

Annual Report
2015

Building on a→ Strong Foundation



Law Society of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 2015

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Access • Integrity • Accountability • Fairness • Independence • Inclusivity



About the Law Society

History of the Law Society

Before Saskatchewan was established as a province in 1905, it was a part of the North-West Territories, which consisted of modern-day Alberta as well as Saskatchewan. In 1885 an Ordinance was passed to set the guidelines for regulation of the legal profession in the Territories. At this time, there were only 55 attorneys in the Saskatchewan territory, but by 1898 the number of legal practitioners had increased to 176. That year, a new Ordinance, The Legal Profession Ordinance, was passed, and established the election of Benchers to govern the Law Society of the North-West Territories. Although The Saskatchewan Act, which established the province of Saskatchewan, was passed in 1905, it was not until a couple of years later that the Law Societies of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created under The Legal Profession Act of each province. There were only 168 members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan at that time. The Law Society celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2007, and continues to grow stronger. Today there are some 1816 practicing members, with more lawyers being called to the Bar each year.

Information from A Century of Integrity: Law Society of Saskatchewan 1907 to 2007 by Iain Mentiplay, QC

Regulation of the Legal Profession

The Legal Profession Act, 1990, a statute of the Province of Saskatchewan, has delegated to the Law Society of Saskatchewan the responsibility to govern the legal profession. The Law Society is not funded by or affiliated with the Government and must exercise its responsibility to govern the profession in the public interest.

The Law Society, governed by a board of lawyers and non-lawyers, sets and enforces standards for admissions, professional conduct and quality of service. Enforcement may mean that sanctions are imposed or discipline proceedings are conducted against lawyers who violate those standards.

It is necessary to preserve the independence of the legal profession from interference by the state. This independence is for the benefit of the client and the public who may rely on a lawyer to represent, protect and defend their interests even as against the state.

Professional Staff

Tom Schonhoffer, QC – Executive Director
Donna Sigmeth, QC – Deputy Director, Complaints Counsel
Timothy Huber – Counsel
Barbra Bailey – Policy Counsel
Andrea Johnston – Director of Admissions & Education
Jody Martin – Deputy Director of Admissions & Education,
Director of Bar Admissions
Kiran Mand – Acting CPLED Program Director
Sarah Rider – CPD Program Coordinator

John Allen, CPA, CA – Auditor/Inspector
Stephanie Kievits, CPA, CA – Senior Auditor
Pamela Harmon, CPA, CA – Senior Auditor
Valerie Payne – Complaints Counsel
Stacey McPeck – Complaints Counsel
Bradley Hunter, QC – Counsel, SLIA
Timothy Brown – Counsel, SLIA
Melanie Hodges Neufeld – Director of Legal Resources

Practice Advisors

Vic Dietz, QC
Linnea Goodhand
Brent Gough, QC
Jeff Scott, QC



2015 Benchers

Jeff Baldwin
Beth Bilson, QC
David Chow
Perry Erhardt, QC
Tom Healey
Robert Heinrichs, QC
Joel Hesje, QC
Brenda Hildebrandt, QC

Erin Kleisinger, QC
Heather Laing, QC
Judy McCuskee
Ronni Nordal
Ronald Parchomchuk
David Rusnak, QC
Darcia Schirr, QC
Jeff Scott, QC

Sean Sinclair
Lorraine St. Cyr
Dr. Greg Stevens
Della Stumborg
Gerald Tegart, QC
Jay Watson
Craig Zawada, QC



2015 Benchers, Practice Advisors and Professional Staff

Back row (L-R): Brent Gough, QC, Melanie Hodges Neufeld, Jeff Baldwin, Erin Kleisinger, QC, Sean Sinclair, Jody Martin, Tom Healey, Barbra Bailey, David Rusnak, QC, Dr. Greg Stevens, Donna Sigmeth, QC, Jeff Scott, QC.

