



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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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Message from the Chair

SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

My

connection with the Law Foundation began in the 1980s, when I received a Law Foundation fellowship so that I could pursue my graduate studies in law. Over

the years of my practice since then, I have had many intersections with the Foundation, including volunteering at legal organizations which received grants. I have been honoured to serve for the last four years on the Board, and I am particularly honoured to serve as its chair. It is rewarding to work with the group of exceptional lawyers, judges and members of the public who sit at the Board table, and with the staff. All these people are dedicated to the responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, and to using them to improve access to justice in the province.

The Foundation made significant progress under its strategic plan in 2023 and 2024. The number of grants made by the Foundation has increased, as has the overall funding provided by the Foundation in response to increased revenue. Thanks to its grant stabilization fund, the Foundation is in a good position to sustain funding over the next few years of anticipated lower interest rates and smaller revenues.

Some highlights from the past year include:

- Significant increases to funding for community legal advocacy programs, including a number of increases to support the hiring of additional staff to provide front-line services.
- Successful roll-out of new support services for funded agencies that provide direct legal services to low-income people, including streamlined case management software across all agencies



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- The start of an independent planning process to look at the future of public legal education and information (PLEI) has begun, in a partnership involving the Allard School of Law at UBC and the SFU Centre for Public Dialogue. Organizations providing vital PLEI services across BC are participating in a process that will assess the best way to coordinate services and take advantage of new technology, to assist more people to understand everyday legal issues.
- Increased funding to community legal clinics. A number of clinics received funding to support expansion of services. We have been particularly proud to support the launch of the new Okanagan-Thompson Legal Clinic, with offices in Kelowna and Kamloops, and to work with them as they expand their staff capacity to serve more people in their region.
- Expanded funding for justice programs to assist First Nations people through the Indigenous Justice funding call, and extension of our funding commitment to the First Nations Justice Council from three years to five years. The First Nations Justice Council is engaged in vital work, including the creation of Indigenous Justice Centres in locations across BC to provide wrap-around services to support its clients in their interactions with the justice system.
- Expanded availability of public interest articling opportunities, made possible through grants to community agencies which are in a position to supervise and provide high-quality training experiences.
- Supporting modernization of IT infrastructure and expansion of the collection at the Courthouse Libraries, to ensure that library users in the Bar and the public have efficient access to the most up-to-date and comprehensive materials possible.
- The Foundation moved into new, smaller offices better suited to its needs.

A core focus of the Foundation's activity in the coming year is the continuing evolution of the training program provided to Foundation-funded community legal advocates. We are working with the University of the Fraser Valley to build a new program of professional training for advocates, which we hope will be up and running in late 2025. We are also working to enhance continuing professional development offerings for advocates, both through the Foundation-run annual provincial training program, and through opportunities for regional training. The expansion of regional training and mentorship has begun with a grant to support a coordinator for this programming based in Prince George. We are grateful to the many legal practitioners who support this work through the time they dedicate to developing and delivering educational programs.



SALMON ARM, BC PHOTO: RONNIE CHUA

This upcoming year, we also expect to expand the centralized support infrastructure for community legal advocates. For several years we have funded such support for family law advocates through successful pilot programs. We are continuing to fund those programs past the pilot stage, and are working to build on that success by expanding the availability of back-up legal advocate capacity, and additional legal supervision, for community law programs. Our aim is to add capacity in the legal advocate network to assist in meeting demand surges and other challenges.

I am very grateful to the staff team at the Foundation who are so dedicated to our work and to access to justice in BC. I also wish to thank our Governors for their contributions. They are volunteers who dedicate many days and hours to the Foundation's work and their work makes a real difference by supporting legal assistance for low-income people.

I want to particularly thank two colleagues who left the Board in 2023:

- **Kathy Kendall, KC:** Kathy chaired the Foundation's Fellowships & Research Committee for the six years that she served on the Board. In that role, she was instrumental in providing leadership and oversight in the Foundation's program to support learning and

research at BC's three law schools. Hailing from Kamloops, she had a strong sense of the needs of smaller and mid-sized communities in BC, and the realities of legal practice in those communities. As a long-time provider of legal aid services, she also brought a valuable understanding of the needs of low-income clients. We are deeply grateful for her commitment and for the joy and energy that she brought to our work.

- **Zulie Sachedina:** Zulie was the chair of our Finance and Operations Committee, and played an important role in the stewardship of the Foundation's resources and in ensuring the health of our organization during her tenure. Her professional expertise in organizational development and human resources was indispensable to the Foundation at a time when we went through an expansion of our staff capacity and internal reorganization in order to deliver on our strategic plan. Her wisdom and steady leadership helped guide the Foundation as it dealt with increased complexity and the modernization of our financial systems. Her care for the communities that are served by our grants shone through in all of her work, and we are so thankful for her contributions.

— **MARY CHILDS**, Chair, 2023-2024 (October 2024)



Preferred Financial Institutions for lawyers' pooled trust accounts

The Law Foundation of BC is grateful to the Preferred Financial Institutions – banks and credit unions – that have committed to pay competitive interest rates on lawyers' pooled trust accounts.

We thank members of the legal profession who choose to hold their pooled trust accounts at these Preferred Financial Institutions. The interest earned on these accounts helps ensure that the Foundation can provide funding for organizations providing vital free or low-cost legal services for low-income people across the province, and many other access to justice programs.

This funding is an important way that the legal profession's activities contribute to improving access to justice in BC. We encourage all members of the legal profession to maintain their pooled trust accounts at Preferred Financial Institutions.

