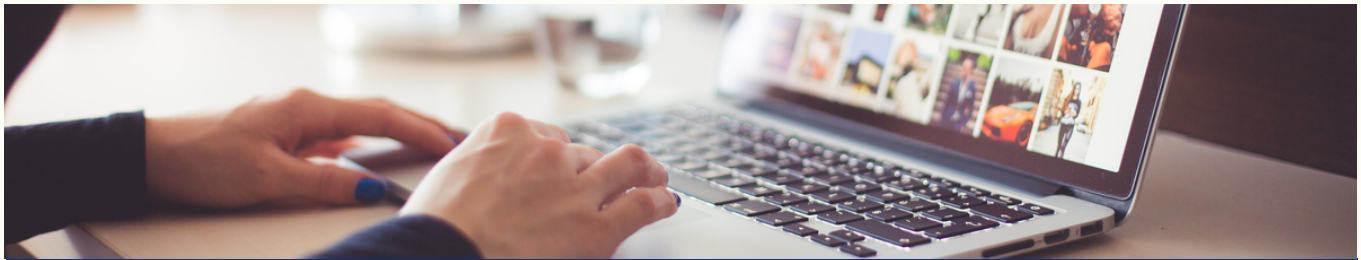


Community Legal Education Association

Winter Newsletter



Like & follow our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityLegalMB>

President's Message

Sarah Thurmeier

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Thank You to our Funders:

Core Funders:
 Department of Justice Canada
 Manitoba Law Foundation
 Law Society of Manitoba

Project Funder:
 Department of Justice Canada

Dear Friends,

The Board, together with CLEA's staff, continues to further our work in providing timely information and resources to those who contact our office.

As we move closer to the end of 2022 and into our thirty-ninth year, I encourage you to continue to check our website for upcoming events, available programs and resources.

Special thanks must be extended to CLEA's staff who, on a daily basis ensure that our mandate is met. To the members of the law community who volunteer their services and our various funding partners who continue to support CLEA's endeavours, our deepest gratitude.

On behalf of the Board and staff of CLEA, I wish you all the best that the upcoming holiday season can offer as we continue to look forward to serving the community through CLEA.

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



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Law Phone-In Update (Jan. 1, 2022 - Nov. 30, 2022)

The Law Phone-in and Lawyer Referral Program is having another busy year with over **8,300** calls and e-mail inquiries so far this year.

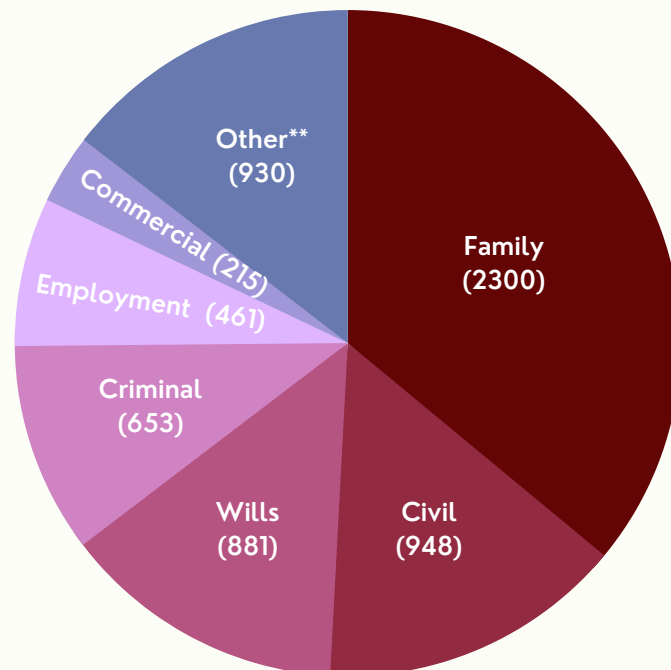
We continue to receive more referrals than ever before to our program and appreciate the trust that these referral sources have in the quality of our services. **2,686** callers this year have reported being referred to our program with assistance with their matter. We receive the most referrals from lawyers and law firms, government offices agencies, Legal Aid Manitoba, the Law Society of Manitoba, Legal Help Centre, courts, law enforcement, MLAs, MPs, and City Councillor offices, and other not-for-profit organizations.

We have had **490** inquiries by self-represented litigants this year. There have been a number of changes to the law to educate self-represented litigants about, including changes to limitation periods with a new Limitations Act, all new probate and administration forms for estate matters, and complex family law procedures.

Many callers are having issues with elders who have been manipulated by people with Power of Attorney. POAs are stealing from vulnerable elderly people and taking their money. Elderly people and other family members are being forced to close bank accounts and change banks because banks sometimes refuse to revoke documentation or step in.

2022's Top Inquiry Topics

(number of calls/emails in parentheses)



** Includes WCB, municipal law, medical law, professional governance, environmental law, human rights, copyright, FIPPA, mortgage sale and foreclosure, neighbour issues.