Middle row: Kiran Mand, Tom Schonhoffer, QC, Heather Laing, QC, Lorraine St. Cyr, Gerald Tegart, QC, Brenda Hildebrandt, QC, Perry Erhardt, QC, Andrea Johnston, Stacey McPeck, Judy McCuskee, Valerie Payne, Linnea Goodhand.

Front row: Ronald Parchomchuk, Darcia Schirr, QC, David Chow, Robert Heinrichs, QC, Craig Zawada, QC, Della Stumborg, Jay Watson.

Missing: Beth Bilson, QC, Vic Dietz, QC, Joel Hesje, QC, Ronni Nordal.

Law Society of Saskatchewan

Vision

The Law Society of Saskatchewan is a leader in fostering public confidence through effective and innovative regulation of legal services.

Mission Statement

Acting in the public interest, the Law Society of Saskatchewan:

- (i) protects the public by regulating competence and integrity in legal services;
- (ii) promotes access to legal services;
- (iii) ensures the independence of the legal profession; and
- (iv) advances the administration of justice and the rule of law.

Values

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrity
We act honestly and ethically. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independence
We are an independent and autonomous regulator. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountability
We are responsible for its actions and ensure transparent communication and process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusivity
We support inclusion, equity and diversity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairness
We treat all people fairly, respectfully and consistently through impartial application of policies, procedures and practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access
We promote access to appropriate legal services. |

Strategic Directions

- Improve **confidence** in the LSS among all stakeholders;
- Improve capacity, **competence** and knowledge of the membership;
- Improve **access** to legal services.

VISION

MISSION

STATEMENT

VALUES

STRATEGIC
DIRECTIONS

President's Message



Perry Erhardt, QC

I have the honour to present to you the 2015 Annual Report of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. At the outset, I extend our heartfelt thanks to President Brenda Hildebrandt, QC, who guided the Benchers table with insight and vision throughout the year. The 2015 Executive Committee was rounded out with Rob Heinrichs, QC, who served most ably as Past President in his final year as a Bencher and also deserves our many thanks. I also extend a special thank-you to the Chairs of each of our committees, who committed so much time and skill in 2015 organizing and leading the work of each committee.

It is notable that our 23 Benchers spent considerable effort in developing and approving the Vision, Mission, and Values, as well as terms of reference for each of our committees as part of our strategic planning and overall governance review. This effort continued the work that began in 2014, and comprised the second phase of three phases of work in this area.

All of our work as Benchers is supported by the very talented Law Society staff. Each of them plays a key role in either investigating complaints, dealing with new admissions, providing legal information and education opportunities, performing

audits, and working collectively with other legal regulatory bodies and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. In particular, I note the many contributions of Tom Schonhoffer, QC, and expect that he would give full credit for the many accomplishments directly to Law Society staff.

In 2015, we continued the joint work with other provinces and territories (participating through the Federation of Law Societies of Canada) in the continued development and implementation of the National Discipline standards. We are now measuring our progress against the national standards to ensure the best practices are being followed in the timely and effective handling of complaints. We are seeing positive results in more timely resolution of complaints, and we will strive for even greater results and full compliance with the standards.

The Law Society participated in the Dean's Forum as one of many initiatives targeted at improving access to justice. We also heard from Ministry of Justice officials regarding innovation initiatives being considered by the Ministry—ways to do justice differently and better as a further means of improving access to justice.

The conversation about entity regulation moved beyond incubation and into action in 2015. A joint paper was developed by the three prairie law societies in a collaboration that has continued into 2016. Moving to a compliance-based system, and away from a complaints-based system, will require the participation of and a greater role from law firms to develop and implement appropriate firm culture and principles. Self-regulation is best achieved when everyone is involved and has an ownership stake in the system.

Finally, we said a last farewell to our friend, Lorne Mysko, Public Representative Bencher, who passed away in 2015. Lorne was instrumental in moving our governance review forward, and contributed much to our deliberations right up to his passing.