We acknowledge our competitive interest rate agreements with:



Royal Bank of Canada



AND ITS DIVISIONS:



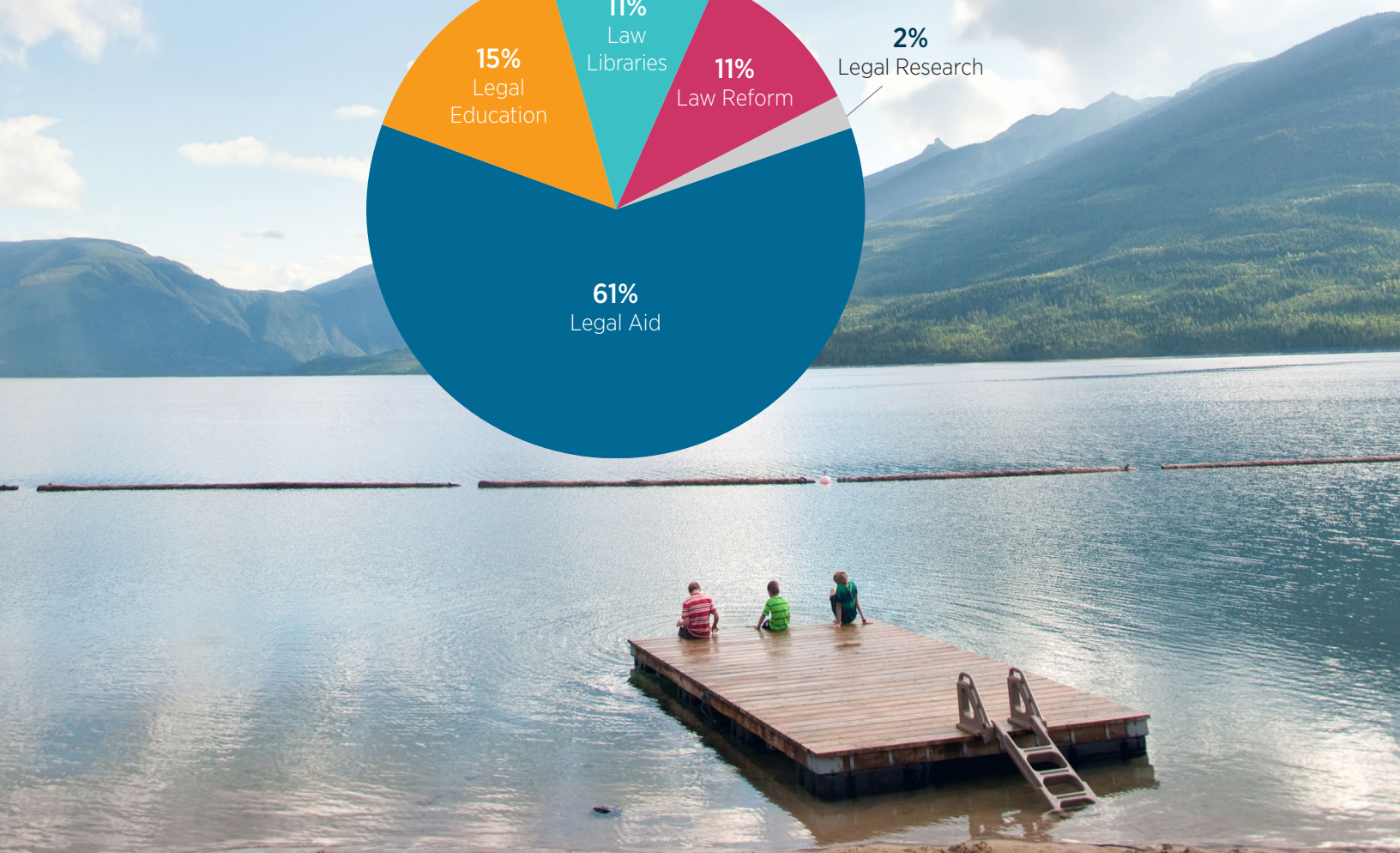
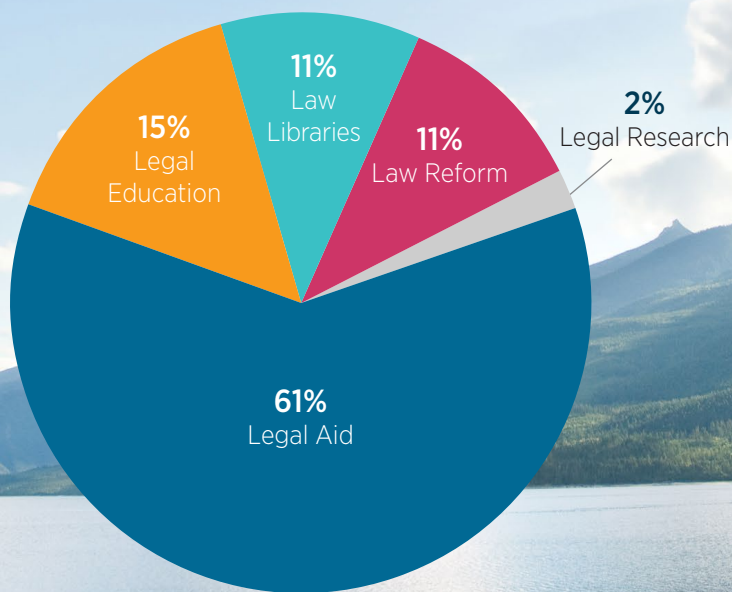


Programs and Projects Funded in 2023

In 2023, the Law Foundation provided more than \$55 million across more than 240 grants to advance access to justice in communities across BC.

This annual report provides a snapshot of work done in 2023 with Law Foundation funding. The listings include grants approved for 2023 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 2023 including total amounts for multi-year ongoing grants, please visit: lawfoundationbc.org/our-work/adjudications

WHAT WE FUND



Legal Aid



\$33,361,126

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	Opportunities Career Services Society <i>Campbell River area</i>	\$110,000
Battered Women's Support Services <i>Lower Mainland</i>	\$110,000	Penticton and Area Access Society	\$110,000
Chilliwack Community Services	\$110,000	Port Alberni Friendship Center	\$110,000
Chimo Community Services Society <i>Richmond</i>	\$110,000	Prince George Native Friendship Centre	\$110,000
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC <i>East Kootenays</i>	\$110,000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$110,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society	\$55,000	SHARE Family and Community Services Society <i>Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas</i>	\$110,000
Fort St. John Women's Resource Society	\$110,000	Sources Community Resources Society <i>Surrey</i>	\$220,000
M.O.S.A.I.C. <i>Lower Mainland</i>	\$110,000	Terrace and District Community Services Society	\$110,000
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services	\$110,000	The Law Centre, University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$110,000
Nelson CARES Society	\$110,000	Wachiyay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$110,000
North Shore Community Resources Society <i>North Vancouver</i>	\$110,000	Women's Contact Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$110,000
Okanagan-Thompson Community Legal Clinic <i>Kamloops</i>	\$110,000		
Okanagan-Thompson Community Legal Clinic <i>Kelowna</i>	\$110,000		
		TOTAL FAMILY LAW ADVOCACY	\$2,695,000



