



Community Legal  
Education Association



L'Association d'éducation  
juridique communautaire

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**CLEA  
Newsletter  
Winter 2014**

## CLEA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### CLEA's Mission Statement

#### **"Unknown Rights Are Not Rights At All"**

CLEA is a not-for-profit organization that provides public legal information to Manitobans. We believe that legal knowledge is a prerequisite to full and equal participation in our society. The purpose of CLEA is to educate the general public with respect to the legal system, with the betterment of Manitobans as its ultimate goal, and to increase the ability of individuals (primarily those perceived to have the greatest need) to deal competently with legal issues.

#### CLEA Staff

Mary Troszko, Executive  
Director

Jennifer Dunik, Law Phone-In  
Lawyer

Sean Young, Law Phone-In  
Lawyer

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It has been a busy year. Next year promises to be even busier as CLEA celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some of the events that will mark this celebration will include our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Legal Education Award and our annual comedy show fundraiser. Other events are being planned, so check our website for updates. Of course it will be business as usual, so we will be holding our annual law conference, our community legal intermediary training courses, participating in Law Day and organizing a variety of workshops.

We have done a lot in 30 years, as evidenced by the statistics on the next page. However, there is so much left to do. After the National Action Committee and the Canadian Bar Association released their reports, there has been much discussion about improving access to justice. Hopefully it will not just be words, but will translate into action.

Community Legal Education Association can continue to help. We can provide the public perspective on the current situation and any proposed changes. Part of the solution should include plain language information. That we can continue to provide in a variety of formats: print, on-line, email and telephone information, and through workshops and our intermediary training courses.

30 years is a long time. There are many people who made those 30 years possible. Thank you to every single one of you: our core funders, our project funders, our board members, our staff, our contract workers, Pro Bono Students Canada who helped out at Law Phone-In, the lawyers on the lawyer referral panel, everyone who delivered presentations, who reviewed publications, who wrote publications, who provided clerical support, who partnered with us in our fundraising efforts or in delivering programs. Obviously, there are too many people to mention in this short article, but we will try throughout the coming year to recognize each and every one of you.

We at CLEA hope that you have a wonderful holiday season. We hope to come back refreshed and ready to tackle the next 30 years.

## 30 Years of Access to Justice

As I was going through 30 years worth of Annual Reports to write this article, I was struck by four things.

First, the huge numbers:

- **499,922** Publications distributed
- **1,837** Workshops and seminars held with **44,869** people attending
- An additional **1,440** attendees at law conferences, **710** at 50 YCJA workshops
- **332,000** Visitors and over **1,580,000** Page Views on our website in the past five years

Not to mention the nearly **360,000** calls handled by the Law Phone-In & Lawyer Referral Program that will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June of 2015.

Second, the huge numbers of people involved in delivering these programs – lawyers on the lawyer referral panel, speakers on the Speaker's Bureau, people who helped write, revise or edit our publications, clerical support, not to mention the board, staff and contract positions over the past 30 years.

Third, we focused on several core programs that we found worked very well:

- Law Phone-In & Lawyer Referral Program
- Outreach through workshops, training courses and conferences
- Plain language publication production and distribution.

Yet, we remained flexible and adapted to changing times. For example, our emphasis in recent years has been less on print publications (which are still very important nonetheless) and more on online publications. At Law Phone-In we are now handling about one-quarter of the inquiries through email. We also just launched 15 videos (narrated power points) which are available on our website.

Fourth, the overwhelming need for understandable, accurate legal information and general legal advice that eclipses the huge numbers I mentioned earlier. This includes the dramatic rise in self-represented and unrepresented individuals, estimated to be around 50% and which, if the experience in the U.S. is any indication, will rise to 80%.

We did a busy line study a few years ago and found that 1500 calls every week did not get through to the Law Phone-In Program. That's 78,000 calls a year. Clearly, our work is not done. It probably won't be done in the next 30 years because access to justice, to understandable legal information is an on-going need. Law and legal issues touch all of us in our everyday lives, so it should come as no surprise that it is an on-going need.

I would like to dispel some of the myths about not-for-profit organizations that have been around for a long time. We do not somehow miraculously become self-sustaining. We still need funding. In fact, often our funding does not keep pace with increased costs and increased demands. Since we have been around for such a long time, we are often taken for granted. However, that also means that we have experience. The organization is not new, but we are always doing something new – new projects, core projects in a different way, or using new formats so that we will continue to remain relevant.