2015 was also an election year and we said thank-you and good-bye to outgoing Benchers: Darcia Schirr, QC, Rob Heinrichs, QC, Tom Healey, Lorraine St. Cyr, Joel Hesje, QC, and Heather Laing, QC.

In closing, we know that the work never ends and, although much was achieved through 2015, our work continues into a very busy 2016. We ask for your continued support, and thank you.

Executive Director's Report



Tom Schonhoffer, QC

For those of us who have been in the legal profession for some years, we have witnessed a continued growth in the work that the Law Society accomplishes. Absorbed in our day-to-day work, few of us appreciate that the Law Society provides numerous legal research resources and services; it trains 90 students for admission to the profession; it operates an errors and omissions insurance program that processes 100 claims each year; it monitors lawyers' trust accounts, with an average daily balance approaching \$500 million dollars; it offers an array of professional development opportunities that promote competence in the profession; and, yes, it responds to public complaints against lawyers.

I like to remind lawyers of all the value they receive from the Law Society. This year, my motive is also to discuss the importance of good governance.

During my time, the staff at the Law Society has grown and much of the work has become specialized and professionalized. There was a time when the Benchers were heavily involved in the day-to-day work of the Law Society. However, the attributes that make a good lawyer do not necessarily have much application to libraries, education or insurance. To develop these programs, it has been necessary to hire and train professionals. At the same time, staff need board oversight.

Yes, we are talking about the evolution of the Law Society into policy board governance.

In 2015, I give credit to the Benchers for revisioning the Law Society with a new Governance Policy Manual. It essentially defines the roles that Benchers, committees and staff play in all Law Society projects. It wisely provides a visioning and oversight rule to the Benchers and operational duties to staff. Perhaps, more importantly, the Benchers took the time to define the vision, values and strategic directions of the Law Society, thereby providing direction and measurement for the work that we do. Throughout this report you will see reference to the strategic directions, which I again highlight, as follows:

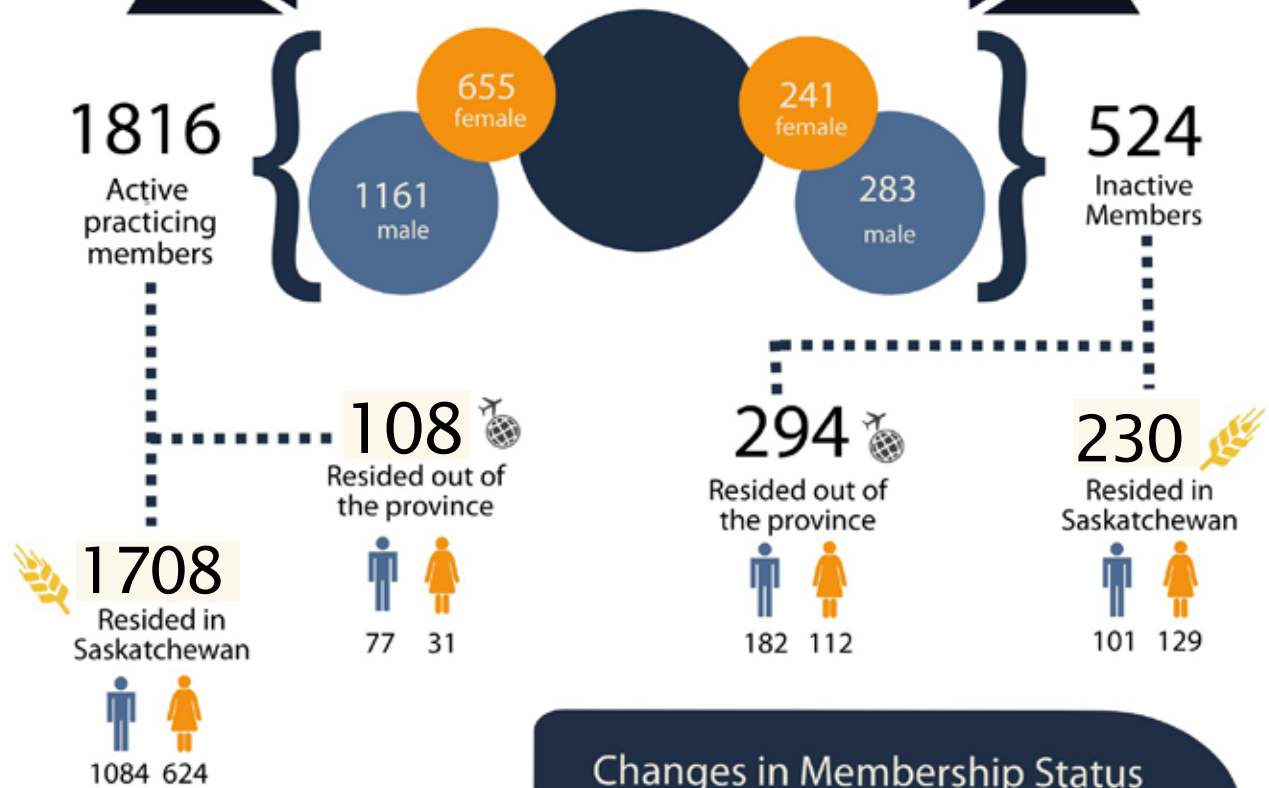
1. *Improving confidence in the Law Society among all stakeholders;*
2. *Improving capacity, competence and knowledge of the membership;*
3. *Improving access to legal services.*