The police will do little to nothing even though such behaviour is contrary to s. 331 of the *Criminal Code*. There should be a government office to protect the finances of the elderly other than the Public Guardian and Trustee. This office should protect the elderly and place legal sanctions on those who financially abuse elderly Manitobans. Right now, we are the office that takes these calls and we try to help them the best we can.

Caller feedback (April - November 2022)

"You have been in the past - and continue to be - a godsend as our family tried to navigate through estate planning matters. And CLEA is a godsend."

"I am so impressed by your comprehensiveness! This has all eased my concerns (somewhat), especially for the weekend, as you answered all my questions."

"This is exactly the information I was looking for. This puts my mind a bit more at ease. I appreciate it immensely!"

"You have been an excellent resource. I really appreciate your thoughtful responses."

"Thank you. You're a WEALTH of information..."

"Thank you very much for your prompt and thoughtful reply!"

"I appreciate you and the time you took today to help me."

"I'm VERY grateful that you're available to ask questions!!"

Workplace Sexual Harassment Hotline

The Sexual Harassment Hotline has continued to respond to callers in various communities throughout Manitoba. Recently, the Sexual Harassment Hotline Lawyer and the Sexual Harassment Hotline Coordinator both travelled to Toronto, Ontario to attend the 2022 conference held by the Public Legal Education Association of Canada. The conference was attended by multiple organisations that offer a variety of Workplace Sexual Harassment projects. The conference offered a valuable opportunity for the CLEA staff to see how projects are operated in other jurisdictions. It was also highly beneficial for staff to be able to discuss ideas, strengths and challenges of the Workplace Sexual Harassment project with the staff of other organisations.

Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

November was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and was an exciting time for the Victims of Intimate Partner Violence Project.

We partnered with terrific organizations to host 6 live webinars, attracting over 200 registrants. Thank you to The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis, the Memengwaa program from Shawenim Abinoojii INC., Genesis House and the Family Law, Child and Youth Law and Criminal Justice subsections of The Manitoba Bar Association for helping to create these opportunities. Our featured presenters included Dr. Michael Ellis of the Pam Am Concussion Program, Cyerra Balitaan from the Manitoba Brain Injury Association, Dr. Matthew Maher of the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, Wil Hedges from A Woman's Place with Nor'West Co-op Community Health and Dr. Amber Merucci of the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters.

We have also launched our Intimate Partner Violence Law Help Phone and dedicated email address. This will allow callers prompt access to legal information and referrals to resources.

Plans are underway for the development of our IPV web page and for programming as we head into 2023. We are much obliged to everyone who has engaged with us to share ideas about subject areas in which there is a need for more information.

Workplace Sexual Harassment Workshops

Having initially launched in the first year of the pandemic, the WSH project's workshops have remained flexible and adapted to the needs of the community. Using a combination of in-person, fully remote, and hybrid options has allowed us to reach a wide range of organizations, centres, and populations across Manitoba.

Over 2 years, the WSH project has led 66 workshops in collaboration with 20 partner organizations. These workshops have reached an incredible 761 people, including from rural, newcomer, youth, and Francophone communities. Many of these participants have accessed other CLEA programming and resources, such as our webinars and YouTube page, as a result of their participation in WSH programming.

If you are interested in planning a free workshop for your community or organization, or in ordering free informational materials, please contact our WSH Program Coordinator, Victoria, at vweir@communitylegal.mb.ca.

Family Law Project

In 2022, CLEA's Family Law Project has continued to provide legal education workshops on a variety of topics including separation and divorce, corollary relief, court procedure and more. This year, we have delivered more than 20 presentations across 10 different Manitoban towns and communities. We have also partnered with Infojustice Manitoba to translate the presentations into French, and to deliver family law presentations in francophone communities.

Publications

This year has seen us add 23 new videos, 4 new case summaries, and 23 new FAQs to our website, as well as several new publications. Our materials for Justice Canada's Conversion Therapy Project, which include a brochure, poster, fact sheet, and video are still in the process of being reviewed. We have also updated many of our existing publications to account for changes in court fees and the change in styling from Court of Queen's Bench to Court of King's Bench.

Some of our ongoing recent projects include more substantive updates of our Probate Guide and our Grandparents Access Guide, and we are looking forward to another busy year in 2023.

Become a Member Today!

Community Legal Education Association is a charitable organization that provides Manitobans with information about the law through several services. We have existed since 1984 and we believe that the law belongs to the people— *Unknown rights are not rights at all!*

Membership Privileges

- The right to vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Notice of new publications CLEA is distributing
- Notice of new publications available for sale
- Information about upcoming events
- Newsletters



Community Legal Education Association

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E-mail: community@communitylegal.mb.ca

Website: communitylegal.mb.ca

YES, I wish to renew my current membership or become a new member of CLEA.

- \$40 (organization)
- \$25 (individual)
- \$2 (low income)

YES, I wish to make a tax deductible donation to further CLEA's work.

- \$200
- \$100
- \$50
- Other: _____

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

You can pay your membership online at communitylegal.mb.ca/about/membership or you can forward a cheque or money order payable to **Community Legal Education Association**