Poverty Law Advocacy

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

Active Support Against Poverty Society <i>Prince George area</i>	\$110,000	Penticton and Area Access Society	\$110,000
Archway Community Services <i>Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope areas</i>	\$220,000	Port Alberni Friendship Centre	\$110,000
Burnaby Community Services Society	\$110,000	Powell River Community Services Association	\$110,000
Chimo Community Services Society <i>Richmond</i>	\$110,000	Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society	\$110,000
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC <i>East Kootenays</i>	\$120,000	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 Society of Greater Vancouver <i>New Westminster</i>	\$110,000	Sea to Sky Community Services <i>Squamish</i>	\$110,000
First United Church Community Ministry Society <i>Vancouver's Downtown Eastside</i>	\$260,000	SHARE Family and Community Services Society <i>Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody areas</i>	\$110,000
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society	\$55,000	Shuswap Family Resource & Referral Society <i>Salmon Arm area</i>	\$110,000
Fort St. John Women's Resource Society	\$110,000	Social Health & Economic Development Society of Bella Coola	\$110,000
Haida Gwaii Legal Project Society	\$116,000	Sources Community Resources Society <i>Surrey</i>	\$110,000
Okanagan-Thompson Community Legal Clinic <i>Kamloops</i>	\$110,000	South Peace Community Resources Society <i>Dawson Creek area</i>	\$110,000
Okanagan-Thompson Community Legal Clinic <i>Kelowna</i>	\$110,000	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>	\$300,000
Nelson CARES Society	\$115,000	Trail FAIR Society	\$110,000
Nicola Valley Community Justice Services Society <i>Merritt area</i>	\$110,000	Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society <i>Hazelton area</i>	\$110,000
North Shore Community Resources Society <i>North Vancouver</i>	\$110,000	Wachiay Friendship Centre Society <i>Courtenay area</i>	\$110,000
Okanagan Advocacy and Resource Society <i>Vernon area</i>	\$110,000	Women's Contact Society <i>Williams Lake area</i>	\$110,000
Opportunities Career Services Society <i>Campbell River area</i>	\$110,000		
		TOTAL POVERTY LAW ADVOCACY	\$5,256,000

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	\$185,000
ATIRA WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY	
Advocacy services for women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside on poverty, family, and criminal law issues	\$220,000
CHILD AND YOUTH LEGAL CLINIC	
Advocacy services for vulnerable children and youth in BC	\$110,000
DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC SOCIETY	
A specialized advocacy, legal education, and referral program for people with disabilities throughout BC	\$365,000
Additional staff lawyer support project	\$170,000
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC	
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</i>	\$63,250
<i>Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society</i>	\$63,250
<i>Yeqox Nilin Justice Society</i>	\$63,250
<i>Squamish Nation / Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw</i>	\$63,250
<i>Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society</i>	\$63,250
M.O.S.A.I.C.	
A legal advocacy and information program for low-income immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland	\$110,000
MPA – MOTIVATION, POWER & ACHIEVEMENT SOCIETY	
Courtworkers to assist people experiencing mental health issues to navigate the criminal justice system in Vancouver, Surrey and Port Coquitlam	\$330,000
SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY	
A legal information and advocacy program for older adults in BC	\$220,000
HOUSING LAW CLINIC	
A legal information and advocacy service for tenants on residential tenancy issues, with an information line available throughout BC	\$325,000
SPIRIT OF THE CHILDREN SOCIETY	
A program providing support and Elder mentorship to Indigenous families navigating the Aboriginal Family Healing Court Conference process	\$155,000
THE KETTLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY	
A mental health advocacy program providing legal information and assistance on residential tenancy and child protection matters in the Lower Mainland	\$330,000
WATARI RESEARCH ASSOCIATION	
A system negotiator at Vancouver's Downtown Community Court to support repeat offenders with mental disorders	\$110,000
TOTAL SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY	\$3,166,250



Meeting the need for legal advocacy in rural areas

Rural communities face similar economic issues to urban centres, like the housing crisis and inflation. Many rural workers engage in shift work in resource industries, which can strain family ties and relationships. Funding for poverty and family law advocacy programs in places like the Kootenays and Northeastern BC is vital to address these issues. Here's how three non-profits are tailoring their services to local needs:

Fort St. John: including low-income people of all genders

Despite an average income of \$120,000, this city of 20,000 residents is also marked by wealth inequality and poverty, especially during the economic downturns that often follow a boom.

Because most workers in the resource industries here are men, the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society expanded its support to include lower-income residents of all genders. Their Family Law Advocacy Program is a recent but crucial addition to support families with members who work in the demanding resource industries.

Demand for its Poverty Law Advocacy Program has more than doubled in the last few years, and executive director Amanda Trotter doesn't see this slowing down anytime soon. Fort St. John is a popular community for new immigrants and refugees seeking work, prompting Trotter to think about offering specialized support in immigration and refugee law in the future.

Demand for the Poverty Law Advocacy Program at Fort St. John Women's Resource Society has more than doubled in the last few years, and executive director Amanda Trotter doesn't see this slowing down anytime soon.



AMANDA TROTTER

PHOTO: HOPE LINZEE PHOTOGRAPHY



Nelson: wrapping services around the person

The Nelson Cares Society's Advocacy Centre offers legal advocacy covering family law, poverty law, tenancy law, and laws surrounding women's safety. Amy Taylor, a poverty law advocate, has worked there for 25 years. She's noticing that "despite having all these services, things feel a bit more intense, as people's basic needs aren't being met," she says.