Mary Troszko

## Law Phone-In & Lawyer Referral Program Update

Jennifer Dunik

As of the end of November 2014, the Law Phone-in and Lawyer Referral Program handled 5847 calls. Of those calls, 1515 resulted in a referral to a lawyer on our Lawyer Referral Panel. 1174 inquiries were responded to through e-mail. Approximately 73% of the calls originated from Winnipeg. The remaining calls came from communities throughout Manitoba, Canada and the United States, and from around the world from such places as Pakistan, West Africa, England, Nigeria, India, Australia, Germany, and Brazil.

In terms of trends, there has been a noticeable increase in calls on child protection; so far 90 calls have been received in 2014. Calls on wills have also increased from 387 in 2013 to 414 in 2014. General insurance inquiries have increased this year, including employment insurance, in which we received no calls solely on that issue in 2013 but have received 7 inquiries so far this year. Landlord and tenant calls also have increased in 2014.

790 callers indicated a referral to our program from a variety of different sources, including lawyers, law enforcement, judiciary, government offices, friends, and non-profit organizations. The places that most frequently refer callers to our program continue to be Legal Aid Manitoba (133), Employment Standards Branch (120) Legal Help Centre (64), Law Society of Manitoba (52), and the Courts (51).

Law students through Pro Bono Students Canada are again helping us at Law Phone-In. We will be assisted by Sam Thomson (student lead), Evan Amabile, Amrita Sidhu, Paul Geisler, Omri Plotnik, Sharu

CLEA would like to thank the following volunteers who have helped us since April of this year by delivering presentations: and reviewing publications:

**Silvana Buccini, Karen Burwash, Tony Cellitti, David Davis, Catherine Dunn, Len Fishman, Alia Harb, Kelly Harrison, Greg Hawrysh, Steven Hyman, Teresa Johnson, David King, Shameem Koshy, Tim Lach, Michael Lazar, Victoria Lehman, Lorrie Makar, Wendy Martin White, Peter Mueller, Benjamin Nkana Bassi, Dan Orlikow, William Pooley, Lynn Ranville, Edward Rice, Allan Robertson, Gary Robinson, Wayne Rose, Lorraine Scollin, Sandip Sett, Inderjit Singh, Dean Szikinger, John Thullner, Sharon Tod, Lori Van Dongen, Tyler Warren, Andrew Wychnenka, Norman Yusim, Saheel Zaman.**

Without your assistance, we would not be able to deliver the programs that we do. So far this year 47 presentations have been delivered, including Law in the Library, the Community Legal Intermediary Course presentations and Law Day. Another 10 will be scheduled for January and February.

If you would like to be on our lawyer referral panel or if you would like to be part of the Speakers Bureau or review publications for us, please download the application forms from our website:

<http://www.communitylegal.mb.ca/about/volunteer-opportunities>  
or call for a copy (204-943-2382).

## The Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act

Sean Young

*The Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act* gives municipalities the ability to process and resolve parking violations and other contraventions of their by-laws by using an administrative penalty scheme that does not involve court proceedings.

If a municipality wants to enforce any parking by-laws, it will have to establish an administrative system in order to do so. A municipality can also use the new Act to deal with other designated by-law infractions. Parking violations or any other designated by-law infractions will no longer be dealt with in Provincial Court.

Alleged offenders will receive a penalty notice that will notify them of a contravention of a designated by-law. By-law enforcement officers will issue these penalty notices. A person who wants to dispute the penalty notice can request a review by a screening officer appointed by the municipality. A person who is not satisfied with the decision of the screening officer can request a hearing by an adjudicator to review the decision. Adjudicators will be appointed by the Deputy Attorney General. There is a \$25 fee for an adjudication.

*The Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act* allows municipalities to join together for cost sharing and joint administration of an administrative penalty scheme.

This Act comes into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

## 2014 PLEAC Conference Highlights

PLEAC is a national association of individuals and organizations that promote public legal education and information.

PLEAC held its annual conference September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton, hosted by Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Justice Thomas Cromwell gave the keynote address. He felt that plei organizations could play the following roles in promoting access to justice:

- Sharing information across jurisdictions
- Liaising and coordinating with other sectors
- Bringing a more public-focused perspective to discussions with stakeholders
- Developing action plans to ensure accessible information promoting early resolution of disputes.

