluation of client experience and development of a prototype for unbundled family legal services with a larger group of service providers \$20,000

TOTAL LEGAL AID BC / LAW FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUND \$20,000

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 \$20,000

SPECIAL REQUESTS FUND

Supports organizations with unforeseen or emergency needs \$235,130

TOTAL SPECIAL PURPOSE LAW FOUNDATION FUNDS \$255,130



PATRICK MCNARY

PHOTO: SARAH RACE

How we put the revenue we receive to work

Ensuring sustainable funding for a thriving sector

Since it was established by legislation in 1969, the Foundation has taken its responsibility for stewarding the funds it receives from the interest on funds held in lawyers' pooled trust accounts seriously. Over 50 years later, the Foundation is building on lessons learned through many cycles of constricting and expanding revenue, decades-long partnerships with the legal profession and the non-profit sector, and its engagement with an increasingly diverse and equity-focused philanthropic sector.

The Foundation's statutory mandate is clear — establish and maintain a fund to be used for the following purposes: legal education; legal research; legal aid; law reform; and establishing, operating, and maintaining law libraries in British Columbia. Fulfilling that mandate requires that the Foundation engage across a diverse sector to make strategic decisions that support today's demands for legal services, advance Indigenous justice, anti-racism and equity, and ensure that funds are available for ongoing and emerging needs in the future.

“The Foundation is somewhat unusual in the philanthropic community in that most of its funding goes to support ongoing programs, many of which provide direct legal services to low-income people.” — Patrick McNary

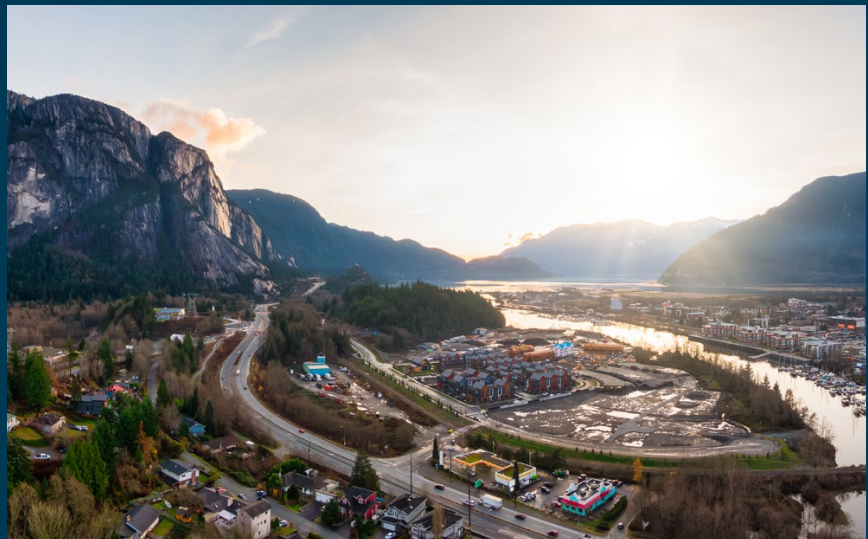


Managing a thriving and sustainable foundation also requires balancing conservative financial management for long-term sustainability with granting money into communities where it can be used to support grantees' missions and meet immediate needs.

“The Foundation is somewhat unusual in the philanthropic community in that most of its funding goes to support ongoing programs, many of which provide direct legal services to low-income people,” says Patrick McNary, Director of Finance. Advancing the Foundation’s mandate and upholding its values requires a careful balancing of the need for reliable investment in those ongoing programs year after year with the need to pay constant attention to emerging needs and past omissions in the portfolio of funded programs.

Managing a thriving and sustainable foundation also requires balancing conservative financial management for long-term sustainability with granting money into communities where it can be used to support grantees' missions and meet immediate needs. The importance of striking the right balance is something the Foundation has seen firsthand during past financial crises and most recently in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp decline in the Foundation’s revenue due to interest rate cuts. Careful planning and diligence in building up a healthy grant stabilization fund during times of higher revenues protected Foundation grantees and the communities they serve. The Foundation was able to maintain funding levels to ongoing programs while also supporting grantees to purchase technology and personal protective equipment and access training



SQUAMISH, PHOTO: EDGAR BULLON

on emerging legal issues. The Foundation was even able to invest some funds in new initiatives, funding new programs and expanding its support for existing programs to help them cope with rising costs.

