

# Annual Report Legal Studies Program

January 2004—March 2005

## Highlights

- Over 25 million hits on LSP websites
- More than 185,000 pages downloaded
- Visitor sessions topped 106,000

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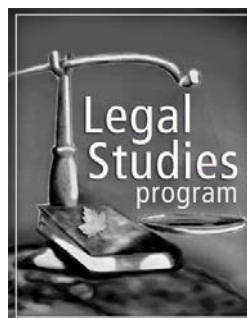
## From the Director

This report covers the period January 2004 to March 2005. Subsequent Annual Reports will be published concurrent with our fiscal year, April to March.

The work of the Legal Studies Program would not be possible without the continuing support of our funders. I would especially like to thank the Alberta Law Foundation for continuing to provide core support for Legal Studies and its online service, *ACJNet*. Together with the University of Alberta, the Foundation's support provides the infrastructure necessary to attract the funding needed to carry out the activities of Legal

Studies.

I would also like to thank both The Muttart Foundation and the Alberta Real



*Developing strategies and resources for lifelong learning about law and justice.*

Estate Foundation for their continuing support. These foundations enable Legal Studies to continue to

develop and offer specific resources of particular interest to Albertans.

During this period, we also received funding for specific activities from departments within both the provincial and federal governments, particularly Canada Revenue Agency and Alberta Justice.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff, contractors, and volunteers who successfully take on new challenges and reach new heights every year. We have an outstanding team and I thank you all.

*Lois Gander  
Professor and Director*

## About the Legal Studies Program

### Mission:

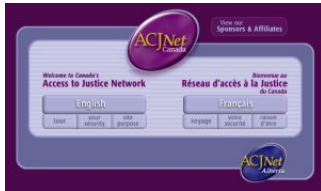
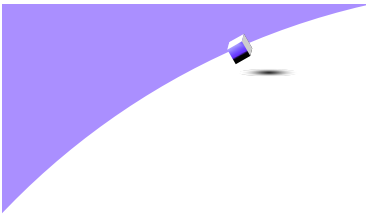
To engage people in lifelong learning about law and justice, as a means of enhancing accessibility to and quality of law and justice throughout the world.

### Vision:

To be a leader in using community engagement practices to create technology-enhanced opportunities for lifelong learning about law and justice.

### Mandate:

Legal Studies plans, develops, and markets a cost recovery program of non-degree, educational opportunities in the area of continuing law-related education to individuals, intermediaries, and those trained in law or with law-related careers.



[www.acjnet.org](http://www.acjnet.org)

### Access to Justice Network (ACJNet)

In April 2004, ACJNet launched A-Link, its newest service, in partnership with Alberta Justice. Alberta's Law-Related Information Network (A-Link) is an online directory of public legal education and information organizations in Alberta. It serves as an electronic referral point to other law-related resources and services.

A new email marketing newsletter was created and updates were sent to approximately 200 subscribers on a monthly

basis. Each newsletter contains news items, links, and opportunities to participate.

With funding from the Sandra Garvie Memorial Fund, a new interactive Resource Centre was launched for all 3 ACJNet sites. It includes links to classroom materials, research, history, and directories.

The most frequent topics searched by users included criminal law, divorce, family law, child support, employment, and freedom of information.

*ACJNet featured in the textbook "Administrative Procedures for the Canadian Office"*

*Over 979 news records created, including feature sites and special topics*

*New links to over 300 websites and full-text documents*

*Users polled on both the National and Alberta sites, on various law and justice issues*

*LawNow is a resource about the law, legal process, and relationship of law to life in Canada.*

### LawNow

This suite of services includes a bi-monthly magazine, email updating service, and searchable online archive of articles and updates.

Each issue of the print magazine featured a current topic, as well as a special report section.

- Topics included:
- Wills and Estates
  - Civil Justice

- Water and the Law
- Costs of Marriage Break-down
- Oil and Gas
- Contracts
- Law and Ethics

- Aboriginal Law
- USA and US
- Law in Your Garden

*Over 40 volunteer contributors*

*1,200 magazine subscribers*

*75 reprint requests*

*105 LN Plus subscriptions*

*Readership exceeding 15,000/issue*

*Regular columns*

Special reports included:

- What You Say Can Hurt You
- Law and Politics
- Police
- Lawyers in the Community

### Canadian Legal FAQs



[www.law-faqs.org](http://www.law-faqs.org)

This popular website provides legal and justice-related information to the public.

In 2004, Alberta Government Services funded the creation of 41 FAQs on residential tenancies in Alberta.

The Civic Service Union 52 funded FAQs on the history and development of unions in Canada.

New FAQs on marriage, travel, and labour law were also added to the site.

Planning began for conversion to a content management system for the site, which includes approximately 1,000 files.

