

Message from the Executive Director

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. PLIAN is now into our 25th 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 Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Justice. 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 around the province, remains vital to ensuring a bridge between our organization and the communities of our province.

PLIAN is the Newfoundland and Labrador component of Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC). We are happy to report that PLIAN is hosting this year's annual conference for PLEAC which will take place from September 9 to 11th in St. John's.

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, Kelly Brockerville, Tabitha Boland, Sarah McHugh and our dedicated volunteers and many community partners.

With continued vision, effort, hard work and dedication, we can continue PLIAN's success into 2009-2010 and beyond. Thank you!

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



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PLIAN has been in operation since 1984. I am very proud to have been associated with the organization since its inception. Throughout the past quarter century, I have been pleased to see PLIAN grow and prosper. We provide public legal education and information services with the intent of increasing access to justice. It's an important role to play within the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador.

Over the past decade, PLIAN has translated many of its publications into French, Inuttitut and Innu-aimum. We have strived to reach

Message from the President

diverse cultures, and will fervently continue to do so. Newfoundland & Labrador is a huge province, and we ensure our services reach into rural communities. Our Legal Information Line and Lawyer Referral Service operate a toll-free number across the province. We travel to smaller communities as our funding will permit.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of PLIAN's Board of Directors. Your time, efforts and guidance have helped PLIAN to be where it is today- celebrat-

ing its 25th year anniversary! As well, thank you to all of PLIAN's funders without whom we could not carry on the work we do within Newfoundland and Labrador. A special thank you to all our executive directors and staff over the years who have shown such dedication to PLIAN.

PLIAN will be hosting the annual conference of the Public Legal Education Association of Canada from September 9 to 11, 2009. We hope to see you there!



**Fred Kavanagh,
President**

Fred is a retired school teacher and an active member of the board.

Board of Directors



Stefanie Tuff
Vice President



Sean Dawe
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Secretary



Cheryl Bennett
Director



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Director



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Director



Leanne O'Leary
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Susan Doyle
Director



Honourable Judge
Hyslop
Director

Photo not available

Inspector John
House
Director

Photo not available

Sgt. Dave Bishop
Director

Photo not available

Bruce Chislett
Director

Photo not available

Honourable Justice
Adams
Director

Staff, Volunteer and Student Updates



Kelly Brockerville

Tabitha Boland finished her role as Legal Information Coordinator in March. She is very pleased to have stayed on with PLIAN in a different position as Project Coordinator.

Kelly Brockerville is happy to report that she is back to work after being off on maternity leave. She is adjusting well to the hustle and bustle of life at PLIAN. Her daughter is 15 months now and is finding trouble at ever corner!



Tabitha Boland

Staff of PLIAN



PLIAN's staff consisting of: Kristen O'Keefe, Executive Director, Kelly Brockerville, Office Manager, Sarah McHugh, Camp Coordinator, and Tabitha Boland, Project Coordinator are excited to be celebrating our 25th year of service in the province.

Students

Karen Rehner, a law student from Osgoode Hall interned with PLIAN in the summer of 2008. Her main focus was researching and writing information brochures for our Senior's & the Law project. She was also involved in researching and writing for other topics. Karen was a great help to PLIAN and we certainly appreciate her time and effort.

MUN Student Tiffany Henderson interned with PLIAN for a semester to create a publication on the topic of impaired driving. There have been some recent changes to the legislation. The publication discusses the

changes to the law. The publication is currently under review and we hope to see it posted to our website soon!

MUN Student Tony Noseworthy also interned with PLIAN for a semester. He assisted in the delivery of PLIAN's presentation entitled "Bullying: The Legal Implications". The presentation ended up being delivered to over 1000 people. Thanks to Tony for his help on this project!

Volunteers

PLIAN owes many thanks to our amazing groups of volunteers. Volunteers are a very important part of

PLIAN as they assist our staff with insuring that we carry out and adhere to our mandate. Throughout this past fiscal year PLIAN was very fortunate to have the following volunteers:

Eugene Upshall

Angela De Caria

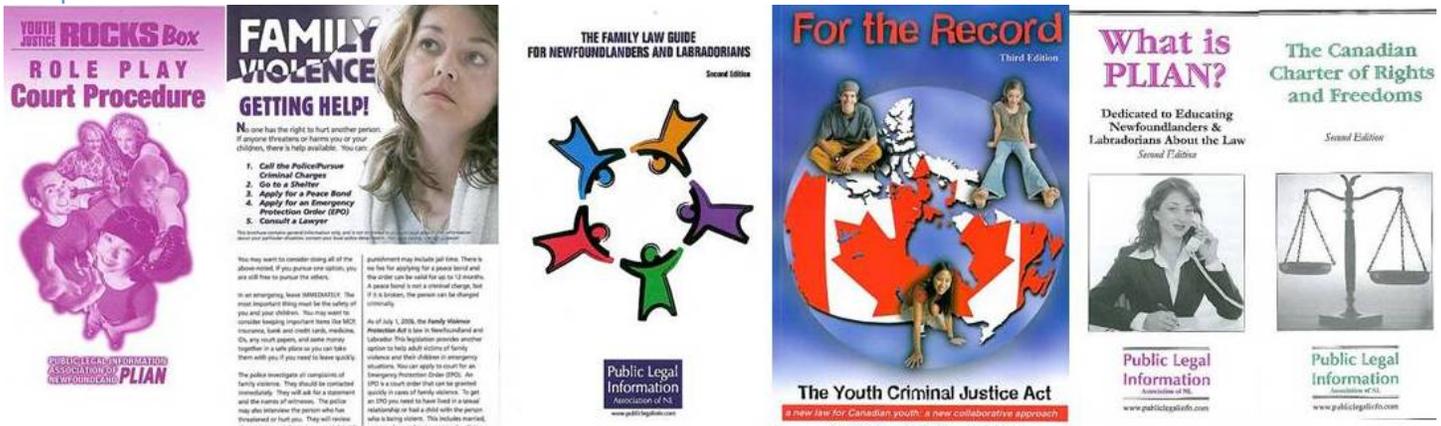
Charlesly Hiscock

Kaitlyn Porter

Publications and People Served in 2008-2009

Throughout the 2008-2009 fiscal year PLIAN was very busy reaching out to the people of our province. We are happy to report that through our Lawyer Referral Service, Legal Information Line, community and school presentations, publications distributed and website we have serviced 24,535 people.

The audiences targeted were as follows: families, youth, community organizations, teachers, students, government, legal professionals, partners and people in general.



Name of Publication	Edition	Year	Languages
Family Law Guide	2nd	2009	English
Seniors and the Law Booklet	1st	2008	English
Seniors and the Law Grandparents Rights	1st	2008	English
Information for Victims of Family Violence	1st	2009	English
PLIAN Notebook: Disability Awareness	1st	2008	English
PLIAN Notebook: Animal Rights	1st	2008	English
DVD: Living Apart, Parenting Together	1st	2009	English

Family Law Guide

"I'm just writing to let you know PLIAN has done another excellent piece of work with the new Family Law Guide booklets. Very nice work."

Feedback Received from client.

Due to the popularity of our Family Law Guide for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, we quickly ran out of English copies after printing.

We were fortunate to receive funding from the

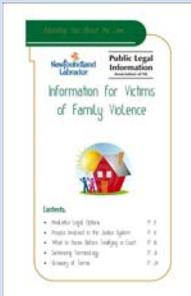
Federal Department of Justice to re-print more copies. The Guide is available in five languages. The feedback we have received so far on the books has been excellent!

THE FAMILY LAW GUIDE
FOR NEWFOUNDLANDERS AND LABRADORIANS



Public Legal
Information
Association of NL

Information for Victims of Family Violence



PLIAN's new publication "Information for Victims of Family Violence"

PLIAN was involved in two separate projects relating to family violence. The first was an initiative to explore the provision of legal information to actual or at risk victims of family violence.

This project involved travelling across Newfoundland and Labrador to hold focus groups with victims of

domestic violence, seniors, youth, Aboriginals, persons with disabilities, service providers, and persons who speak English as a second language. As part of this project we have travelled to Clarenville, Gander, Corner Brook, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and Sheshatshiu.

The outcomes of these discussions provided insight into what type of information is needed for those who are experiencing family violence, as well as into determining the best format in which to provide this information. Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Justice Canada.

The second project aimed at assisting victims of family violence was the development of a booklet, entitled "Information for Victims of Family Violence." This booklet contains information on available legal options, people involved in the justice

system, what to know before testifying, sentencing terminology and a glossary of terms. We have received excellent feedback on this booklet and are happy to report that we receive requests on a regular basis for more copies. PLIAN would like to ex-

tend a sincere thank you to the government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the Violence Prevention Initiative for its financial contribution towards the research, writing and printing of this booklet.

"Useful tips & action plan to follow when assisting victims."

Feedback Received from client.

CRA Project

PLIAN in partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency and the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia hosted a project aimed at helping registered charities in Atlantic Canada better understand their obligations under the *Income Tax Act*. This project has spanned over three fiscal years.

PLIAN developed a presentation to educate registered charities about filing their annual Charitable Information Return and introduce them to new online resources. PLIAN then delivered the presentation throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Nine sessions were held. PLIAN then entered into the evaluation phase of the project. The project was very successful.



