

Annual Report 2010-2011

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A Small But Mighty Team

We thought we'd start this year's Annual Report with something different -- a photo to help you put some faces on PLIAN's small but mighty team!

From top left, are staff members Sarah McHugh, Alexandra Kindervater (volunteer), Meaghan Lake, Kristen O'Keefe, Jennifer Barnable and Kelly Brockerville.

Speaking of faces, PLIAN has recently undergone a "face lift" of sorts. The result? A brand new logo (right) with a sleek, updated look and feel.

We're very excited to officially launch our new logo with this publication! As we move into 2011, we'll be sharing this new look with our partners, clients and community -- while continuing to deliver the same in-demand, quality services PLIAN has become known for over the last 27 years.



Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about the law.

We provide public legal education and information services with the intent of increasing access to justice.

Annual Report 2010-2011 is also available online as a pdf at www.publiclegalinfo.com.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the Executive Director



PLIAN is now into our **27th year** of operation! As PLIAN's team continues to carry out our mandate, more people are familiar with and use our services.

Over the past year, PLIAN has been involved in a number of exciting projects which we proudly highlight in this year's Annual Report.

We have also been involved in many additional community events and presented to diverse audiences on a variety of legal topics.

Check out the "Out & About in the Community" section of this report to see some of the events we have been involved with over the past year.

For many years, PLIAN has been fortunate to receive core funding support (including in-kind support) from Justice Canada, the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Justice and the Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

PLIAN has been equally fortunate to receive project funding. Support from our government funders, the legal profession, as well as from educators and community groups across the province, remains vital to ensuring a bridge between our organization and the communities of Newfoundland and Labrador.

PLIAN is the Newfoundland and Labrador component of Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC). In October 2010, PLIAN attended PLEAC's annual conference in Montreal, which was a wonderful opportunity to share best practices,

showcase new and innovative programs, as well as network.

There are many people whom I would like to thank and acknowledge at this time.

Thank you to PLIAN's Board President Fred Kavanagh who is always a great source of help and support, the rest of our hard working Board of Directors, my fellow Directors of PLEAC, staff members Kelly Brockerville, Sarah McHugh, Robin Singleton, Jennifer Barnable and our dedicated volunteers and many community partners.

With vision, effort, hard work and dedication, we can continue PLIAN's success into 2011-2012 and beyond.

Thank you!



Kristen O'Keefe
B.A., M.H.E., LL.B.
Executive Director, PLIAN

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the President

As President of PLIAN's Board of Directors I am pleased to report that PLIAN is in our 27th year of operation.

Our aim is to promote access to justice in Newfoundland and Labrador through legal information and education services.

Access to justice, by any definition, can only be achieved if people are aware of and have a basic understanding of the law and their legal rights and obligations – so this is the core of our organization's work.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of PLIAN's Board of Directors, as well as PLIAN's staff. Your time, effort, guidance and dedication

have helped PLIAN be where it is today.

I would like to extend a very special thank you on behalf of the entire PLIAN Board to Honourable Judge Robert Hyslop who retired from the PLIAN Board.

Effective March 31, 2010, he was appointed as Associate Chief Judge of Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. This is a significant achievement.

Judge Hyslop has been a long-standing member of PLIAN's Board and has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in his role as a Director.

He has proven to be an invaluable (*cont'd*)



YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the President

(cont'd) asset to PLIAN and will be missed. However, we wish him congratulations and much success in his future endeavors.

I am happy to report that over the past year PLIAN has been involved in a number of exciting initiatives.

These initiatives include a project whereby we travelled to Labrador and Conne River to deliver training sessions on the topic of criminal law for service providers, as well as hosting our first ever French youth justice camp.

These are just a few of the exciting initiatives we have been involved in. I welcome you to enjoy the rest of our Annual Report and see for yourself the exciting activities of Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador!

Sincerely,



Fred Kavanagh
B.A., B. Ed.
President, PLIAN



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Fred Kavanagh
President, Retired
School Teacher



Judge Robert Hyslop
Provincial Court
Judge



Susan Doyle
Lawyer, National
Judicial Institute



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Fred Wood
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Leanne O'Leary
Lawyer, Cox &
Palmer



Bruce Chislett
Lawyer, Aylward,
Chislett & Whitten

TEAM WORK: Our Staff & Volunteers

Over the past fiscal year, PLIAN continued working with some familiar faces on its team, while welcoming some new employees and volunteers.