The Law Society work plan for 2016 and beyond now aligns with these objectives.

Note: The statistics in the Annual Report were prepared from the Law Society of Saskatchewan database and represent a reasonable representation of the demographics. Statisticians should be cautioned that the final numbers are not always in agreement.

Membership Statistics

As of January 8, 2016



What part of Saskatchewan?

	male	female	total
Regina	408	231	639
Saskatoon	416	271	687
Rural Saskatchewan	257	121	378

Changes in Membership Status

Since January 2, 2015



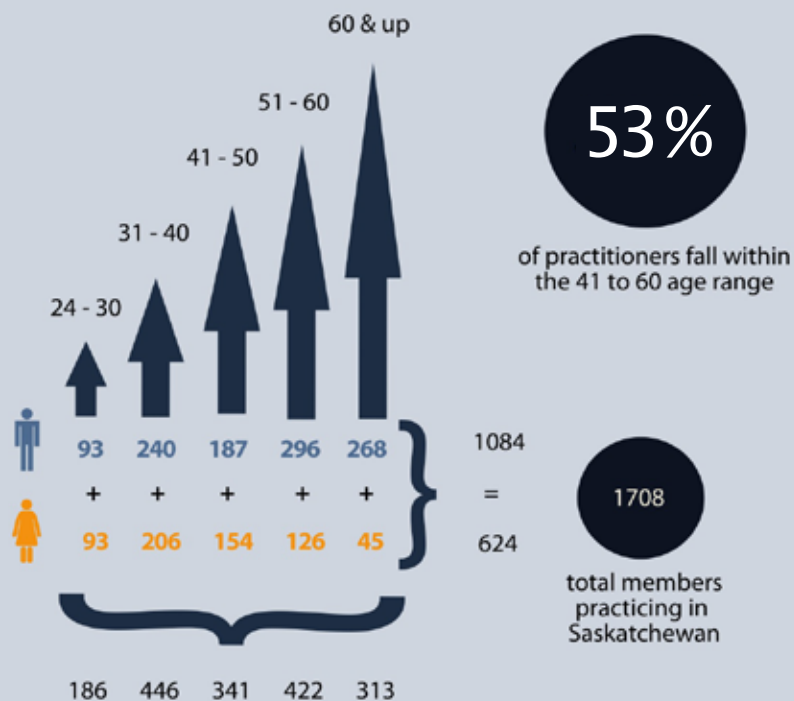
# of Practitioners per Firm (private practice only)	# of Firms	# of Practitioners (incl. students-at-law)
1	172	172
2	54	108
3	23	69
4	15	60
5	8	40
6	5	30
7	6	42
8	5	40
9	2	18
10	1	10
11	1	11
13	1	13
14	2	28
15	1	15
19	4	76
20	1	20
22	1	22
25	1	25
27	1	27
32	1	32
35	1	35
69	1	69
88	1	88
93	1	93
TOTAL:	309	1143