Legal Interpreter's Project



Over the past year, PLIAN has been involved in an important justice initiative in Labrador. PLIAN was very fortunate to assist in the development of an Aboriginal Legal Interpreters Course on the topic of Family Law which was delivered at College of the North Atlantic in Happy Valley-Goose Bay this past winter. The course was developed as part of a series of new interpretive service improvements under the Government of Newfoundland and Labra-

dor's Northern Strategic Plan and has been a collaborative undertaking with the Department of Education, the Linguistics Department at Memorial University, Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and interpreters from Labrador. As part of this initiative, PLIAN was also involved in the development of handbooks containing a translated glossary of key family law terms.

Seniors and the Law

"This publication is straight forward with simple language and large print, which makes it easy to read. There is an easier way to educate seniors and *you* have found it."

- Senior Citizen

With the financial contribution of the Government of Canada through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, PLIAN completed a project aimed at increasing access to relevant legal information for seniors. PLIAN worked with seniors and relevant service providers to develop legal information brochures specifically for the aging population. This project is intended to educate seniors about the law as it applies to them and to increase access to such legal information.

PLIAN collected feedback from

four focus group sessions to identify the most important legal concerns that seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador are facing. From this feedback, PLIAN developed two publications on five topics. In addition to providing input into the topics, seniors also provided feedback on the format, graphics and font size. The content was reviewed by a plain language committee of the Seniors Resource Centre in St. John's. The finished publications were launched at a community event in November 2008.

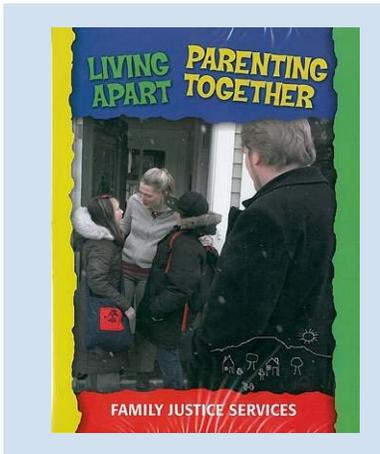
Information for Self-Represented Litigants

The Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador provided funding for PLIAN to research and write the content for a publication to help self-represented litigants through the probate and administra-

tion process. As well, we have created three brochures for Unified Family Court on the topic of tips for keeping yourself & your kids healthy when going through separation and divorce.



“Living Apart, Parenting Together”



PLIAN and the Department of Justice, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador worked together to create a video entitled, “Living Apart, Parenting Together.” This video is part of a post-separation program offered through Family Justice Services. It features tips and techniques for teaching parents the “how to” skills involved in preparing for and managing dif-

ficult situations.

This video was originally produced in 2007 however, due to high demand, additional copies were needed. As a result PLIAN was approached for a reproduction of the DVD. This video was funded by the Department of Justice, Canada and the Department of Justice, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Legal Implications of Bullying



PLIAN developed a presentation spotlighting bullying as a series of criminal offences with associated consequences. The presentation, entitled *Bullying: The Legal Implications*, defines dif-

ferent 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 also creates awareness around the short and long-term consequences of having a criminal record.

PLIAN believes that educating the youth of Newfoundland & Labrador on the legal consequences of bullying behaviour and informing them of their rights and responsibilities under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* will prove to be a key compo-

nent of declining bullying behaviour.

To date, the presentation has been delivered at eight different schools in the St. John’s & surrounding area, two conferences, and two youth justice camps. We delivered the presentation to a total of 962 youth and 150 adults. So we managed to reach out to a total of 1112 people.

PLIAN would like to thank of the Community Youth Network for their financial support towards this project.

Youth Justice Camp

With its twenty-seventh offering recently completed, PLIAN's *Youth Justice Rocks* camp is maintaining its status as a high-quality, successful youth education program. Having been offered in St. John's, Nain, Clarenville, Deer Lake, Conne River, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, among many other locations, the camp has proven to be an accessible approach to youth justice education.



2008 was a tremendously successful year for the *Youth Justice Rocks* Camp. With presentations ranging from graffiti as a crime to the legal implications of bullying, from the lasting effects of a youth criminal record to the hidden dangers of the Internet, the camp offered a broad array of information to the campers. Equally informative were the tours of Provincial court and RNC Headquarters, as well as the Mock Trial, all of which have gained a positive

reputation as mainstay components of the camp - in fact, 2008's camp ended with requests to attend again the following year.

A basic component of the camp is its aim to be inclusive - this is achieved by offering the camp free of charge. With a highly successful fundraising effort, 2008's camp goals were met with little strain on PLIAN's budget. This is due not only to the partnership with Froude Avenue

Community Centre which allowed the use of their venue at no cost, but also because of the impressive amount of in-kind donations received within the community. The camp's positive reputation is integral to the repeat donations we so regularly receive from businesses, individuals, and people within the justice system.



What the Campers have to say:

"I think this camp was awesome!!! Maybe the camp could be 5 days instead of 3."