Kristen O'Keefe (top left) continues in the role of Executive Director, since joining PLIAN back in 2006. Office Manager Kelly Brockerville (centre) is celebrating her 10th year at PLIAN, having been hired in 2001. We congratulate her on a decade of dedicated service!

Sarah McHugh (bottom right) continues in her role as a Project Coordinator. She has been an integral part of PLIAN since having first started as a volunteer in 2008. Sarah is kept very busy delivering focus groups across Newfoundland and in the remote reaches of Labrador.

Jennifer Barnable (bottom left) was hired in 2010 as a Project Coordinator for a 10-month Access to Justice project. A PR professional, she has been instrumental in spearheading PLIAN's re-branding and communications streamlining.

We bid farewell to incredible Project Coordinator, Robin Singleton, as she embarked on an articling position in Goose Bay. Finally, student volunteers Megan Sheppard and Alexandra Kindervater made valuable contributions to the PLIAN team this year. Thank you, everyone!

PARTNERSHIPS

PLIAN is the Newfoundland and Labrador component of Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC). This national association is a network of legal education societies.

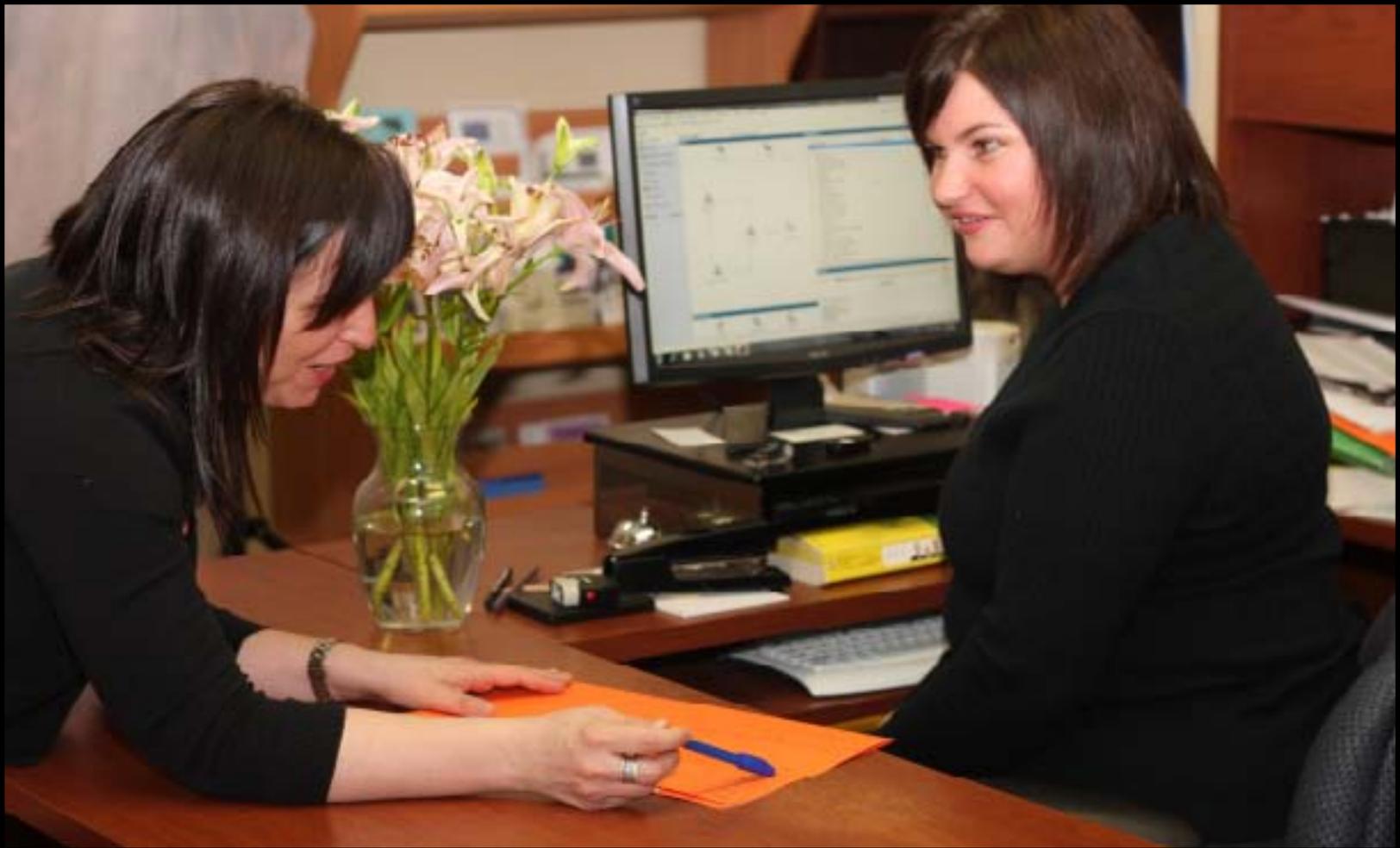


PLIAN is **funded** by the Department of Justice Canada, the Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Department of Justice Newfoundland and Labrador.



Partnerships with the Courts have been an important area of focus for PLIAN this past year. We collaborated with the Supreme Court to develop a plain language publication on the topic of **guardianship** and look forward to its completion in 2011.





PEOPLE SERVED IN 2010-11

Throughout the 2010-11 fiscal year, PLIAN was very busy reaching out to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

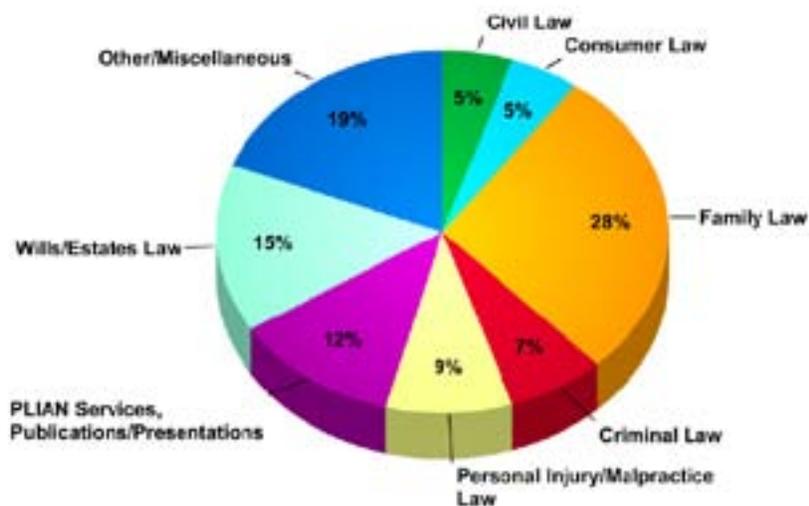
