

# Community Legal Education Association

## *Spring Newsletter*

### President's Message

Sarah Thurmeier

Dear Friends of CLEA,

Since 1984, CLEA has successfully delivered an array of programs and resources to work with communities where there are understood needs. These services help individuals better understand our legal system and how to resolve their legal issues.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Law Phone-In: 2021 Year  
in Review - 2  
Publications Update - 3  
WSH Project Updates - 4  
Elder Abuse and Family  
Law Project Updates - 5  
Victims of Intimate  
Partner Violence Project  
Update - 5  
Our Team - 5

Members of the community are accessing CLEA's programs and services now more than ever. The Law Phone-In and Lawyer Referral Program continues to receive more calls and emails than it has in past years. We now have 55 videos on our website, including seven French videos. Approximately 180 participants attended this year's Law Conference on the topic of family law. CLEA also recently launched our online community legal intermediary training course, which includes nine modules on a variety of topics.

CLEA's Board of Directors is about to embark on the process of updating and refining our strategic plan. Clear goals will ensure that decisions and efforts continue to move CLEA in a positive direction.

**Unknown Rights  
are  
Not Rights  
At All!**

Please consider supporting our work by becoming a member of CLEA, if you are not already a member, and/or by making a donation. You may find information about donating on our website. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

News about CLEA's upcoming fundraising event will be coming soon - please stay tuned!



## Law Phone-In: 2021 Year in Review

Law Phone-In & Lawyer Referral provides legal information and summary advice, lawyer referrals, and referrals to law-related and other agencies. In 2021, Law Phone-in handled over **9,600** calls, including **over 3,000** e-mail inquiries.

**1,600** of our callers were referred to our program from a variety of sources and **over 700** callers contacted our program repeatedly for assistance. The places that most frequently refer callers to our program continue to be **Legal Aid Manitoba (645)**, **Lawyers (178)**, **Law Society of Manitoba (176)**, **Employment Standards Branch (146)**, **Legal Help Centre (116)**, **Courts (83)**, **Manitoba Labour Board (20)**, and the **Residential Tenancies Branch (45)**. Other sources of referrals include law enforcement, judiciary, government offices, non-profit organizations and many other organizations and individuals.

**10%** of the callers were referred to a lawyer on our Lawyer Referral Panel. We currently have 155 lawyers on our Panel who provide free consultations to callers for up to a half-hour.

**30%** of our callers require family law assistance. Wills (POA, Estates, Committeeship, HCD), Employment, Criminal Law and Civil Litigation each comprise **approximately 10%** of our calls. The remaining **30%** includes such areas as real estate, immigration law, taxation law, municipal law, landlord/tenant, medical malpractice, Autopac, commercial law, landlord/tenant, WCB, EIA, insurance law, and administrative law.

### Trends

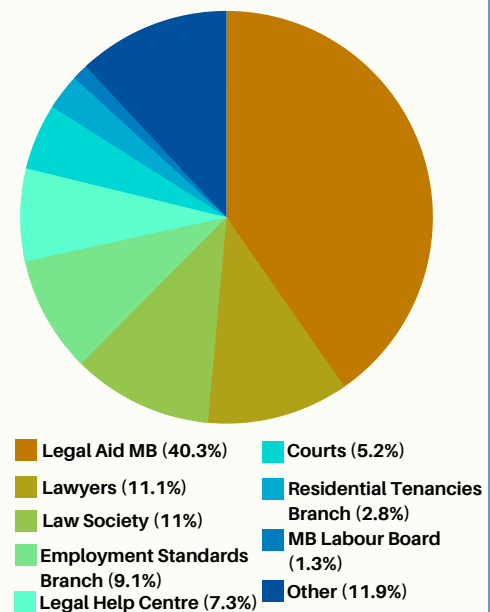
Many callers are calling on behalf of family members whose competence is in question or will be in coming years. There have also been more harassment calls, both between neighbours and in general. Often these individuals who are facing harassment go to the police and the police do not take it seriously and refuse to assist. There have been more calls about interpersonal aggression and reports of police being uninterested in intervening.

Many calls are from incarcerated individuals: from Milner Ridge, Headingley, the Winnipeg Remand Centre and other facilities around the province and country. Federal inmates also call us on a regular basis. Individuals placed in mental health facilities on an involuntary basis also call regularly and those who have formerly been incarcerated in such facilities call as well, seeking redress for issues experienced there.