Presentations discussed:

- Intermediary training courses
- Family law workshops for self-represented litigants
- Positive impact of working with plei groups on pro bono law students
- Wiki books to deliver legal information
- Cyber-safety education
- Alternative forms of legal information and assistance like Internet sites with avatars, and telephone hotlines.

# Upcoming Events

## Law in the Library Series

**Monday, January 26** - Wills & Estates – Westwood Library, 66 Allard Avenue

**Tuesday, January 27** - Immigration Law – Sir William Stephenson Library, 765 Keewatin Street

**Tuesday, February 5** - Older Adults and the Law - St. John's Library, 500 Salter Street

**Tuesday, February 10** - Immigration Law – West Kildonan Library, 365 Jefferson Avenue

**Monday, February 23** - Wills & Estates – Pembina Trail Library, 2724 Pembina Highway

**Tuesday, February 24** - Renting in Winnipeg – Sir William Stephenson Library, 765 Keewatin Street

**Thursday, February 26** - Family Law – Child Custody/Access/Support – Pembina Trail Library, 2724 Pembina Highway

We are working again with Winnipeg Public Library's Law in the Library Series. All sessions listed start at 6:30 p.m. Contact the library to register.

**CLEA Annual Law Conference** – Friday, February 27, 9:30 to 3:30 at the Union Centre, 275 Broadway. The topic is Employment Law.

**Law Day** – Sunday, April 19, noon to 3:30 at the Law Courts, 408 York Avenue

## New!

Now available on our website at <http://www.communitylegal.mb.ca> the following 15 videos:

- Annulment
- Child Support
- Custody & Access
- Division of Property
- Grandparents Access Rights
- Marriage in Manitoba
- Names & Name Changes
- Separation & Divorce
- Spousal Support
- Starting Family Law Proceedings
- Motions in Family Court
- Family Law Case Conferences
- 1<sup>st</sup> Appearance in Criminal Court
- Overview of Civil Law Cases
- How to Conduct Yourself in Court

## Community Legal Education Association

Presents:

### Issues in Employment Law

A Law Conference for  
*Law Teachers, Lawyers, Students,  
Community Service Providers  
and Members of the Public*

Friday, February 27, 2015

Union Centre

275 Broadway, Winnipeg

For more information, contact:  
Mary Troszko, Executive Director  
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email: [mtroszko@communitylegal.mb.ca](mailto:mtroszko@communitylegal.mb.ca)

**\* Registration forms available on our  
website or by calling 204-943-2382\***

### A Special Thank You to the Following CLEA Supporters

#### Core Funders:

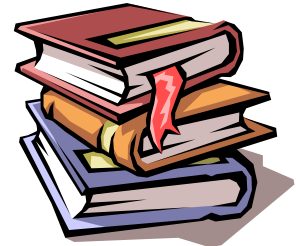
- Department of Justice Canada
- The Manitoba Law Foundation
- The Law Society of Manitoba

#### Project Funder:

- Winnipeg Foundation

We are also grateful for the volunteer efforts of  
members of the legal profession of Manitoba,  
and for member fees, subscriptions and  
donations.

# Publications



Recently Reprinted and available at no charge:

- **Court Orders for Your Protection**
- **Youth Criminal Justice Act**  
(brochures and 8 fact sheets)

(Bulk copies available for law offices and  
community agencies; please call 204-943-2382 to  
arrange for pick-up)

Also Available for Sale:

- **Probate Court Guide \$30**
- **Uncontested Divorce Guide \$25**
- **My Funeral Plan \$5**

See our on-line publications at  
[www.communitylegal.mb.ca](http://www.communitylegal.mb.ca)

- **Welfare Guide** (revised 2014)
- **Buying a Home** (for newcomers)
- **Separation & Divorce** (for  
newcomers)

**CLEA is a registered charity: Charity Registration # 118870732RR0001**

**CLEA is listed with the All Charities Campaign  
(catalogue #C226)**

**You can also donate online at [www.communitylegal.mb.ca](http://www.communitylegal.mb.ca)**

**Receipts will be issued for tax purposes**

For more information contact Executive Director, Mary Troszko at 204-943-2382