We are delighted to report that through our Lawyer Referral Service and Legal Information Line we helped assist **2,057** people. See the chart (right) for a breakdown of the various inquiries we assisted clients with via the Legal Information Line. Our website had **9,001** direct hits for information and we distributed over **11,364** publications.

Through our Lawyer Referral Service, Legal Information Line, publication distribution, community presentations, youth justice camps and school visits, PLIAN targeted the following audiences: families, youth, community organizations, teachers, students, government, legal professionals, partners and residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.

COMMUNICATIONS

PLIAN communicates with its clients, partners and the public using a variety of methods -- from one-on-one communication and group presentations to community outreach events and access to online web resources.

Each edition of our quarterly newsletter, *The PLIAN Notebook*, highlights news, ongoing project development



and provides legal information on different themes. We revamped our publications' design and format significantly in 2010-11, as part of the overall PLIAN re-branding strategy. We also began exploring social media options for promoting our services and publications (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) and are seeking new ways to use technology to reach our audiences (i.e. webinars). In 2011-12, PLIAN will continue considering new options in media and technology, including a rejuvenated, interactive website as part of the overall future Communications Plan.

PROJECT UPDATES

Exploring Access to Justice for Aboriginal Youth



PLIAN is currently mid-way through the 15 month 'Exploring Access to Justice for Aboriginal Youth in Newfoundland and Labrador' project, a venture funded by the federal Department of Justice.

