



*Celebrating ten years
of excellence in
pro bono service*



Thank you for growing with us



Pro Bono Law Alberta

Paths to possibilities

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

Message from the President and Executive Director



Kevin Feth, QC, President



Kendall Moholityn, Executive Director

Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA) works in collaboration with the pro bono sector, community stakeholders, and members of the legal profession to facilitate access to justice for Albertans. Over the last year, PBLA continued to foster the pro bono culture within the Alberta legal community and to provide opportunities for lawyers, articling students, law students, and retired lawyers to meet the ever-growing need for free legal assistance.

In June 2017, PBLA celebrated 10 years of pro bono service in Alberta thanks to the incredible contributions of volunteers and community partners who deliver services to thousands of Albertans each year.

PBLA is committed to working with stakeholders to build an increasingly collaborative pro bono sector in which community legal clinics, student law organizations, and social services agencies share best practices, provide mutual support, and advocate for government programming and funding that support meaningful access to legal services. PBLA hosted meetings among Alberta's pro bono clinics and student law organizations to advance that goal, and actively supported the development of a provincial Collaborative of pro bono administrators.

PBLA's court-based programs, the Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC) and Queen's Bench Amicus Project (QB Amicus), continued to serve self-represented litigants in both Edmonton and Calgary. In 2017-2018, more than 5,500 individuals accessed these programs. Our gratitude is extended for the volunteer efforts of hundreds of volunteer lawyers, supporting law firms, in-house and government legal departments, articling students, law students, and internationally-trained lawyers.

PBLA worked in partnership with the Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic and YMCA of Northern Alberta Wood Buffalo Region to launch a sustainable pro bono legal clinic in February 2018 to serve the needs of the Fort McMurray community. PBLA held its seventh annual Calgary Legal Advice Clinic in October 2017 in partnership with Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP, the Calgary Public Library, and Calgary Legal Guidance. PBLA continued to participate in national pro bono associations and initiatives with other provincial pro bono organizations, Pro Bono Students Canada, and through the Canadian Bar Association at the National and Branch levels.

PBLA adopted a new three-year strategic plan for 2018-2021 which focuses on four goals:

- Maximizing legal community engagement in the provision of pro bono legal services throughout Alberta
- Promoting access to pro bono legal services for Albertans in need
- Steering and contributing to a cohesive pro bono sector to better serve Albertans in need
- Maintaining organizational excellence

PBLA continued to benefit from an incredible professional staff who bring dedication and energy to every aspect of our work. In particular, one of our brightest lights has been Cecelia Frohlick who retired in June 2017 from her position as Director of Programs and Operations. PBLA is grateful to Cecelia for her many years in helping to build PBLA's community relationships, partnerships, programs, and initiatives.

We are also grateful for the many volunteers and partners who have worked with us to enhance pro bono legal services in Alberta. For those looking for new ways to get engaged in pro bono legal service, we invite you to join us as we move forward in collaboration with others in the pro bono sector to improve access to justice for Albertans.

Kevin Feth, QC, President

Kendall Moholityn, Executive Director





Fort McMurray Community Legal Clinic: first clinic, February 13, 2018. From right to left: Kendall Moholityn (PBLA), Kathy Parsons (CACLC), Corie Flett (PBLA), Debbie Martin (YMCA), and Rodelyn Piosca (YMCA).

Statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Assets	344,954	255,151
Liabilities	93,996	50,711
Net assets	250,958	204,440

Statement of operations

For the year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Revenue	630,054	662,429
Expenses	587,432	680,693
Other income	3,896	2,639
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	46,518	(15,625)

For a copy of PBLA's audited financial statements email info@pbla.ca

Community Pro Bono Partnerships and Projects

Collaboration in the Access to Justice Sector

In 2017-2018, PBLA coordinated conference calls and meetings among pro bono clinics and student legal organizations: Calgary Legal Guidance; Edmonton Community Legal Centre; Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic; Lethbridge Legal Guidance; Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre; Student Legal Services of Edmonton; and Student Legal Assistance. In November 2017, PBLA hosted a collaboration Round Table meeting where participants shared updates and information, had presentations on issues of mutual interest and discussed possibilities for collaborative initiatives. The meeting included a staff lawyer breakout session for sharing best practices and discussion of common issues. PBLA also participated in the Justice Sector Constellation, Legal Aid Alberta Stakeholders Consultation meetings, Legal Assistance Network Working Group, and on the Canadian Bar Association (Alberta Branch) Access to Justice Committee.

Community Legal Clinic – Fort McMurray

PBLA, in partnership with the Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic and the YMCA of Northern Alberta, partnered on a legal clinic initiative in Fort McMurray. The pro bono clinic engages the local bar in providing service to individuals in the Fort McMurray area, with clinics on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The first clinic was held on February 13, 2018.

Calgary Legal Advice Clinic

The seventh annual Calgary Legal Advice Clinic in partnership with the Calgary Public Library, Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP and Calgary Legal Guidance took place in October 2017. More than 100 individuals were assisted during this one-day legal advice event.

Civil Claims Duty Counsel Project (CCDC)

CCDC provides legal assistance to Albertans engaged in civil proceedings in Provincial Court in Calgary and Edmonton. CCDC is a joint initiative with Pro Bono Students Canada (Calgary and Edmonton Chapters), Student Legal Assistance, Student Legal Services of Edmonton, several law firms, as well as individual

volunteer lawyers, articling students, and law students. Volunteer lawyers provide summary legal advice, procedural information, help with court forms, and other brief services. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, more than 680 volunteer lawyers, articling students, and law students provided over 2900 hours of pro bono legal services to more than 3800 individuals.