"It was all really interesting and fun!"

"I really liked the Mock Trial. But overall I loved the field trips."

"I learned everything I wanted to know."

Out and About in the Community

Kristen O'Keefe at Park Place Community Centre in Mount Pearl for the official launch of the Seniors & the Law publications.



In an effort to carry out our mandate PLIAN engages in a wide variety of activities such as: distributing pamphlets on a wide variety of legal topics, conducting information sessions and presentations, hosting a Legal Information Line, providing a Lawyer Referral Service and maintaining a web site. The delivery of public legal information in Newfoundland and Labrador is an exciting and

challenging endeavor. Our population is spread over a large area with many rural communities dotting an often inaccessible coastline. Adding to our challenges are the diverse pockets of French, Innu, Inuit, Mi'Kmaq, and Métis populations. In meeting the province's diverse population, PLIAN is committed to community outreach.

"Everyone who attended the presentation had really positive feedback. They said you were really well prepared, good speakers and you handled the questions well. Your organization is really interesting and impressively active!"

(Attendee at session.)

Law Day

PLIAN attended and displayed at the law day event at the Avalon mall on April 17th, 2008 which was hosted by the Canadian Bar Association.



Community Events

April, 17 2008- PLIAN attended and displayed at the Law Day event at the Avalon Mall on April 17, 2008 which was hosted by the Canadian Bar Association. Many members of the public stopped by the PLIAN booth to ask questions and receive publications.

May 21, 2008- PLIAN presented to students at Bishop's Collegiate on the topic of Law as a Career.

July 2 & 3, 2008- Aboriginal Court Interpreter's workshop with Innu-aimun interpreters (Sheshatshiu dialect).

July 14- 16, 2008- Aboriginal Court Interpreter's workshop with Inuttitut interpreters.

July 23 & 24, 2008- Aboriginal Court Interpreter's workshop with Innu-aimun interpreters (Mushuau dialect).

September 9, 2008- PLIAN presented to social workers at Eastern Health on the topic of family law.

November, 2008- PLIAN presented to a Youth Anti-Violence Conference which was held on November 3 & 4 in St. John's. It was hosted by Community Mediation Services. 80 youth attended representing 12 schools. We presented the Legal Implications of Bullying presentation and it was very well received by the youth and also various adults who attended (including police, guidance counsellors, teachers, social workers, etc)

Dec 5, 2008- Seniors & the Law presentation in St. Mary's

Feb 24, 2009- Seniors & the Law presentation to the Elder Abuse Committee of NL

March 10, 2009- We presented at Bishops Collegiate for 3 sessions of students – 75 in total- on the topic of law as a career.

March 16, 2009- Seniors & the Law presentation at the 50 plus club in Torbay.



Kristen O'Keefe delivering a community presentation in St. Mary's.

PLIAN is a member of the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety.



Statement of Operations of Public Legal Information Association of NL

Revenue	2009	2008
Federal Department of Justice	70,000	70,000
Law Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador	45,000	35,000
Legal Interpreters Project	31,040	30,724
Canada Revenue Agency	16,735	45,906
Supreme Court Project	15,000	-
National Judicial Institute	9,836	113,443
Youth Justice Camp	8,840	7,297
Family Violence Project	5,024	29,780
Child Centred Family Justice	4,250	43,350
DVD Parenting Project	2,500	-
Community Youth Network	1,700	-
Lawyer Referral Fees	1,400	5,425
Association for Community Living	-	5,181
Law Luncheon	-	3,240
Senior's Project	-	15,241
Miscellaneous	2,117	1,914
Total	213,442	406,501
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	93,072	83,144
Legal Interpreters Project	29,819	33,108
Canada Revenue Agency	16,743	45,891
Rent	12,421	14,128
National Judicial Institute	10,426	113,443
Family Violence Project	5,024	29,780
Youth Justice Camp	4,926	7,297
Child Centred Family Justice	4,255	43,350
Telephone	3,338	2,307
Travel	2,956	3,472
Professional Fees	2,939	2,940
Insurance	2,570	2,530
DVD Parenting Project	2,500	-
Community Youth Network	1,700	-
Board and Committee	855	1,261
Bank Charges	741	1,123
Memberships and Dues	370	321
Office Supplies and Stationary	244	235
Courier and Postage	195	205
Law Luncheon	-	3,240
Association for Community Living	-	5,181
Senior's Project	-	15,241
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,571	(1,069)
Total	196,665	407,128

Thank You

PLIAN has had another tremendously successful year in 2008-2009. We want to extend a sincere Thank you to everyone who has supported our organization and our various projects. We would like to offer a special appreciation to our Board of Directors who consistently volunteer their time and support us in everything we do. We look forward to continued success in 2009-2010!



Public Legal
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