NOTE: These numbers include students-at-law who are working in private firms, which accounts for the discrepancy between the total number of private practitioners in this table (1143) and the total number of private practitioners in the "Type of Practice" Table (1096).

Allocation of Practitioners in Saskatchewan by Type of Practice

	Courts	5
	Federal Government	38
	Federal Prosecution	17
	In-House Corporate Counsel	132
	Legal Aid	85
	Private Practice	1096
	Provincial Crown Corporation	49
	Provincial Government	119
	Provincial Prosecution	124
	University	14
	Unclassified in Database	29

Practicing Lawyers in Saskatchewan by Age (not including students-at-law)

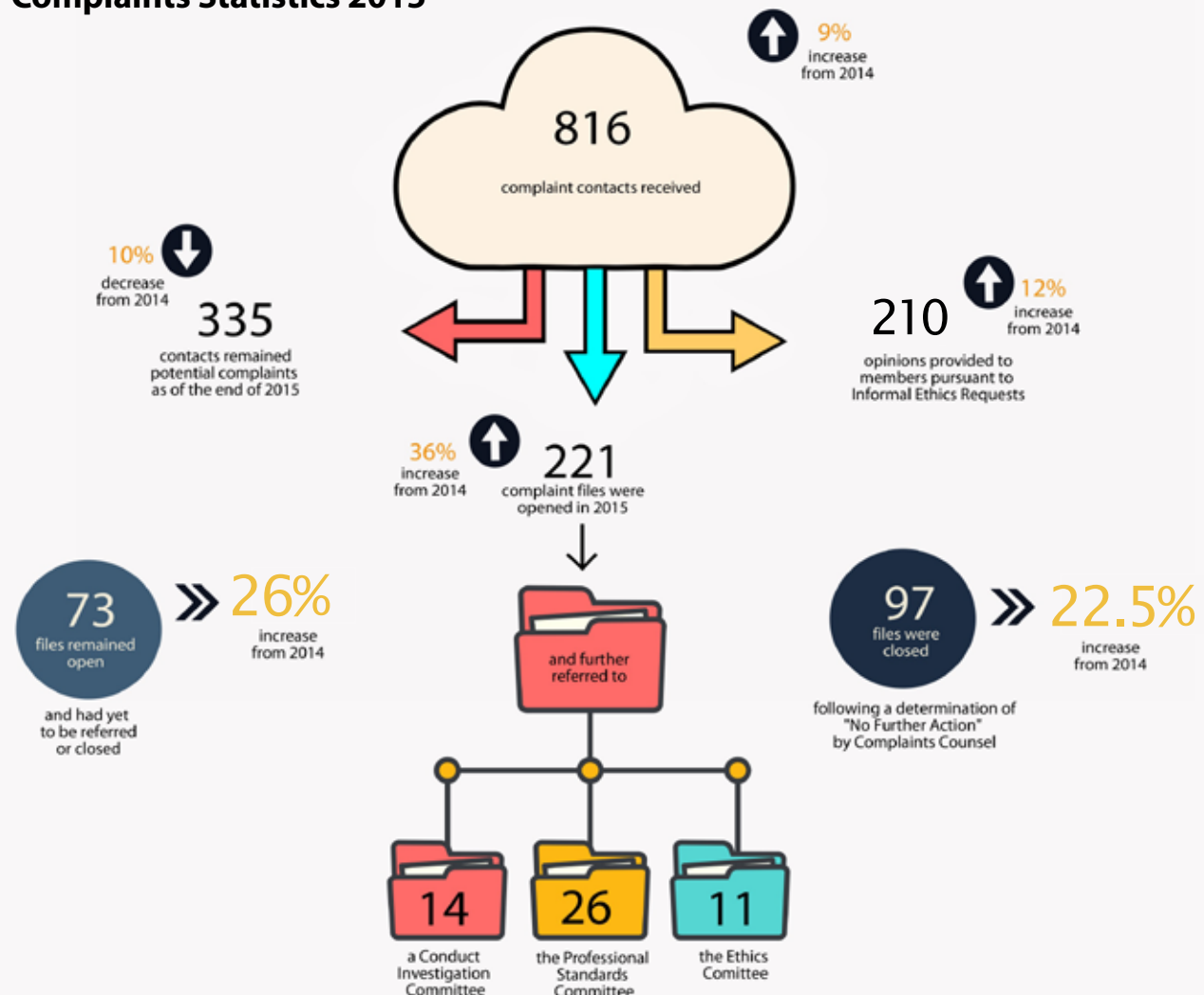


Professional Regulation

As the governing body of the legal profession in Saskatchewan, the Law Society of Saskatchewan is responsible for the investigation and determination of complaints regarding the conduct of lawyers in the Province. Once it has been determined that the Law Society has the jurisdiction to review the conduct of a lawyer, it is evaluated by the Complaints Counsel. The Complaints Counsel will review the complaint and will take one of the following courses of action:

- i) Forward the complaint to either the Discipline, Professional Standards or Ethics Committee for further review and direction.
- ii) Direct no further action as your complaint does not raise an issue of conduct or competency with respect to the lawyer.

Complaints Statistics 2015





Erin Kleisinger, QC

Committee Members

Erin Kleisinger, QC — Chair

Beth Bilson, QC — Vice-Chair

Tom Healey — Vice-Chair

Robert Heinrichs, QC — Vice-Chair

Ronni Nordal — Vice-Chair

Dr. Greg Stevens — Vice-Chair

Jay Watson — Vice-Chair

Non-Bencher Members

Donna Sigmeth, QC

Valerie Payne

Stacey McPeck

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards Committee reviews trends and issues that arise as a result of complaints and create rules, policies and best practices to proactively assist the membership to prevent complaints and insurance claims thereby protecting clients and the public.

The Professional Standards Committee has a due diligence and oversight role to be sure that the appropriate matters are being referred to the practice advisor and that matters are being dealt with. The Committee has the authority to recommend that a matter be referred to the Discipline Committee if issues of conduct unbecoming arise in the course of a practice review. However, this is certainly not the primary mandate of the professional standards committee.