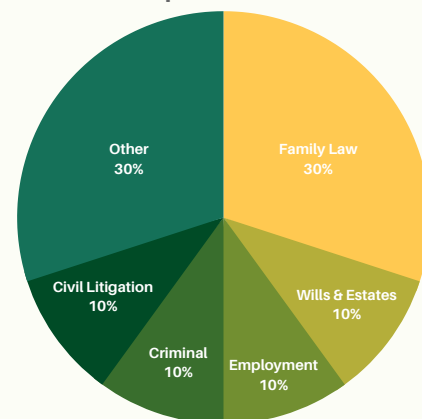
As usual, there are very many family law calls. Issues such as guardianships and common-law break ups are also coming in very steadily.

Calls involving family members who are dealing with elderly family members who are being financially abused or taken advantage of are also on the rise. As the population ages, these problems are becoming more and more common.

Referral Sources



Topics of Calls



## Publications Update

### New and Revised Publications

With the support of the Porsche Club of America (Red River Region), we have created a brochure about driving laws, explaining the penalties for impaired driving offences, speeding, and other offences related to motor vehicles.

We have also updated our *Uncontested Divorce Guide*, *Small Claims Court Guide*, and *Probate Guide* because of recent changes to court filing fees.

### Upcoming projects

We have begun work on a new Conversion Therapy project that will produce a brochure, fact sheet, and poster, as well as FAQs and videos on our website.

In response to the recent anti-public health order protests and the misinformation we have seen being circulated, we have also begun planning a new FAQ section for the website that will explain protestors' rights, the Charter, and the role of the Governor General.

### **Thank You to our Funders:**

#### **Core Funders:**

*Department of Justice Canada  
Manitoba Law Foundation  
Law Society of Manitoba*

#### **Project Funder:**

*Department of Justice Canada*

### Video updates

We have added seven new webinar recordings to our online video library. These are on the topics of small claims (presented by Daniel Hildebrand), immigration law (David Davis), copyright law (Althea Wheeler), and as part of our annual law conference: family law (Nina Holatova), family violence (Stacey Soldier and Wayne Rose), parenting arrangements (Leah Klassen) and a panel presentation on Family Law Government services (Ingrid Pflug, Leita Kalinowsky, and Michael Williams). Many thanks to all presenters for allowing us to post these webinars online.

Law students in the Pro Bono Students Canada program have created a video about appearing in virtual court. We'd like to thank Vicky Liu (lead), Chi Zhang, Pavan Takhar and Victoria McGahey.

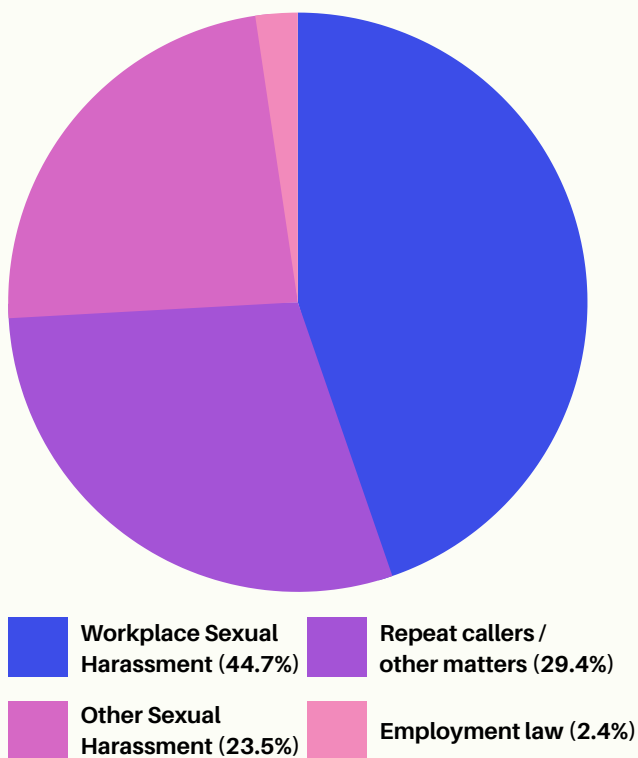
We have also begun the slow process of correcting and improving the captions for all of the videos we have posted online.

Law students through Pro Bono Students Canada also translated four of our webinar scripts into French and we now have four new French videos: *Quand la police peut elle fouiller mon domicile?*, *Quand la police peut elle effectuer une fouille?*, *Quels sont mes droit en cas d'arrestation?*, and *Vos obligations et droits quand vous êtes arrêté par la police*. Thank you to: Dominique Gibson (lead), True Dash and Karine Pelletier, who reviewed the scripts.