The team at the Advocacy Centre perseveres, focusing on the gaps they can fill and on coordinating services to make assistance for low-income individuals easier to access. This approach is particularly crucial in the region because of its large geographical spread, where people may drive up to an hour just to access a single service.

Taylor works with many clients over the phone or by email, a practice that became commonplace after the pandemic. But she and her colleagues know many people who need to access family and poverty law don't have access to a computer or find it difficult to use. To better reach the communities they serve, the team makes regular trips to drop-in centres in Nelson and Castlegar.



AMY TAYLOR

PHOTO: KARI MEDIG

Cranbrook: advocating for systems-level change

The Community Connections Society of Southeast BC serves Cranbrook and the surrounding areas with legal information, referrals and support, including family and poverty law advocacy programs. Many Cranbrook residents work far from home in the resource industry, and travel away from home for days at a time. Such work schedules can unfortunately lead to more breakdowns in family dynamics, making family law advocacy a much-needed service.



NANCY REID

PHOTO: NICOLE LECLAIR

In working with people with disabilities, poverty law advocate Noelle Goodfellow supports clients in navigating complex assessments for disability assistance. This support expands to coaching professionals, like doctors or social workers, in writing their portions of the assessments to best set their clients up for success.

Executive Director Nancy Reid says the organization also recognizes the need to reduce poverty at a systemic level, which includes contributing to requests for proposals for housing.



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 \$287,500

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 \$218,500

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 \$236,000

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 \$431,250

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 \$379,500

TOTAL STUDENT CLINICS \$1,552,750



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 LEGAL CENTRE <i>Hosted at Society for Children and Youth BC</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to vulnerable children and youth in BC	
DISABILITY LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Disability Alliance BC Society</i>	\$250,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to people with disabilities	
OKANAGAN-THOMPSON LEGAL CLINIC KAMLOOPS <i>(as of September 2023)</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Kamloops and surrounding areas	
OKANAGAN-THOMPSON COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC KELOWNA <i>(as of September 2023)</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Kelowna and surrounding areas	
HOUSING LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre Society</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to tenants in various court and tribunal processes	
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Immigrant Services Society of BC</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to immigrants and refugees	
PRINCE GEORGE COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice Society</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in Prince George and surrounding areas	
SOURCES COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Sources Community Resources Society</i>	\$260,000
Provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley	
TOTAL PROVINCIAL LEGAL CLINICS	\$2,070,000



Law Foundation-Funded Legal Clinics

CATHERINE WHITE HOLMAN LEGAL CLINIC <i>Hosted at Catherine White Holman Wellness Society</i>	
The only free clinic in British Columbia 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	\$660,000
ELDER LAW CLINIC <i>Hosted at Seniors First BC Society</i>	
Provides summary advice, document preparation, and representation to eligible seniors in BC	\$335,000
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
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE	
Community Legal Clinic and Virtual Legal Clinic providing navigation and advocacy services to self-identified women throughout the province	\$920,000
SOUTH ASIAN LEGAL CLINIC OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	
A legal clinic to provide culturally-appropriate services to South Asian people living within the Greater Vancouver region and to engage in system change work through strategic litigation, interventions and legal submissions	\$230,000
LAW FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION FOR START-UP COSTS	\$160,000
TOTAL LAW FOUNDATION-FUNDED LEGAL CLINICS	\$3,185,000

Legal Aid BC

LEGAL AID BC	
Support for Legal Aid Navigators, community engagement, public legal information, and several strategic projects	\$4,550,000



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	\$702,075
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PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA

<i>Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia</i>	\$46,000
<i>Thompson River University Faculty of Law</i>	\$40,250
<i>University of Victoria Faculty of Law</i>	\$40,250

TOTAL PRO BONO LEGAL AID	\$828,575
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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	\$437,000
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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
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ECOJUSTICE CANADA SOCIETY

Test case litigation on public interest environmental law issues	\$218,500
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PIVOT LEGAL SOCIETY

Support for Pivot's community advocacy programs	\$218,500
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WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Legal research, legal education and legal aid supporting the public interest in environmental legal issues	\$540,500
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WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION

Law reform, test case litigation, and legal education to advance equality for women and people who experience gender-based discrimination	\$437,000
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TOTAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAW	\$3,011,500
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Legal Aid Projects

ACCESS PRO BONO SOCIETY OF BC (2023–2026) Total grant: \$240,000 Coordinated community outreach to increase the usage of the Islamophobia Legal Hotline, a pro bono legal service, with communities impacted by Islamophobia	\$80,000
AMICI CURIAE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY Workshops that help the public complete the legal forms necessary to present a matter to court or a tribunal	\$200,000
BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES (2023–2026) Total grant: \$690,000 Legal services to support Black, Indigenous and racialized survivors when they experience gender-based violence, and law reform work to address barriers to accessing justice	\$230,000
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
BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL (2023–2028) Total grant: \$16,470,000 Support for the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, including infrastructure, the Indigenous Justice Centres, and articling opportunities for Indigenous law students	\$3,490,000
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGAL CLINIC (2023–2026) Total grant: \$690,000 Lawyer and legal assistant to support applicants applying under Canadian policy	\$230,000
MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE BC SOCIETY (2023–2026) Total grant: \$790,000 A legal clinic that provides services to racialized migrant farm workers in the Okanagan and engages in systemic advocacy to address structural racism	\$263,333
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
NICOLA VALLEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES SOCIETY Indigenous court coordinator program in support of the Cknucwentrn First Nations Court Indigenous court coordinator program in support of the Nicola Valley Indigenous Court	\$80,000 \$36,750
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (2023–2026) Total grant: \$360,000 Support for class action settlements for Indigenous individuals who pass away without a will	\$120,000
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
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	\$25,000
PRINCE GEORGE URBAN ABORIGINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY Attendance for Court Elders at a symposium focused on Indigenous Courts	\$25,000