Improve confidence in the LSS among all stakeholders

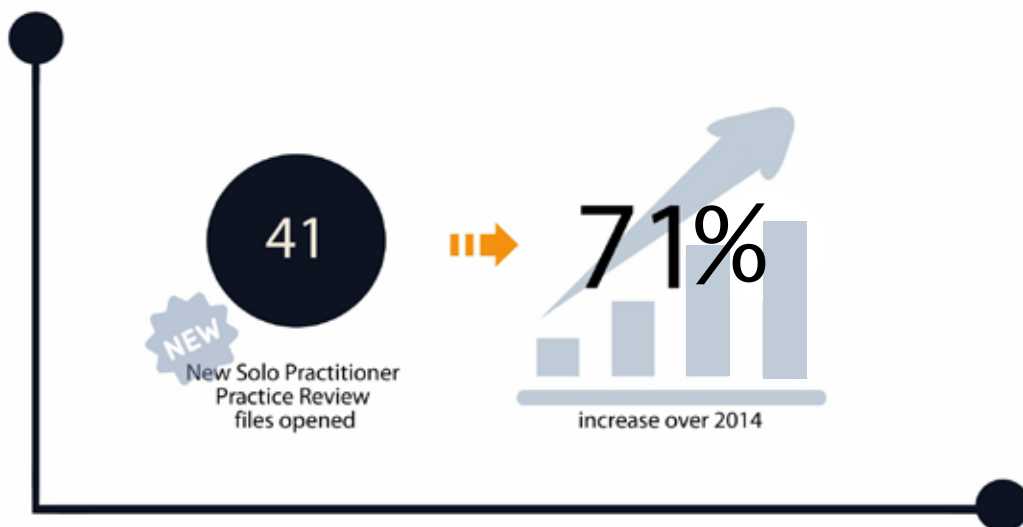
- Rules relating to funds received under a retainer agreement were changed to clarify that those funds must be treated as trust funds. The previous rules did not require a member, in certain circumstances, to have to account or render legal services for retainers. The rule changes eliminated the concept of a “general retainer”, enforcing the requirement of members to complete legal work and issue bills in order to justify the taking of a retainer. The changes also add guidance on when fees should be treated as trust funds. This necessitated changes to Rules 900, 921, 1500 and 1504.

Improve capacity, competence and knowledge of the membership

- The Committee continues to oversee the Practice Review Program, designed to proactively work with members to improve competence and address practice issues before they become a problem for the client.
- Recognizing a need within the membership, the Committee has released quarterly “Mental Health Awareness” emails to the members, attempting to reduce the stigma around mental health issues and encourage members to access the variety of resources available to assist them in times of extreme stress or mental illness.
- The Committee approved the posting on the LSS website of a “New Solo/ Small Firm Starter Kit”, including a wealth of materials chosen to assist members opening their own firm for the first time in establishing safe and sufficient office and practice systems, to maximize the services they are able to provide to clients.

Improve access to legal services

- The Committee recognized a need in Saskatchewan for some form of “relief” program which would assist solo or small firm practitioners, often in rural or more remote locations, to continue to service their communities. The “Locum Registry” was established to facilitate contact between members who are willing to make their services available on a temporary basis, with members who require temporary coverage to allow them to take holidays, medical leaves, etc. without abandoning the needs of their clients. Clients in these communities often have limited access to legal services locally, so it is in our interests to encourage rural and remote practitioners to maintain their practices.



David Chow

Committee Members

David Chow — Chair
 Gerald Tegart, QC — Vice-Chair
 Jeff Baldwin
 David Rusnak, QC
 Darcia Schirr, QC
 Lorraine St. Cyr
 Dr. Greg Stevens

Ethics

The committee makes rulings that apply the Code of Conduct and the rules to specific fact situations involving lawyers and are published anonymously as guidance for the profession. The committee reviews requests for rulings by the members as well as complaints brought forward by the public that do not appear to raise conduct issues but rather “grey area” ethical issues that require discussion.

Core Functions

1. Make rulings on questions of professional ethics and provide guidance to individuals and for the profession as a whole.
2. Review and develop recommendations for any changes to the Code of Professional Conduct.

Accomplishments

- Committee reviewed and approved the Committee’s Terms of Reference.
- There were no changes to the Model Code that required consideration by the committee in 2015.
- Number of Ethics Decisions rendered: 9
- Number of Requests for Ruling decisions rendered: 3

Non-Bencher Members

Donna Sigmeth, QC
 Valerie Payne
 Stacey McPeck

Discipline Executive

The Discipline Committee reviews trends and issues revealed by discipline and complaints and attempts to address those issues by way of policy and Rules. Members of the Discipline Committee sit on hearings and sentencing panels. The Discipline Committee also acts as a 'due diligence' monitor to specifically review the timelines for open discipline matters to ensure that matters are moving forward expediently.