The project, which seeks to explore language,

cultural and legal barriers to fair and effective justice for Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law in the province, is midway through the 10 planned focus groups.

In partnership with the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network (NAWN), PLIAN has delivered sessions in Nain, Grand-Falls-Windsor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Sheshatshiu and Natuashish.

In addition to exploring potential barriers, the project seeks to research available information and resources for these youth.

Project Coordinator Sarah McHugh has received feedback from a total

of 32 focus group participants, including youth and service providers.

Interest among both groups has been impressive, with a broad range of service provider participants, including police, social workers, justice professionals, corrections workers and more.

There are 5 additional focus groups planned for next fiscal year, including sessions in Whitbourne, Conne River, Stephenville, St. John's and Labrador South.



Do-It-Yourself Divorce Guide (Uncontested Divorce)



Across Canada, public legal education organizations have noticed a growing demand for self-help legal resources.

More and more self-represented litigants are finding themselves in court with very little information about the procedures involved or knowledge of the legal terminology.

PLIAN has received funding for this project from the **Access to Justice Fund** through the Law Foundation of Ontario. The project began in November 2010 and is set to conclude in August 2011.

Project Coordinator Jennifer Barnable was hired to develop two plain language self-help guides containing information tailored specifically to Newfoundland and Labrador legal procedures.

One guide will assist individuals

in filing for their own uncontested divorce, while the other is a resource for those acting as the executor of an estate.

Through research, consulting and focus groups with service providers, the content development for these guides is well underway. PLIAN expects to officially launch both publications in July 2011 with province-wide promotion and distribution.

The Do-It-Yourself Divorce Guide (for Uncontested Divorce) and the Executor's Guide will be FREE of charge and made available in both print booklet form and e-format, easily downloadable from the PLIAN website. Stay tuned!

Executor's Guide





OUT & ABOUT in the Community

PLIAN's participation in community activities and events is an important aspect of the work we do.

We deliver information sessions and presentations on a variety of legal topics.

We believe that such activities help to promote a more informed public with an overall better understanding of legal processes.

In the 2010-11 fiscal year, PLIAN proudly participated in **the following community activities and events:**

On April 15, 2010, we attended and displayed at the annual Law Day activities held at the Avalon Mall

On April 21, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Deer Lake

On April 26, 2010, we presented at St. Andrew's Elementary

On April 29, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Marystown

On April 30, 2009, we presented at MacDonald Drive Elementary

On May 5, 2010, we displayed at a continuing legal education event at the Law Society of NL

On May 25, 2010, we presented at a lunch & learn at the Newfoundland and Labrador Teacher's Association

On May 26, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Gander

On June 3, 2010, we presented at the annual conference of the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime

Prevention

On June 9, 2010, we presented to the Child, Youth Advocate Office

On June 15, 2010, we presented at an Elder Abuse Awareness Event

On June 16, 2010, we presented at the Law Society of NL

On June 23 and 24, 2010 we delivered a training session on the topic of criminal law for service providers in Sheshatshiu

On June 24, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in St. Anthony

On July 8, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Stephenville

On July 20, 2010, we presented at the John Howard Society

On July 21, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Hopedale

On July 30, 2010, we presented to the Office of the Citizen's Representative

On August 3, 2010 we delivered a training session on the topic of criminal law for justice staff in Conne River

On August 13, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Goose Bay

On September 15, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Grand Falls-Windsor

On October 14, 2010, we delivered a Family Law Information Session in Spaniard's Bay

On November 17, 2010 we presented

to the Law Society of NL Bar Admission Course

On November 23, 2010, we delivered a focus group to service providers in Nain

On January 11, 2011 we presented at Booth Memorial High School

On January 24, 2011, we presented at the Law Society of NL

On January 26, 2011, we delivered a focus group to service providers in Grand Falls-Windsor

On January 27, 2011, we presented to the Namaste Program for Women

On January 28, 2011, we delivered a focus group to service providers seeking feedback for a Do-It-Yourself Uncontested Divorce Guide

On January 31, 2011, we presented at the Law Society of NL

On February 1, 2011, we delivered a focus group to service providers to seek feedback for an Executor's Guide

On February 2, 2011, we presented for a webinar being delivered by the Community Sector Council