*Over 3.9 million hits*

*1.13 million pages downloaded*

*Over 300,000 visitors*

### Residential Tenancies Legal Information Project

The Laws for Tenants in Alberta website, funded by the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, continues to experience exponential growth.

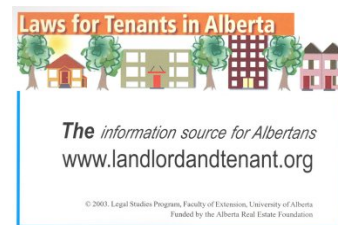
A dispute resolution section was written and integrated into both the "Just the Facts" and "FAQs" sections of the website. The entire site was mirrored and revised to reflect the legislative changes in November, with the new site launching on

the day the revised Act took effect.

In early 2005, planning and preparation took place to convert the current website to a content management system. Site architecture and file structure were re-organized.

A new edition of the *Reference Guide to Landlord and Tenant Law in Alberta* was published and made available to either explore online or download.

Representatives of the LSP continue to co-chair the Education Sub Committee of the Alberta Residential Tenancies Advisory Committee, a province-wide initiative which serves in an advisory capacity to the minister of Government Services.



landlordandtenant.org

Over 200,000 pages  
downloaded in over  
80,000 user sessions

### Not-for-Profit and Charity Law



The charity law section of the Not-for-Profit & Charity Law website was expanded with funding from the Canada Revenue Agency Charities Directorate. A news section and news archive was added to the website at www.law-nonprofit.org.

Work on the Legal and Ethical Duties of Directors of Not-for-Profit Organizations workbook series continued.

*Getting Organized: Creating an Organizational Binder* was the focus of a presentation made to 100 participants at the June 2004 Vitalize conference in Edmonton.

A study was undertaken to determine the quality and

accessibility of online charity law information for Canadians. The results were provided to the Charities Directorate and made available online.

Almost 300,000 hits  
Over 77,000 pages downloaded



### The Theory and Practice of Public Legal Education in Canada

Work continued on the website, helping the LSP achieve the objective of providing leadership in the fields of public legal education and continuing professional education.

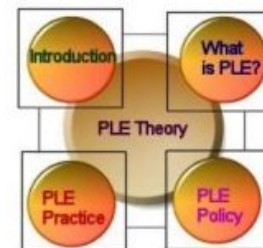
A weblog (blog) was launched to facilitate further discussion, test emerging ideas, and generate content and interaction. Draft text for several chapters of the e-textbook was created.

The LSP is involved in a library development initiative with the Department of Justice Canada and the University of Alberta Library to begin building the university library collection to be the center of distinction with respect to public legal education information in Canada. Justice Canada donated their entire collection of materials to the Legal Studies Program.

An advisory group was formed and feedback from the 2003 PLEAC Conference was incorporated into the site design and content plan.

The LSP is involved in a library development initiative with the Department of Justice Canada and the University of Alberta Library to begin building the university library collection

Website launched  
October 2004  
Over 7,000 hits received



www.plecanada.org

- [www.oak-net.org](http://www.oak-net.org)
- [www.violetnet.org](http://www.violetnet.org)
- [www.rosenet-ca.org](http://www.rosenet-ca.org)

### Domestic Violence

Use of the family violence suite of websites continued to grow. These websites include:

**OakNet**— Older Adult Knowledge Network—Abuse of Older Adults



**VIOLET**—Law and Abused Women

**RosetNet**—Law and Abused Immigrant Women

### Staff



Lois Gander, San San Sy and Diane Rhyason

#### ACADEMIC STAFF

Lois E Gander (Professor), BA, LLM – Executive Director. Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Extension, January – June.

San San Sy (Associate Director, Learning Strategies—until October).

Diane Rhyason, BEd, BLIS, MLIS, PhD – Associate Director

Teresa Mitchell, BA, LLB – Research Officer and Associate Editor, LawNow

Kirsten Wurmman, BA, MLIS – Web Librarian

#### NON-ACADEMIC STAFF

- Lesley Conley – Electronic Information Assistant
- Susanne Hay – Subscriptions Assistant
- Stephanie Hawrylak – Projects Support

- Tracie Teall – Accounting Assistant
- Shannon Thomas – Developer, Digital Strategies

#### CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

- Mildon Choice Words
- Law Another Way Ltd
- MFS Consulting
- Redengine Inc.
- Some Production!

#### VOLUNTEERS

LawNow is grateful for its many volunteer contributors (over 40 writers!).

