CPLEA creates resources which help ordinary people understand their rights and obligations under the law. We have been working to improve both access to justice and the quality of justice available to Albertans for over forty-five years and the need for the resources we create has never been greater.

Our resources can help ordinary people increase their legal capabilities, which in turn will help them avoid legal disputes. Our resources can also help people understand the everyday legal problems they already have, understand advice they get from lawyers or other professionals and understand legal processes they have to navigate.

Last year we distributed over fifteen thousand print publications to Albertans and our websites (where documents can be printed free of charge) were accessed over two million times by people looking for understandable information about the law. We are proud of these impressive accomplishments!

But there is much more work to be done. The law and legal procedures continue to be complex. Traditional legal services are beyond the reach of many. As a result, our courts are seeing more and more self-represented parties in all kinds of disputes, but especially in family law matters. These people critically need the information about the law that CPLEA provides. CPLEA’s audience is broad. We provide information about family law, advance planning, consumer awareness, housing rentals, condominiums, non-profits, charities, human rights, domestic violence, employment law, court services, legal procedures, bankruptcy, mobility rights, hiring a lawyer and criminal law.

Each year we produce six issues of our acclaimed LawNow digital publication containing interesting articles and columns written by an incredible group of volunteer authors from across the country and by CPLEA staff. LawNow truly brings the law to life.
In this Annual Report we give you an outline of our accomplishments during our fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. These accomplishments were possible because of the hard work of our staff, the dedication of all of our volunteers, including our incredible Board of Directors, and with the ongoing financial support of our primary funders the Alberta Law Foundation, Justice Canada and the Alberta Real Estate Foundation. We thank all of you and are grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

Jeff Surtees
B.Comm., J.D., LLM
Executive Director

Erika Hagen
BMus, JD
Board President
Resources

Publications

_CPLEA has over 200 free publications to help people understand the law!

All publications can be downloaded or ordered from our web store [www.cplea.ca/store](http://www.cplea.ca/store) or alternatively they can be downloaded from links on our websites.

In 2019-2020, we distributed 20311 print publications and 40787 more were downloaded.

New and Noteworthy in Our Publications

The _Planning for the Future_ series (which gives Albertans important information about Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Personal Directives) has been updated! [www.cplea.ca/publications-and-resources/planning-for-the-future/](http://www.cplea.ca/publications-and-resources/planning-for-the-future/)

With help from our partners at the _Association des jurists d’expression française de l’Alberta_ (AJEFA), our _Elder Abuse_ and _Renting Basics_ booklets and our entire _Planning for the Future_ series have been translated in French. [www.cplea.ca/resourcecategory/francais/](http://www.cplea.ca/resourcecategory/francais/)

Our _Elder Abuse_ and _Planning for the Future_ publications have now been translated into Somali, Tagalog and Spanish.

Our Most Popular Publications This Year

- 8 Rules for Smart Landlords
- 8 Rules for Smart Renters
- Employment Insurance and Job Loss
- Families & the Law: Child Custody & Parenting
- Families & the Law: Property Division
- Eviction Notices
- If You Have A Problem While Renting
- If Your Employment Ends
- Living with your Landlord Agreement
- Post Employment Guide
- Rent Increases
- Renting 101 4th Edition
- Renting Out Your Condo In Alberta
- Renting With A Pet
- Roommate Agreement
Residential Tenancies Legal Information Program

Our Residential Tenancies Legal Information Program contributes to the legal knowledge and understanding of landlords and tenants in Alberta.

In the last year, there have been 488,098 user sessions on www.landlordandtenant.org. The website continues to reach a very large group of Albertans and is regularly referred to for landlord and tenant issues.

In 2019 and the first half of 2020, CPLEA’s links to landlord and tenant publications were accessed over 28,000 times.

Condominium Education Project

The goal of CPLEA’s Condominium Education Project is to increase the knowledge of Albertans with regard to their rights and obligations under condominium law.