On February 3, 2011, we presented for a teleconference being delivered by the Community Sector Council

On February 10, 2011, we presented to Family Justice Services

On February 18, 2011 we presented at Brother Rice Junior High

On February 23, 2011, we delivered a focus group to service providers in Happy Valley-Goose Bay

On February 24, 2011, we delivered a focus group to youth in Sheshatshiu

On February 24, 2011, we attended and displayed at a Francophone Career Fair in St. John's

On March 15, 2011 we presented at Hoyles Escasoni Seniors Complex

On March 22, 2011 we presented at the Buckmaster's Circle 50 Plus Club

On March 23, 2011, we delivered a focus group to service providers in Natuashish

On March 29, 2011 we presented at Beaconsfield Junior High

ACTIVITIES



PRESENTATIONS FAMILY LAW INFO SESSIONS

PLIAN continued its work in the area of family law over the past year. PLIAN was supported by the Department of Justice Canada with funding for "Family Law Information Sessions: Reaching Rural Communities in Newfoundland and Labrador." The project involved delivering a presentation on family law topics such as domestic contracts, divorce, separation, custody, access, division of property, child support, spousal support and common law relationships. The project ended October 31, 2010. Sixteen communities were reached throughout the project including: Clarenville, Rigolet, Cartwright, Labrador City, Bell Island, Paradise, Torbay, Deer Lake, Marystown, Gander, St. Anthony, Stephenville, Hopedale, Goose Bay, Grand Falls-Windsor and Spaniard's Bay.

THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BULLYING

PLIAN developed a presentation entitled "Bullying: The Legal Implications," which defines different types of bullying, exemplifies possible criminal charges, gives detailed scenarios of behaviour that could lead to being charged, and introduces youth to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The presentation was first developed in 2007. Since its inception, we've delivered the presentation to almost 1600 people! In this past fiscal

year, PLIAN visited a total of five schools to deliver this presentation. It has been very well received by both students and teachers.

TRAINING CRIMINAL LAW TRAINING SESSION

PLIAN received funding from the Provincial Department of Justice to deliver a training session in June 2010 on the topic of criminal law for service providers in Sheshatshiu. PLIAN was later invited by the Justice Department in Conne River to deliver this workshop in August 2010.

PUBLICATIONS INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

With financial assistance from the Department of Justice Canada, PLIAN re-printed our *Information for Victims of Family Violence* (2nd Edition) publication. This publication covers the following topics: available legal options, people involved in the justice system, what to know before testifying in court, sentencing terminology and a glossary of terms.

AGE MILESTONE PUBLICATION

PLIAN partnered with the Child Youth Advocate Office of NL to develop a publication for youth outlining their rights and responsibilities according to

age milestones. The legal content was researched and written by PLIAN, and we expect the publication to be printed in the near future.

FAMILY LAW GUIDE (REPRINT)

Family law continues to top PLIAN's priority list as over 28% of the people who contact our organization for assistance are seeking help with this area of the law. In an effort to assist and inform the people of our province with family law issues, PLIAN developed "The Family Law Guide for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians." This publication was made available in 5 languages, including English, French, Inuttitut, Innu-aimun and Mi'kmaw. The demand for these publications was so overwhelming that PLIAN applied for and received funding from Department of Justice Canada to reprint the guide.



RECOGNITION

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

PLIAN would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the lawyers who enrolled in our Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) this past year.

Lawyers voluntarily register to participate in this service, which in turn enables Newfoundlanders and Labradorians requiring legal assistance to consult with a lawyer for up to 30 minutes at a nominal fee.

Although Newfoundland and Labrador does not have a formalized pro bono program, the Lawyer Referral Service is another avenue for lawyers to give back to their communities.

Based on public response and constant demand for this service, it is clear that the LRS is extremely beneficial to the people of our province.