SENIORS FIRST BC SOCIETY (2023-2025) Total grant: \$837,500 Support and development of an advanced planning clinic to provide accessible, culturally appropriate, high-quality services to Indigenous clients in on-reserve communities across the province	\$265,694
UPPER SKEENA COUNSELLING & LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY Planning to develop a gathering for those working in Indigenous Courts in BC to take place in 2025	\$35,000
WATARI RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (2023-2026) Total grant: \$660,000 A system negotiator at Vancouver's Downtown Community Court to help Indigenous clients navigate the court system and also support them to connect with their culture and traditional ways of being	\$220,000
WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION (2023-2026) Total grant: \$620,000 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	\$206,666
WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY (2023-2026) Total grant: \$665,000 Individual and systemic advocacy to address the needs of incarcerated Indigenous and Black people to address the systemic racism inherent in current methodologies of risk assessments in provincial and federal corrections systems	\$221,666
WISH DROP-IN CENTRE SOCIETY (On behalf of BC Bad Date Working Group) (2021-2024) Total grant: \$750,000 A Safer Province for All: Provincial Bad Date Reporting System for Sex Workers in BC	\$250,000
LAW FOUNDATION SUPPORTING GRANTS Special grants for general support for the following Law Foundations' programs and operations, funded through a national cy-près award	
Northwest Territories Law Foundation	\$238,425
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Yukon Law Foundation	\$238,425
TOTAL LEGAL AID PROJECTS	\$7,046,051





Legal Education

\$8,286,495

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 \$86,250

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship bursaries of up to \$17,000 for graduate legal studies by BC lawyers and graduates of BC law schools \$136,000

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 \$276,000

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 \$11,500

Innocence Project Supervised law students assist criminal lawyers to review wrongful conviction claims \$63,250

Law Students' Legal Advice Program For-credit program at the student-run legal clinic \$34,500

POVNET SOCIETY

An online resource and networking tool for anti- poverty advocates, community workers and the general public \$115,000

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 \$28,750



PUBLIC INTEREST ARTICLES Articling positions that support the work of public interest groups and provide students with experience in the sector: \$1,585,500

Access Pro Bono Society of BC
 BC Civil Liberties Association
 BC Law Institute
 Child and Youth Legal Centre, Society for Children and Youth BC (*Wayne Robertson, KC, Access to Justice Fund*)
 Community Legal Assistance Society (*David Mossop, KC, Public Interest Articling Fellowship*)
 Disability Alliance BC Society
 Ecojustice Canada Society
 Environmental Law Centre Clinic, *University of Victoria Faculty of Law*
 Greater Vancouver Law Students' Legal Advice Society
 Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic, *Immigrant Services Society of BC*
 Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, *Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia*
 Law Centre, *University of Victoria Faculty of Law*
 Migrant Workers Centre BC Society
 Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia – Innocence Project
 Seniors First BC Society
 Sources Community Resources Society
 Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre Society
 Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law
 West Coast Environmental Law Association
 West Coast LEAF Association
 West Coast Prison Justice Society

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	\$74,750
Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	\$46,000
University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$51,750

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	\$103,500
Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law	\$57,500
University of Victoria Faculty of Law	\$103,500

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS	\$5,181,709
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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 14](#).



Public Legal Education

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BC BRANCH

Access to Justice Week – Collaborative event to inspire and support legal professionals to change on an individual and systemic level to achieve greater access to justice for people in British Columbia \$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 \$28,750

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 \$442,750

KINBRACE COMMUNITY SOCIETY

Programming to educate, orient and support refugee claimants as they navigate the Canadian refugee hearing process \$46,000

MEDIATE BC SOCIETY

A public legal education program focused on building awareness of mediation and other dispute resolution services \$80,500

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 \$598,000

VANCOUVER SUMMER MENTORSHIP SOCIETY

Summer mentorship program for historically disadvantaged high school students interested in studying law \$11,500

TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION \$1,219,000



Legal Education Projects

Professional Legal Education and Law Schools Projects

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

Entrance Scholarship Fund (2019–2024) Total grant: \$150,000

\$30,000

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND LAW SCHOOLS PROJECTS

\$30,000

Public Legal Education Projects

KINBRACE COMMUNITY SOCIETY (2023–2025) Total grant: \$290,000

Project to complete and launch a new multilingual My Refugee Claim website and navigation guide to support refugee claimants in navigating the refugee law and system

\$145,000

KUMUGWE CULTURAL SOCIETY (2023–2026) Total grant: \$750,000

Creating a culturally safe learning path that addresses cultural awareness, sensitivity, and agility needs for Kwakwaka'wakw leadership

\$250,000

LEVEL. CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LAW (2023–2025) Total grant: \$64,000

A specialized justice education and mentorship program providing law-related experiential learning opportunities for Indigenous children and youth in BC schools

\$32,000

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW (2023–2025) Total grant: \$11,000,000

Funds to support construction of the National Centre for Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law

\$1,028,786

WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (2023–2026) Total grant: \$1,200,000

A legal education and law reform project to support Indigenous Nations to develop legal capability to express their ancestral laws in contemporary forms, advance Indigenous self-determination through law revitalization and collaboratively develop written laws with Nations

\$400,000

TOTAL PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS

\$1,855,786

TOTAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECTS

\$1,885,786



Law Libraries

\$6,077,000

COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES BC	\$2,985,000
Legal information, training, and reference services for lawyers and the public throughout BC	
LAW SOCIETY OF BC	\$92,000
Contribution to the operating costs of the CanLII Virtual Law Library	
TOTAL ONGOING LAW LIBRARIES PROGRAMS	\$3,077,000

Law Libraries Projects

COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES BC	\$3,000,000
Modernization of IT infrastructure and restoration of collections	
TOTAL LAW LIBRARIES PROJECTS	\$3,000,000





Law Reform

\$5,830,000

ACCESS TO JUSTICE BC

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

\$200,000

ACTION COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL AND FAMILY MATTERS

Law reform and public legal education focusing on freedom of information and privacy rights

\$57,500

BC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ASSOCIATION

Law reform and public legal education focusing on freedom of information and privacy rights