The Condo Law for Albertans website continues to experience strong growth in traffic, with 84,393 user sessions in 2019-2020.
September 2019 marked the start of LawNow’s 44th year of publication. Wow! We kicked off the editorial year with a bang – an updated logo, three new columns (Youth & the Law, Plain Language and Consumer Law) and a cleaner looking website. September also marked a change in editor. We bid farewell to Teresa Mitchell (again!) and Aaida Peerani and welcomed Jessica Steingard as LawNow’s editor.

We continue to report on timely legal issues. Our Family Break-ups & the Law issue (November 2019) highlighted changes to Alberta’s Family Property Act and upcoming changes to Canada’s
Divorce Act. Our **20/20 Looking Back** issue (January 2020) looked at significant cases and legislative changes over the last 20 years. For our **Volunteers & the Law** topic (May 2020), two Pro Bono Students Canada students from the University of Alberta Faculty of Law conducted a series of interviews and wrote an article showcasing pro bono legal services across the province. And when COVID-19 hit, our columnists responded swiftly and wrote about various legal aspects of the pandemic. Topics included temporary changes in law set out in ministerial orders, commentary on changes to court processes and the impact of the pandemic on non-profits.

And we keep growing! Web traffic increased by 12% to 723,304 sessions. We also added 17 new volunteer contributors to the team, who wrote a combined 14 articles. A total of 1387 individuals are subscribed to receive our e-newsletter. We updated the look of our PDF version for each issue. Ebsco, CanLII, Gale Group and HeinOnline continue to index LawNow in PDF format. We are excited to continue to build on the momentum from last year as we look towards volume 45!
**Websites**

CPLEA’s main site [www.cplea.ca](http://www.cplea.ca) is the core site serving as a hub for all of our other sites as well as a link to all of our publications. CPLEA’s thematic websites provide specialized legal information about specific topics for specific audiences.

**CPLEA’s thematic sites include:**

- **[www.lawnow.org](http://www.lawnow.org)**
  Free bi-monthly digital publication that examines how the law relates to everyday life

  Answers to over 1,000 Frequently Asked Questions about the law in Alberta and Canada

- **[www.landlordandtenant.org](http://www.landlordandtenant.org)**
  Everything you need to know about renting law in Alberta

- **[www.lawcentralalberta.ca](http://www.lawcentralalberta.ca)**
  Links to reliable legal information sources and services in Alberta and Canada

- **[www.condolawalberta.ca](http://www.condolawalberta.ca)**
  Legal information for Alberta consumers who are thinking about buying a condo, live in one, sit on the board or are considering selling or renting their condo

- **[www.lawforforeignbrides.ca](http://www.lawforforeignbrides.ca)**
  Legal information for women who come to Canada through an arranged marriage, matchmaking agency or mail order bride service

- **[www.willownet.ca](http://www.willownet.ca)**
  Legal information for Albertans experiencing violence in a relationship

- **[www.oaknet.ca](http://www.oaknet.ca)**
  Legal information on topics of interest to older Albertans

- **[www.lawcentralschools.ca](http://www.lawcentralschools.ca)**
  Lesson plans and educational resources for teachers in Alberta classrooms

- **[www.charitycentral.ca](http://www.charitycentral.ca)**
  Legal information for registered charities about responsibilities, books, records, fundraising and receipting
Public Legal Education

Every year CPLEA staff connect with various communities and organizations in Alberta to create a greater awareness of our organization, to collaborate in improving and creating resources and to provide education opportunities. We engaged with Albertans in many different ways over the past year:

**Education**

- **Presentations to agencies and community organizations:**
  - Financial Training for Non-Profit Organizations offered by the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (ECVO)
  - Presentations to staff in Service Canada on Wills, Personal Directives and Powers of Attorney
  - Presentations to the public about elder abuse

- **Workshops offered for trusted intermediaries who work with the public:**
  - Legal information vs Legal advice
  - Alberta’s new *Family Property Act*
  - Training sessions on Family Law, Criminal Law, Renting in Alberta and How to Help Your Clients were presented several organizations around Alberta

- **Webinars were offered to intermediaries about the upcoming changes to the *Divorce Act***

**Engagement**

- **Info & Referral:**
  - CPLEA provides a legal information and referral service for Albertans who contact us by phone, email and through social media. We provide general legal information or referral to other organizations.