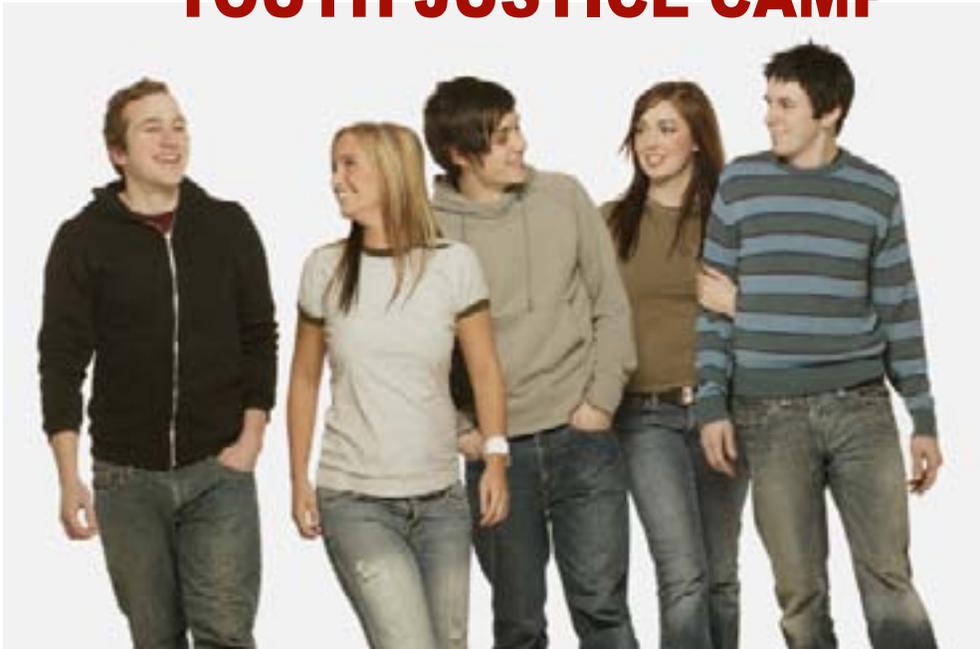
Thank you to the following lawyers who joined the LRS program in the 2010-11 fiscal year:

Donald E. Anthony, *O'Brien & Anthony*
F. Geoffrey Aylward, QC, *Aylward, Chislett, Whitten*
J. David B. Baird, QC, *Benson Myles*
Averill J. Baker, *Averill Baker Law*
T. James Bennett, *James Bennett Law Firm PLC Inc*
Laura J. Brazil, *Ottenheimer Baker*
Elyse S. B. Bruce, *Curtis, Dawe*
Shelley L. Bryant, *Bryant Law Office*
S. Bruce Chislett, *Aylward, Chislett, Whitten*
Michael J. Cohen, *Martin Whalen Hennebury Stamp*
Kellie A. Cullihall, *Gittens & Associates*
Wade D. Drover, *The Law Office of Wade D. Drover*
Gladys H. Dunne, *Gladys Dunne Law*
John L. Ennis, *Parsons, Ennis*
Susan L. Fisher, *Susan L. Fisher Law Office*
Daniel F. Furey, *Curtis, Dawe*
Ernest L. Gittens, *Gittens & Associates*
Mark J. Gruchy, *Gittens & Associates*
Jude W. Hall, *Benson Myles*

Michael N. R. King, *Collins & Associates*
Jeffery S. MacDonald, *Gittens & Associates*
Leah A. Mazerolle, *Gittens & Associates*
Kathryn A. McGarry, *Roebothan, McKay, Marshall*
Nancy McKillop, *Gittens & Associates*
Pádraig J. Mohan, *O'Dea, Earle*
Sean W. Montague, *W. Les Thistle Law Office*
Andrea L. Murphy, *French, Noseworthy & Associates*
Gary P. Nolan, *Rose van Driel Scott*
Johnathan E. Noonan, *O'Dea, Earle*
Katherine J. O'Brien, *O'Brien & Anthony*
Ashley R. Parsons, *Parsons Ennis*
Glen W. Picco, *Picco & White*
Robert P. Pittman, QC, *Robert P. Pittman Law Office*
Donald K. Powell, *Fraise Law Offices*
Tonya L. Pritchett, *O'Brien & Anthony*
Blair J. Rogers, *Roebothan, McKay, Marshall*
Sharyl J. Rowsell, *Martin Whalen Hennebury Stamp*
Colm St. R. J. Seviour, *Stewart McKelvey*
Edward J. Shortall, QC, *Lewis, Sinnott, Shortall, Hurley, Bruce*
Nicole M. Squires, *Gittens & Associates*
Colin P. Sullivan, *Benson Myles*
Janet A. Tucker, *Bryant Law Office*
Tom Turner, *Gittens & Associates*
Daniel J. Vavasour, *O'Brien & Anthony*
Brian D. Wentzell, *Collins & Associates*
Terry D. White, *Picco & White*



YOUTH JUSTICE CAMP



Since PLIAN delivered its first Youth Justice Camp in 2000, a total of **31** camps have been held throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

These camps are intended to educate youth about the legal system in a style that is fun, innovative and relevant.