# Project Updates

## Workplace Sexual Harassment Hotline

In 2022 the Workplace Sexual Harassment hotline has received approximately 85 contacts by phone or through email. Of these calls, 38 have been related to workplace sexual harassment, 2 have been about general employment issues and 20 have been related to other sexual violence or harassment, or domestic violence and stalking. Many calls are from repeat callers seeking further information after the initial contact.



Clients phoning the hotline have been referred to a number of different agencies to resolve their matter. Workplace Safety and Health and the Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid, and Clinic Third Party Reporting were the agencies that the clients were most often referred to. Calls to the hotline also resulted in seven referrals to lawyers on our panel.

Clients have been referred to the hotline through a number of agencies, including Legal Aid, the Law Society of Manitoba, Employment Standards and private bar lawyers.

## WSH Workshops

January 2022 marked one year since the launch of the workshop phase of CLEA’s Workplace Sexual Harassment Project. Between January 2021 and April 2022, we coordinated and delivered 41 virtual workshops with 16 partner organizations across Manitoba. These webinars reached people in 25 communities across Manitoba, including rural and Northern areas, and even into our neighbouring provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario. 536 participants have attended the workshops, with an average of 13 participants per session. These participants represent diverse groups, including youth, newcomers, women, and French-speaking Manitobans.

In addition to the workshops, we have distributed hundreds of copies of our program materials to organizations across Manitoba. These materials are also available free of charge on our website.

We are so pleased with the progress of the WSH Project so far, and look forward to what the rest of 2022 will bring! If you are interested in planning a free workshop for your community or organization, please contact our Program Coordinator, Victoria, at [vweir@communitylegal.mb.ca](mailto:vweir@communitylegal.mb.ca).

## Elder Abuse and Family Law Project Update

In 2022, CLEA's Elder Abuse Project has continued with a number of presentations being delivered in communities across Manitoba, including in rural and remote parts of the province. These webinars have educated older adults as well as service providers about elder abuse, seniors' rights, financial scams, wills, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives.

In 2022 we continued our Family Law Project, focusing on communities outside of Winnipeg, including French-speaking communities in Manitoba. We have been able to reach numerous organizations and individuals to provide key information about navigating Manitoba's family law system. These workshops are geared to individuals going through a separation or divorce, self-representing litigants, service providers who may benefit from an understanding of the family law system, as well as people who simply want to know more about our legal system and their rights.

### Board of Directors

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Victoria Weir, WSH Project Coordinator  
Carlyn Sarna, WSH Hotline Lawyer  
Nina Holatova, Project Coordinator  
Lori Colquhoun, VIPV Project Coordinator



## Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Project Update

With funding from Justice Canada, our new Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Project is underway. CLEA aims to address the need for education and access to services for people affected by this prevalent form of abuse. We are setting up a toll-free phone line and dedicated email address to offer those in need prompt legal information and referrals to appropriate resources. This assistance will be provided by an experienced, trauma-informed staff lawyer. Outreach is being planned to involve organizing presentations about Intimate Partner Violence topics. These sessions will be designed to raise awareness of the issue and increase understanding of how to help those impacted. Our intended audience is diverse, consisting of the public and service providers, including lawyers who wish to be placed on the CLEA panel to provide representation in matters related to Intimate Partner Violence.





## CLEA is looking for New Board Members

Community Legal Education Association is a charity that provides Manitobans with information about the law through various programs. We have been providing access to legal information and education since 1984. We believe in Access to Justice and that the law belongs to the people - "Unknown rights are not rights at all!"

Community Legal Education Association is looking to strengthen our Board of Directors. Become involved and volunteer to join our board. If you are interested, please forward a cover letter indicating why you wish to be considered, as well as a resumé.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [community@communitylegal.mb.ca](mailto:community@communitylegal.mb.ca)

**Deadline: Friday, May 27, 2022.**

***Please send your cover letter and resumé to:***

Community Legal Education Association  
301 - 441 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B4

Fax: 204-943-3600,

or email: [community@communitylegal.mb.ca](mailto:community@communitylegal.mb.ca),  
*Attention Nominating/Board Development Committee.*

***Please note that CLEA's by-laws provide that Directors must be members in good standing of the Association. A member in good standing is a member who has paid his or her membership fees for the current calendar year at least 7 days before the AGM.***