- CPLEA helped organize the 2nd annual virtual Access to Justice Week in October 2019 in partnership with several other organizations.

- We attended teachers’ conventions in Calgary and Edmonton and had conversations with educators about how they can use CPLEA resources both personally and in their teaching practice.

- We collaborated with the Elizabeth Fry Society and Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton to create several new sexual violence resources.

- We provided input to many different committees and consultations in the community and nationally including the Action Plan on Advance Care Planning, the Alberta Legal Assistance Network,
the Canadian Bar Association Access to Justice Committee, the Family Law Stakeholders Group, the Calgary Justice Sector Constellation, the Paralegal Networking Group, the Public Legal Education Association of Canada and the Alberta Residential Tenancies Advisory Committee.

- We were involved in Landlord and Tenant outreach events across the province.

Domestic Violence Toolkit for Landlords and Property Managers Project

The purpose of this project, funded by the ministry of *Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Alberta* was to enhance the capacity of landlords and property managers to intervene effectively in situations of increasing tension in families that might lead to domestic violence.

The project built on previous work by CPLEA culminating in development of:

- The **Domestic Violence Toolkit for Landlords** which raised awareness about domestic violence, how to prevent it, how to spot it, and how to make effective referrals to services and resources for addressing it. [https://www.cplea.ca/wp-content/uploads/DVToolkitForLandlords.pdf](https://www.cplea.ca/wp-content/uploads/DVToolkitForLandlords.pdf)

- Workshops for landlords and property managers were offered in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and Leduc. A spin-off presentation on the prevention of elder abuse was made in Vulcan as a direct result of the Lethbridge Workshop.

Some of the data coming out of this project includes:

- 58 workshop attendees, 30 (estimated) spin-off presentation attendees, over 3,800 downloads and orders for printed Toolkits and parts of Toolkits.
Teacher’s Convention
CALGARY & EDMONTON
Coming Soon...

**CPLEA-TV**

We are introducing CPLEA-TV—A series of video-presentations on a variety of popular topics from finding good legal information to landlord and tenant issues to wills and estates.

CPLEA-TV offerings can be accessed at: www.youtube.com/CPLEAlberta/videos

More topics to come this year!

**Sexual Violence Resource**

This resource will consist of a series of tip sheets to inform the public about the legal aspects of sexual violence. It will address what sexual violence is, what the law says about it and what legal options are available for survivors.

**Webinars**

During the next year, we will continue to develop education opportunities for intermediaries. Look for additional webinar offerings on current key topics such as consumer debt and the *Divorce Act*. 
Families and the Law Series

Due to the changes to the *Divorce Act*, our **Families and the Law** series is undergoing significant updates. Look for a refreshed series with expanded practical information to support those involved in family law disputes launching on March 1 2021.
# Financial Statement

Alberta Law Foundation | 610,937  
Alberta Real Estate Foundation | 80,000  
Department of Justice Canada | 230,000  
Grants & Contracts | 46,144  
Miscellaneous | 1,297  

**Total Revenue**  
968,378

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**Total Expenses**  
900,799

**Excess of Revenues over Expenses**  
67,579

*Full financial statements, audited by Mowbrey Gil LLP Chartered Professional Accountants & Business Advisors, are available on our website at [www.cplea.ca](http://www.cplea.ca)*

We are grateful for ongoing funding and support from the **Alberta Law Foundation**, the **Alberta Real Estate Foundation**, and the **Department of Justice Canada**.