Each Youth Justice Camp is a three-day event for youth (aged 12-15) and focuses on both crime prevention and teaching valuable information about the legal system.

At camp, youth participants find themselves in a fun, inclusive and educational environment that provides opportunities to meet new people, foster leadership skills and generate new experiences.

PLIAN invites a variety of legal professionals (police officers, judges, lawyers, etc) to deliver presentations on

justice-related topics. Field trips (court house, police station, etc) are also incorporated into the camp.

Youth attendees also get to participate in a mock trial to showcase the skills and knowledge that they have acquired at the camp.

In the summer of 2010, PLIAN held two youth justice camps. One of those camps was the first ever to be delivered entirely in French!

This camp was filled to capacity and received positive feedback from participants and parents alike. Funding for this camp was provided by the Department of Justice Canada.

Looking ahead, PLIAN is in the process of organizing the delivery of a Youth Justice Camp in Conne River for Summer 2011.



WELCOME! WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE.

PLIAN offers services to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that help increase their understanding of the law.

These services include:

- **Lawyer Referral Service**
- **Legal Information Line**
- **School Presentations**
- **Community Info Sessions**
- **Publications & more...**



CHECK OUT OUR NEWSLETTER!

We tackle a new topic each edition, from common law relationships to disability awareness, animal rights to landlord-tenant relations.

You can view our current and past quarterly newsletters online at www.publiclegalinfo.com. Just click "News".

Financial Statements

Statement of Operations of Public Legal Information Association of NL

Revenue	2011	2010
Federal Department of Justice	70,000	70,000
Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador	45,000	45,000
Lawyer Referral Service	-	2,160
Aboriginal Youth Justice	78,408	-
Access to Justice Fund (The Law Foundation of Ontario)	31,847	-
Conne River Camp	2,850	-
Family Law Guide Reprint	5,749	10,000
Family Law Information Sessions	57,500	41,150
Francophone Camp	43,600	-
Information for Victims of Family Violence Reprint	15,500	-
Guardianship Project	8,400	-
Labrador Project	5,989	5,000
Youth Justice Rocks Camp	6,450	38,010
Family Law Website	-	5,000
Court of Appeal Project and NL Department of Justice Grant	-	25,000
PLEAC Conference 2009	-	5,698
Victims of Family Violence	-	45,443
Miscellaneous Revenues	100	1,159
Total	\$371,393	\$293,620
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	97,222	95,086
Aboriginal Youth Justice	78,408	-
Access to Justice Fund (The Law Foundation of Ontario)	31,847	-
Conne River Camp	2,850	-
Family Law Guide Reprint	5,749	10,379
Family Law Information Sessions	57,448	40,605
Francophone Camp	43,600	-
Information for Victims of Family Violence Reprint	15,504	-
Guardianship Project	2,196	-
Labrador Project	5,946	4,798
Youth Justice Rocks Camp	6,447	41,919
Family Law Website	-	4,729
Court of Appeal Project & NL Department of Justice Grant	-	15,000
PLEAC Conference 2009	-	5,697
Supreme Court Project	-	6,079
Victims of Family Violence	-	45,443
Insurance	2,856	2,415
Interest and Bank Charges	919	535
Professional Fees	4,676	3,195
Memberships, Licences and Fees	1,613	724
Supplies	1,467	313
Rent	8,125	13,900
Travel	3,645	2,319
Utilities	478	3,344
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,128	647
Total	\$372,124	\$297,127



Thank You!

PLIAN has enjoyed another tremendously successful year in 2010-11. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported our organization and its various projects.

We look forward to continued success in 2011-2012 as we continue to educate Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about the law and provide public legal education and information services with the intent of increasing access to justice.

Please feel free to contact us at any time!

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