\$287,500

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

\$460,000

TOTAL ONGOING LAW REFORM PROGRAMS

\$1,005,000



LILLOET BC PHOTO: EDGAR BULLAN



Law Reform Projects

ALL MY RELATIONS SOCIETY (2023–2024) Total grant: \$200,000 Initiatives to address the TRC Calls to Action, MMIWG2S Calls for Justice, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act — as prioritized by Indigenous communities, through yearlong programming and an annual celebration	\$100,000
ATIRA WOMEN’S RESOURCE SOCIETY (2023–2026) Total grant: \$690,000 A legal aid and law reform project to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous women in the criminal justice system through an early resolution program	\$230,000
BC FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE COUNCIL	
BC First Nations Justice Forum Support for the convening of First Nations to collaborate and work on the advancement of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy	\$835,000
Police Accountability Unit (2023–2028) Total grant: \$2,500,000 A specialized police accountability unit focused on both direct legal services and systemic advocacy to create broader lasting transformation of policing	\$500,000
CANADIAN DRUG POLICY COALITION – SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY Legal and policy work in relation to drug regulation and public health	\$245,000
COMOX VALLEY COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE Implementation of the Critical Incident Protocol to support community response to hate and discrimination	\$50,000
JUSTICE FOR JARED (2023–2025) Total grant: \$200,000 Indigenous and survivor-led law reform work in relation to police oversight and accountability mechanisms, particularly in connection with police-involved deaths	\$100,000
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY COLLABORATIVE SOCIETY (2023-2024) Total grant: \$290,000 Tenant-led legal and rights advocacy within Chinatown’s SRO housing community	\$145,000
DUDES CLUB SOCIETY (2023–2054) Total grant: \$345,000 Systemic and direct advocacy to improve the experience of Indigenous men in the Canadian justice system	\$115,000
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
HEILTSUK FIRST NATION ON BEHALF OF MN’YUYAQ’S COUNCIL (2023–2026) Total grant: \$690,000 Work to re-establish traditional governance and laws	\$230,000
HUA FOUNDATION (2023-2025) Total grant: \$435,000 Systems change work through cultural safety, language accessibility and building networks of solidarity between Asian-led organizations in regard to decolonization and policing	\$145,000
KA:’YU:’K’T’H’/CHE:K’TLES7ET’H’ FIRST NATIONS (KCFN) Development of a hybrid, fully supported advocacy model with access to technology required to attend court proceedings and follow up conditions for members engaged with the justice system	\$50,000



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA (2023-2025) Total grant: \$230,000 A program to develop culturally relevant solutions to challenges faced by Metis families in conflict with the child welfare systems in BC	\$100,000
POETIC JUSTICE FOUNDATION Development of public legal education materials and resources related to the issue of caste-based discrimination experienced by people in BC and its connection with human rights law	\$40,000
RACIAL EQUITY SCREEN OFFICE A legal research project gathering and analyzing data to understand systemic barriers that racialized screen content creators in connection with provincial arts and culture policy in order to develop law and policy reform strategies	\$100,000
RECONCILIATION CANADA Launch of a nationwide campaign to engage multi-faith and multi-cultural communities in dialogues and reconciliation story sharing to embody the values and commitment of UNDRIP	\$50,000
SOLID STATE COMMUNITY SOCIETY Project promoting changes to policy and the exercise of authority under the School Act to address incidents of systemic racism within the Surrey Education System	\$50,000
SPOTLIGHT: CHILD WELFARE Project to collaborate with Indigenous and racialized young people and families impacted by the child welfare system in order to offer insights and critiques on media coverage of child welfare, and to initiate a new standard for journalism	\$50,000
THE COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION (2023–2026) Total grant: \$1,100,000 Integration of Haida Laws and Systems	\$366,667
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
221A (2023-2024) Total grant: \$460,000 Research, consultations, and development of law reform recommendations related to inequality and systemic racism in government arts and culture policy and funding agencies	\$230,000
U.N.D.U. – UNITING NORTHERN DRUG USERS UNDOING STIGMA (2023–2026) Total grant: \$660,000 Legal research project to determine UNDU participants’ needs and priorities in order to develop systemic advocacy strategies	\$220,000
VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY POLICING CENTRE (2023–2026) Total grant: \$305,000 Legal support and development of a decolonized governance structure in relation to a Community Land Trust	\$105,000
WISH DROP-IN CENTRE SOCIETY (ON BEHALF OF BC BAD DATE WORKING GROUP) (2023–2026) Total grant: \$690,000 Legal advocacy and human rights training for Wish Drop-in Centre program and service participants	\$230,000
WSN WORKER SOLIDARITY NETWORK SOCIETY Development of a system that supports racialized workers through the BC Human Rights Tribunal process	\$50,000
TOTAL LAW REFORM PROJECTS	\$4,825,000



A trusted leader in the evolution of BC law

BC courts lean on BC Law Institute's research

For 25 years, the BC Law Institute (BCLI) has recommended law reforms in the public interest. It is an independent law reform institute that conducts scholarly research and analysis of existing statutes to identify specific ways in which the law should evolve.

Most projects convene experts from several disciplines who have an understanding and perspective on the topic. These committees are passionate about developing law reform recommendations that address a social policy challenge, ensure the law operates fairly, and endure the test of time.

BCLI recommendations are sometimes enacted by the legislature quickly, like the ones in a 2021 report on revising pension division provisions in the Family Law Act that were enacted earlier this year. Other times, it could take decades to become law, like the 2022 Commercial Liens Act based on a 2003 BCLI report. When dealing with thorny issues, courts often look to BCLI's research to help in their decision-making. BCLI reports were referenced by the BC Supreme Court and Court of Appeal in 12 cases in 2021 and 2022 alone.

BCLI project committees are guided by its commitment to enhancing equity for underserved communities and to clarifying and improving the law—which makes reconciliation and access to justice among its top priorities.

BCLI is playing a role in the significant evolution in BC's statutory law underway as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act requires the province, working with Indigenous Nations, to ensure that its laws are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).



KAREN CAMPBELL

BCLI Executive Director Karen Campbell notes that law reform over the next decade and beyond will involve deep changes to enable the Crown's laws to share space with Indigenous legal orders.