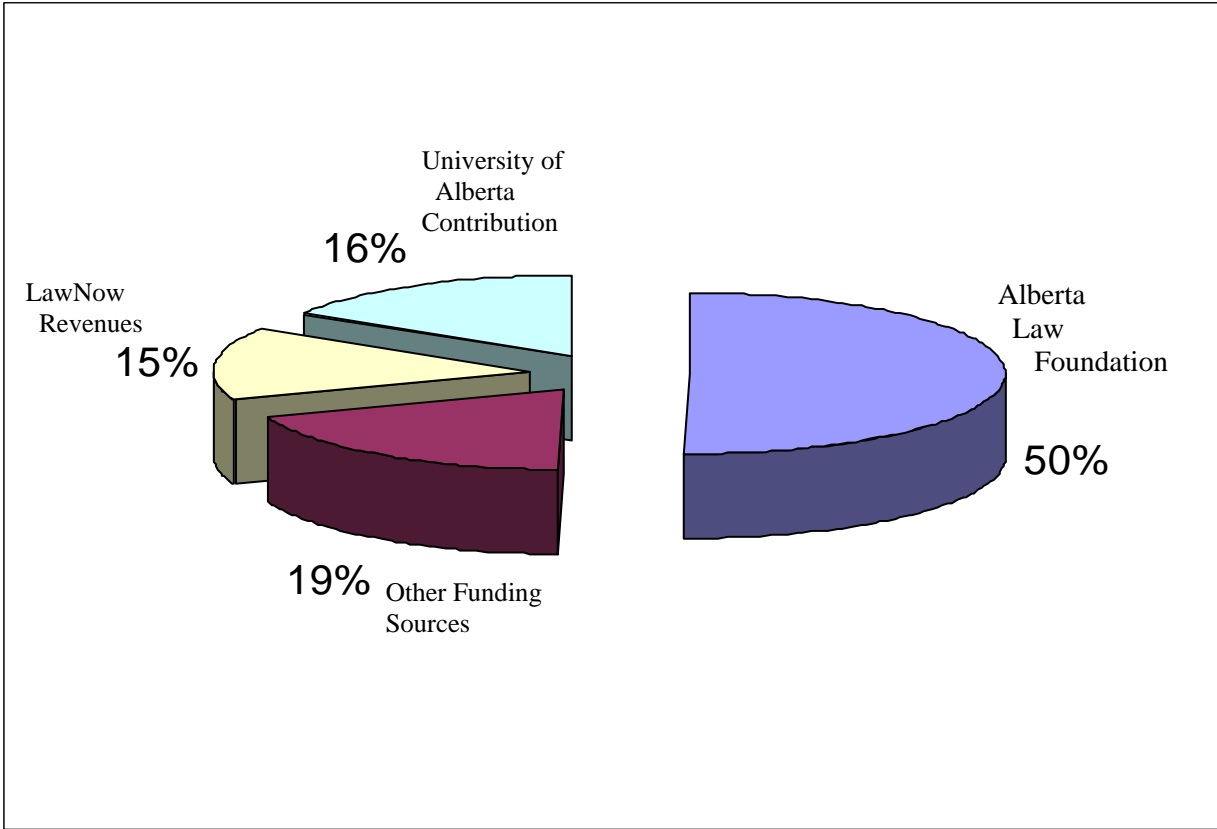
### Funders, Partners, and Collaborators

A complete list of partners and collaborators can be found on our website:

[www.extension.ualberta.ca/lsp](http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/lsp)

- Alberta Government Services
- Alberta Law Foundation
- Alberta Real Estate Foundation
- Alberta Justice
- Calgary Apartment Association
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canadian Bar Association
- Canadian Forum on Civil Justice
- Changing Together - A Centre for Immigrant Women
- Civic Service Union 52
- Community Legal Education Association (MB)
- Community Legal Information Association of PEI
- Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice
- Edmonton Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board
- Faculty of Law, University of Alberta
- Fort McMurray Landlord Tenant Advisory Board
- Heritage Canada
- Justice Canada
- Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia
- Legal Education Society of Alberta
- Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada
- Public Legal Education Network of Alberta
- Sandra Garvie Memorial Fund
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- The Muttart Foundation

FUNDING SOURCES



OBJECTIVES

LEADERSHIP – to provide leadership in the fields of public legal education and continuing professional education;

SERVICE NETWORK – to promote, facilitate, and assist with the development of a comprehensive and integrated network of law and justice-related services;

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – to facilitate and promote public involvement in legal and justice matters and interaction between the public and the legal and justice sectors; and

DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM – to contribute to the development and reform of the law and justice systems in Canada, including the development of alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution.

VALUES

The rule of law is essential in maintaining democracy and promoting justice.

The interest, knowledge, and participation of everyone, not just legal experts, is essential in determining the kind of law and justice society wants.

Education is a means of facilitating social transformation.

Public institutions and the voluntary sector are essential in engaging people in issues of social concern and in realizing their public commitments.

Excellence in designing, develop, and delivery strategies, programs, resources, and services is essential and Legal Studies strives to continuously improve the knowledge and practice of its staff and partners.

Individuals deserve respect and equitable treatment. Open, honest, ethical and informed communication, consultation, understanding, and collaboration is essential among staff, colleagues,

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\*\* resources and strategies for lifelong learning about law and justice \*\*