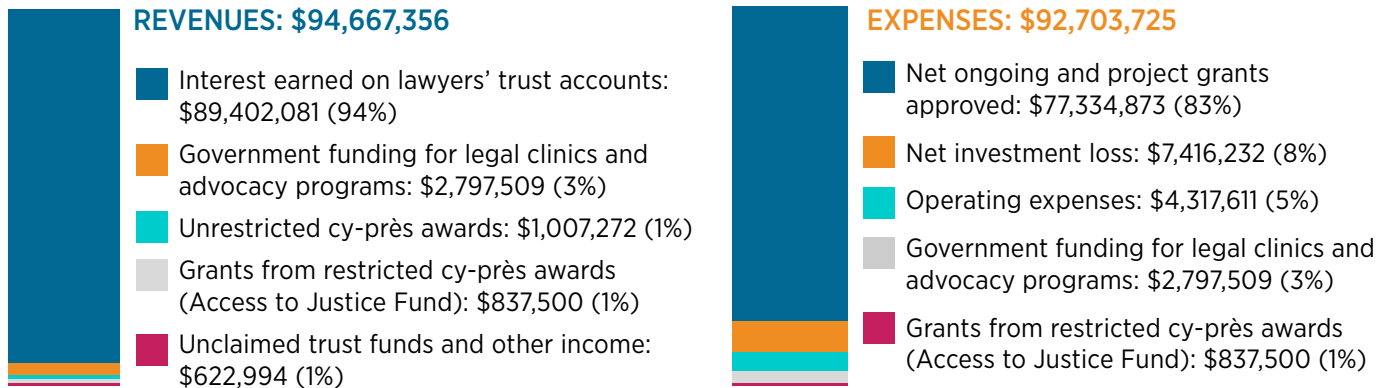
Until 2022, the Foundation’s policy target for the Grant Stabilization Fund was to maintain two years’ worth of annual grant and operating expenditures. The dramatic variation in our revenue during the pandemic has made clear that prudent fiscal management requires us to carry a larger reserve. The Foundation now targets a grant stabilization fund of between 3.5 and 4.5 times annual expenditures, in line with our peer institutions in Alberta and Ontario. This model will help guard against variability in trust interest revenue, as well as ensure the Foundation continues to fulfill its commitments under its mandate and strategic plan well into the future.



Financial Highlights

The Foundation's 2022 revenues included \$89.4 million in interest earned on lawyers' pooled trust accounts, \$2.8 million in government funding for clinics and advocacy programs, and \$2.5 million in other revenue. Investment losses of \$7.4 million were realized due to market declines. In 2022, \$81.8 million of grants were approved. The Foundation's operating expenses of \$4.3 million were up from \$2.8 million in 2021 due primarily to new team members supporting the Foundation's growth. A surplus of \$2 million was added to the Grant Stabilization Fund. In spite of a rise in revenues, the 2022 surplus is relatively small due to several factors: the Foundation's adoption of multi-year granting (which increased grants approved in 2022 and reduced the amount to be approved in 2023); new grants for Indigenous justice and racial justice; the net investment loss; and several one-time grants, including a \$9 million, three-year grant to the BC First Nations Justice Council and \$6 million in additional funding for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws.

The addition of Indigenous justice and racial justice grants and the shift to multi-year granting led to long-term grants payable rising from \$12.7 million at the end of 2021 to \$37.8 million in 2022. The Grant Stabilization Fund stood at \$103.2 million at the end of 2022. This Fund is expected to rise above \$170 million by the end of 2023, reaching its optimal ratio of 3.5 to 4.5 times annual expenditures in 2024.



BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING EXPENSES



These highlights are from the Foundation's audited financial statements and do not align precisely with the grant listings in this Annual Report. The highlights are based on grants approved in 2022 and report multi-year grants as an expense in the year in which they are approved. The listings report grant amounts allocated to single and multi-year grants in 2022. Full audited statements are at lawfoundationbc.org/annual-report/

Our Board of Governors (and committee assignments)

Judge Patricia Bond

Fellowships and Research; Finance and Operations

Maureen Buchan

Fellowships and Research; New Grants

Abigail Cheung

Class Actions; Finance & Operations; New Grants (Co-Chair)

Mary Childs

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

Justice Tom Crabtree

Policy and Planning

Paul Craven**John Greschner**

Executive; Policy and Planning; Special Requests

Claire Hunter, KC

Finance & Operations; Policy & Planning

Kathy Kendall, KC

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

Lindsay LeBlanc

Foundation Chair; Ex-officio member of all committees; New Grants (Co-Chair) Executive (Chair)

Deanna Ludowicz, KC

Executive, Policy and Planning; Special Requests (Chair)

Judge Nina Purewal

Policy & Planning; Special Requests

Sarah Runyon

Class Actions (Chair); Policy and Planning

Zulie Sachedina

Finance and Operations (Chair); New Grants

W. Laurence Scott, KC

Class Actions; Policy and Planning

Zara Suleman, KC

New Grants; Policy and Planning

Judge Linda Thomas

Finance & Operations

As of December 2022

Our Staff

Tim Bailey

Program Director

Darcie Bennett

Director of Strategic Projects

Kayla Black

Digital Transformation Specialist

Sue Bradley

Grants Manager

karima budhwani

Program Director

Afroze Charania

Grants Manager

Leah Combs

Program Director, Indigenous Justice

Andrea Gutierrez

Director of Operations

Helen Halbert

Grants Process Specialist

Ykram Khaldi

Operations Assistant

DJ Larkin

Director of Legal Service Grants

Tong Lin

Senior Financial Analyst

Jessi McCallum

Governance & Executive Coordinator

Patrick McNary

Director of Finance

Hannah Mondwa

Communications Specialist

Sandra Morgenstern

Program & Operations Coordinator

Vi Nguyen

Director of Grants and Programs

Josh Paterson

Executive Director

Veenu Saini

Associate Director, Advocacy

Lois Shelton

Legal Advocate Training Manager

Meseret Taye

Program Director, Racial Justice

Chelse Upton

Finance Administrator





KAMLOOPS, PHOTO: EDGAR BULLON

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The work supported by the Foundation takes place on the unceded and treaty lands of First Nations across what is now known as British Columbia, Canada.