PHOTOS: SARAH RACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Reconciliation and Indigenous law

BCLI launched its Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks Program in 2022 to support research and legal innovation needed to support this legislated goal. BCLI Executive Director Karen Campbell notes that law reform over the next decade and beyond will involve deep changes to enable the Crown's laws to share space with Indigenous legal orders.

Recognizing how complex this initiative is, BCLI is working on decolonizing its approach to law and its operations. This big task is aided by BCLI connecting with organizations and individuals employing Indigenous legal frameworks. Board member Stacey Edzerza Fox, KC, plays an important role in supporting this work, as do partners such as Dr. Val Napoleon, the director and founder of the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) at the University of Victoria. The ILRU is a non-profit at the forefront of rebuilding Indigenous laws with Indigenous communities.

Creating law reform that endures

BCLI has a long history of making complex law reform recommendations on important legal issues such as trustees' powers, family property, wills and estates, legal capacity, and many more. It has also developed specialized expertise in particular areas of law over the years — most notably through the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law, which has been a part of BCLI since 2003 and focuses on law reform on issues that affect BC's aging population.

BCLI's research is grounded in the involvement of community and legal experts. Initiatives such as the Canadian Centre for Elder Law and the new Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks Program reflect BCLI's commitment to generating law reform recommendations that respond to the needs of communities that they serve. The organization deeply values the role that these perspectives bring to its work. "Including lived experience perspectives is critical to making sure our work is not done in an ivory tower," says Campbell.

Today, the BCLI is one of eight independent provincial and federal law reform agencies providing non-partisan advice on complex legal issues ranging from land title and strata law to the rise of artificial intelligence. "There is definitely a place for us to dig deep, do good research and generate law reforms that are trustworthy and independent," says Campbell.



STACEY EDZERZA FOX, KC

BCLI is working on decolonizing its approach to law and its operations. Board member Stacey Edzerza Fox, KC, plays an important role in supporting this work.



Legal Research

\$1,211,651

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW	\$115,000
Research and scholarship on access to justice issues	
CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR LEGAL RESEARCH	\$23,000
Scholarly research on various legal issues, with an emphasis on research with practical applications for practicing lawyers, judges and law instructors	
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FACULTY OF LAW	\$400,000
Funding to support the core operations of the Indigenous Legal Research Unit	
TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH	\$538,000

Legal Research Projects

ADITI S. MASTER & DR. NIKOO NOOSHIN, MD	\$14,930
Research on evidence-based integrated health-legal services for marginalized communities in BC	
BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION	\$20,000
Easy-to-read factsheets on specific topics such as Youth and the Law and Poverty and Drug Law	
DZE L K'ANT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY	\$50,000
Community consultation on barriers to accessing poverty law systems, identification of community legal education needs, and communication of findings to relevant ministries	
FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER SOCIETY FOR BC (2021-2024) Total grant: \$844,000	\$282,000
Increasing capacity to identify and support individuals with FASD and complex neurodevelopmental needs in BC	
INTER-GENERATIONAL NETWORK ON THE EFFECTS OF GENOCIDE (2023-2026) Total grant: \$630,000	\$210,000
Legal research, including Secwépemc-led engagement of survivors of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, aiming to advance law reform surrounding the legacy of cultural genocide	
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	\$17,495
Expanding laws around climate change litigation in B.C. and Canadian courts to hold governments and corporations accountable for environmental harms	
Research on 40 years of Charter challenges to the law of sexual assault, to map a new agenda for addressing sexual violence while evaluating the limits of law reform	\$19,552
QMUNITY, BC'S QUEER, TRANS AND TWO-SPIRIT RESOURCE CENTRE	\$20,000
A community needs assessment in anticipation of starting a legal clinic to address the needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community	
RISE WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE	\$20,000
Report proposing standards and guidelines for assessors who prepare family law psychological reports in BC	
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW	\$19,674
Continued research on the extent and format of agreements and other relationships between local governments and Indigenous governments	
TOTAL LEGAL RESEARCH PROJECTS	\$673,651

Special Funds



\$996,664

Legal Aid BC / Law Foundation Research Fund

LEGAL AID BC

Consultation and data modelling to inform recommendations on enhanced legal aid services for criminal clients with complex needs \$125,000

TOTAL LEGAL AID BC / LAW FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUND \$125,000

Special Purpose Law Foundation Funding Streams

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

LOIS SHELTON EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUNDING

Supporting the professional development of Law Foundation funded advocates, executive directors and supervising lawyers through a number of initiatives including an annual provincial conference for advocates; and training for new advocates, executive directors and board members \$265,800

CAPACITY AND ACCESS FUNDING

Supports organizations with unforeseen or emergency needs \$585,864

TOTAL SPECIAL PURPOSE LAW FOUNDATION FUNDING STREAMS \$871,664



Financial Highlights

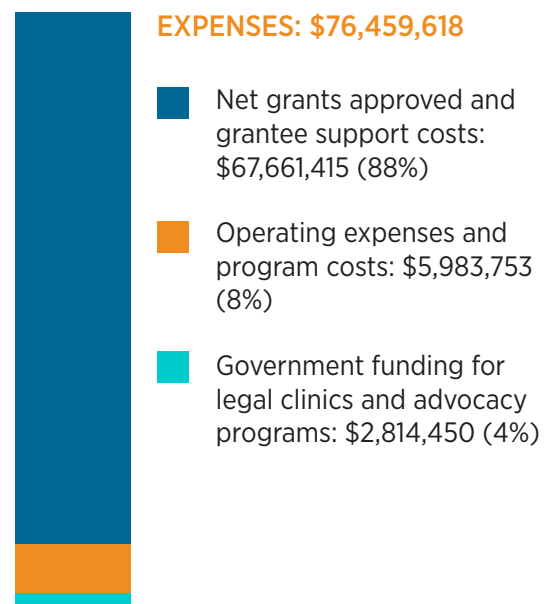
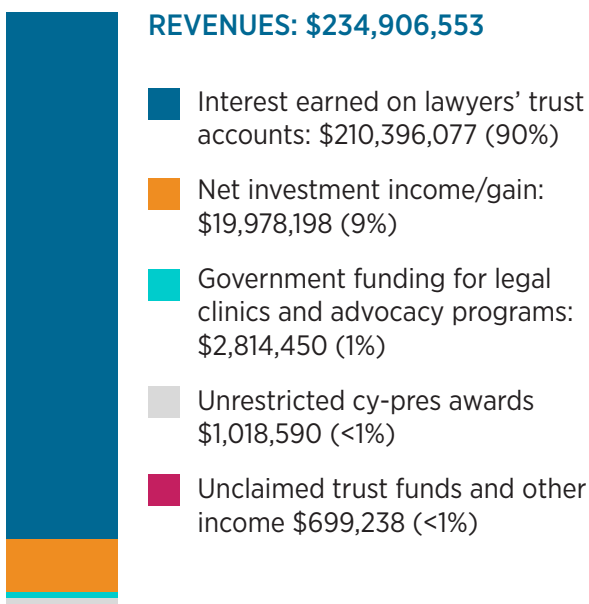
2023 total revenues of \$234.9 million (2022: \$87.3 million) comprised \$210.4 million in interest on lawyers' pooled trust accounts, \$20.0 million in net investment income, \$2.8 million in government funding for clinics and advocacy programs, and \$1.7 million in other revenue.