Queen's Bench Court Assistance Program (QB Amicus)

This program aims to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants with civil matters appearing in Queen's Bench Justice and Masters Chambers in Calgary and Edmonton. In the courtroom, volunteer lawyers act as *amicus curiae* to assist individuals with their appearance before the court, thus streamlining court processes for unrepresented litigants. The program also includes a "storefront" at which volunteer lawyers provide summary legal advice regarding Chambers applications and other civil matters in the Court of Queen's Bench. This past fiscal year more than 350 volunteer lawyers, articling students, and law students provided over 1700 hours of pro bono legal services to more than 1750 individuals.

PBLA's court-based programs continue to attract interest from law firms, in-house and government legal departments, individual lawyers, and law students. A total of 32 law firms, one government, and three in-house legal departments were involved in both Calgary and Edmonton this year.

Volunteer Lawyer Services Roster Program (VLS)

VLS tries to match volunteer lawyers with charitable organizations and individuals requiring legal services but unable to afford it. Individuals are assisted through referrals from pro bono clinics and Legal Aid Alberta. VLS lawyers decide the scope of pro bono legal services they provide and volunteer opportunities can be tailored to meet the volunteer lawyers' schedule. Lawyers may join the roster at any time. This past year, volunteer lawyers provided several groups and individuals with pro bono legal services for matters relating to incorporation, by-law review, charitable registration, landlord/tenant, civil, and family law.

Our Vision

Pro Bono Law Alberta will be recognized as a leader and valued partner in fostering pro bono contributions by the legal community to facilitate access to justice for Albertans.



Pro Bono Law Alberta's success is possible through the support of many law firms, volunteer lawyers, articling students, law students, community stakeholders, project partners, court administration, donors, and funders.

Advisory Board

The Honourable Madam Justice M.S. Paperny
The Honourable Madam Justice J.M. Ross
The Honourable Mr. Justice R.A. Jerke
The Honourable Mr. Justice J.T. Henderson
The Honourable Judge A.H. Lefever
The Honourable John Major, C.C., QC
The Honourable Allan Wachowich, QC
Donald Bishop, QC
Cheryl Gottselig, QC
Phyllis Smith, QC

Board of Directors

Kevin Feth, QC President (Edmonton)
Brett Anderson, Vice President (Calgary)
Jana Neal, Treasurer (Calgary)
Scott Harling, Secretary (Lethbridge)
Ed Ma (Calgary)
Allyson Jeffs (Edmonton) to September 2017
Christopher Rickards, QC (Red Deer)
The Honourable Justice Steve Mandziuk (Edmonton) to September 2017
Robert Dunster, LSA Bencher Representative (Edmonton) to February 2018
Corie Flett, LSA Bencher Representative (Fort McMurray) as of March 2018
Karen Fellowes (Calgary)
Dr. Anna Lund (Edmonton)

Staff

Kendall Moholityn, Executive Director
Cecelia Frohlick, Director of Programs and Operations, retired June 2017
Nonye Opara, Director of Programs and Operations
Myra Skerrett, Office Administrator
Kristina Dimitrov, Program Assistant
Vasil Dimitrov, Program Coordinator (Calgary)
Jessica Derksen, Program Coordinator (Edmonton)
Nohayla Benayad, Summer Student 2017

Legal Community

A Farber
Ackroyd LLP
Association of Women Lawyers
BDO Financial Recovery Services
Bishop and McKenzie LLP
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Brownlee LLP
Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP
Canadian Bar Association – Alberta Branch
Carbert Waite LLP
CBM Lawyers
City of Edmonton Law Branch
Dentons Canada LLP
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
Emery Jamieson LLP
Family Law Office
Field LLP
Foster Iovinelli Beyak Kothari
Foster LLP
Gowling WLG
Grant Thornton LLP
Greg Rodin Professional Corporation
GSD Law Group LLP
Hudson & Company Insolvency Trustees Inc.
Imperial Oil
James McCall Panunto Barristers
JSS Barristers LLP
Legal Education Society of Alberta
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
McAllister LLP
McLennan Ross LLP
McLeod Law LLP
McMillan LLP
Miller Thomson LLP
MJM Barristers
MLT Aikins LLP
MNP LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright (Canada) LLP
Ogilvie LLP
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Parkland Fuel Corporation
Parlee McLaws LLP
Parmar Law
Randhawa Law Office
Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP
Scott Venturo Rudakoff LLP
Sivia Law Office
Walsh LLP
Witten LLP
WK Family Lawyers & Mediators

Thanks to the many individual lawyers, articling students, and law students (including internationally-trained lawyers) who have helped in various projects and programs throughout the year.

Pro Bono Community

Calgary Legal Guidance
Central Alberta Community Legal Clinic
Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre
Edmonton Community Legal Centre
Fort McMurray Community Legal Clinic
Grande Prairie Legal Guidance
Lethbridge Legal Guidance
Medicine Hat Legal Help Centre
Pro Bono Students Canada – Calgary and Edmonton Chapters
Student Legal Assistance
Student Legal Services of Edmonton

Project Partners

1000 Voices at the Genesis Centre
Brenda Strafford Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
Calgary Public Library
Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society
Legal Aid Alberta
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Resolution and Court Administration Services
Wellspring Calgary – Money Mentors Program
Women's Centre of Calgary
YMCA of Northern Alberta Wood Buffalo Region

Funders

**Alberta LAW
FOUNDATION**



Pro Bono Law Alberta

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401, 255 – 17 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2S 2T8

403-541-4804
info@pbla.ca
pbla.ca

PBLA engages the legal community to increase access to pro bono legal services for Albertans in need.