The \$20.0 million of net investment income (2022: \$7.4 million loss) resulted from strong equity markets and favourable interest rates earned on the Foundation's expanded portfolio of Guaranteed Investment Certificates.

\$72.7 million of grants were approved in 2023 (2022: \$81.8 million). The decrease in net grants approved from 2022 to 2023 is not a reduction in program funding, but is due to the scheduling of multi-year grants - fewer multi-year grants were up for renewal in the grant cycle in 2023, as compared to 2022.

The Foundation has significantly increased its grantmaking in service of people across British Columbia. Where annual grant payments averaged \$30.1 million per year between 2019 and 2022, the Foundation expects annual grant payments to average approximately \$90 million per year from 2025 onward (2024 projection: \$94.6 million). Significant additions to the grant portfolio include expanding the province's network of direct legal services, funding for Indigenous Justice and Racial Justice, and ensuring grants for core access to justice services keep pace with inflation. Total Grants Payable rose from \$83.4 million at the end of 2022 to \$102.1 million at the end of 2023.

The Foundation's 2023 operating expenses of \$5.7 million increased from \$4.3 million in 2022, primarily due to the addition of new team members





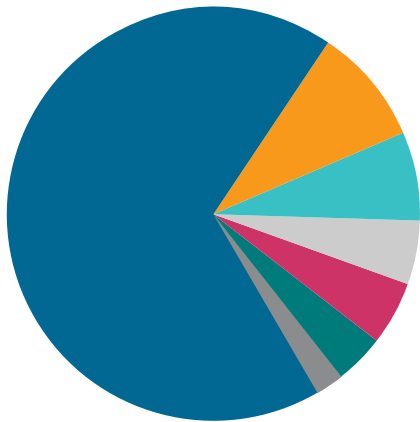
Where annual grant payments averaged \$30.1 million per year between 2019 and 2022, the Foundation expects annual grant payments to average approximately \$90 million per year from 2025 onward.

to support the Foundation’s expanded grantmaking and grantee support initiatives. The Foundation continues to grow its team and infrastructure in service of its expanded grantmaking.

Driven by a high interest rate environment not seen in two decades, \$158.4 million was added to the Grant Stabilization Fund, an increase from the \$2.0 million added in 2022.

The Grant Stabilization Fund stood at \$261.1 million at the end of 2023 and is expected to rise above \$400 million by the end of 2024, reaching its optimal ratio of 3.5 to 5.0 times annual expenditures. The Grant Stabilization Fund is a reserve to ensure the continued support of multi-year grants during reductions in the Foundation’s revenue due to lower interest rates.

OPERATING EXPENSES: \$5,983,753



- Salaries and employee benefits \$4,099,752 (68%)
- Office and other \$553,106 (9%)
- Occupancy \$401,433 (7%)
- Program costs \$316,914 (5%)
- Consulting and legal \$273,035 (5%)
- Meetings and travel \$228,535 (4%)
- Audit and annual report \$110,978 (2%)

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 2023 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 2023.

Full audited statements are at lawfoundationbc.org/annual-report/



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM (2024)

Darcie Bennett

Director of Strategic
Projects

Andrea Gutierrez Crosson

Director of Operations

Patrick McNary

Director of Finance

Vi Nguyen

Director of Grants
and Programs

Bernice Paul

Interim Director of
People & Operations

Kim Hawkins

Director of Legal
Service Grants

Josh Paterson

Executive Director

OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS (and committee assignments)

As of December 2023

Karen Ameyaw

Finance & Operations;
New Grants

Maureen Buchan

Fellowships & Research;
New Grants

Abigail Cheung

Executive; Policy &
Planning (Chair)

Mary Childs

Foundation Chair; Executive
(Chair); Ex-officio member of
all other committees

R. Max Collett

Class Actions; Finance &
Operations

Justice Tom Crabtree

Finance & Operations

Paul Craven

John Greschner

Capacity & Access Fund
(Chair); Executive; Policy &
Planning

Claire Hunter, KC

Class Actions; Finance &
Operations

Kathy Kendall, KC

Executive; Fellowships
& Research (Chair);
New Grants; Policy &
Planning

Eugene Lee

Finance & Operations;
New Grants

Leah Mack

Policy & Planning;
Class Actions

Judge Nina Purewal

Capacity & Access Fund;
Finance & Operations;
Policy & Planning

Sarah Runyon

Capacity & Access Fund;
Fellowships & Research;
Policy & Planning

Zulie Sachedina

Executive; Finance &
Operations (Chair);
New Grants

Zara Suleman, KC

New Grants (Chair);
Policy & Planning

Judge Linda Thomas

Finance & Operations

Brandon L. Veenstra

Fellowships & Research;
Policy & Planning



SECHLT BC PHOTO: ASCENTXMEDIA

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



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Tel: 604-688-2337 / Fax: 604-688-4586 / info@lawfoundationbc.org

lawfoundationbc.org

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.