Tribunal Training

- Development and implementation of online and in person training for benchers took place in 2015 and into 2016. The training was videotaped to ensure that all tribunal members will be offered training in future. The training in administrative law, investigation and tribunal training (conducting hearings, decision making and writing) received positive feedback from bencher attendees. This new training puts the Law Society of Saskatchewan in compliance with the National Discipline Standards requiring tribunal training for panel members.

National Discipline Standards

- National Discipline Standards, both quantitative and qualitative, were approved and implemented and LSS is working toward meeting all of the national standards

Improved Communications

- Communication has improved between the Discipline Executive Committee and the Conduct Investigation Committee by adding the CIC chair as member of the DEC. This allows chair of the CIC to have input on policy matters that may affect CIC and to bring input of CIC to the DEC table.

Improved Timeliness

- Improved monitoring of timeliness of open CIC matters by the CIC chair and of Hearing matters by the DEC chair.



Tom Healey

Committee Members

Tom Healey — Chair

Beth Bilson, QC — Vice-Chair

Robert Heinrichs, QC — Vice-Chair

Heather Laing, QC — Vice-Chair

Jay Watson — Vice-Chair

Non-Bencher Members

Donna Sigmeth, QC

Tim Huber

Valerie Payne

Stacey McPeck

National Discipline Standards

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is working with Canada's law societies to develop high national standards for how they handle complaints to ensure that members of the public are treated promptly, fairly and openly wherever in Canada they have used the services of members of the legal profession.

In April 2014, the Council of the Federation adopted new National Discipline Standards. These standards were referred to the law societies for adoption and implementation effective January 1, 2015.

The Law Society of Saskatchewan was substantially in compliance with the National Discipline Standards in 2015. It was necessary to work out some "bugs" with the database and data entry in order to accurately measure exactly what the Standards required. The Law Society of Saskatchewan hopes to be able to provide a full and accurate status report in 2016.

	National Standard
Timeliness	
1.	<i>Telephone inquiries:</i> 75% of telephone inquiries are acknowledged within one business day and 100% within two business days.
2.	<i>Written complaints:</i> 100% of written complaints are acknowledged in writing within three business days.
3.	<i>Timeline to resolve or refer complaint:</i> 80% of all complaints are resolved or referred for a disciplinary or remedial response within 12 months. 90% of all complaints are resolved or referred for a disciplinary or remedial response within 18 months.
4.	<i>Contact with complainant:</i> For 90% of open complaints there is contact with the complainant at least once every 90 days during the investigation stage.
5.	<i>Contact with lawyer or Québec notary:</i> For 90% of open complaints there is contact with the lawyer or Québec notary at least once every 90 days during the investigation stage.
Hearings	
6.	75% of citations or notices of hearings are issued and served upon the lawyer or Québec notary within 60 days of authorization. 95% of citations or notices of hearings are issued and served upon the lawyer or Québec notary within 90 days of authorization.
Hearings continued...	
7.	75% of all hearings commence within 9 months of authorization. 90% of all hearings commence within 12 months of authorization.
8.	Reasons for 90% of all decisions are rendered within 90 days from the last date the panel receives submissions.
9.	Each law society will report annually to its governing body on the status of the standards.
Public Participation	
10.	There is public participation at every stage of discipline; i.e., on all hearing panels of three or more; at least one public representative; on the charging committee, at least one public representative.
11.	There is a complaints review process in which there is public participation for complaints that are disposed of without going to a charging committee.

	National Standard
Transparency	
12.	Hearings are open to the public.
13.	Reasons are provided for any decision to close hearings.
14.	Notices of charge or citation are published promptly after a date for the hearing has been set.
15.	Notices of hearing dates are published at least 60 days prior to the hearing, or such shorter time as the pre-hearing process permits.
16.	There is an ability to share information about a lawyer or Québec notary who is a member of another law society with that other law society when an investigation is underway in a manner that protects solicitor-client privilege, or there is an obligation on the lawyer or Québec notary to disclose to all law societies of which he/she is a member that there is an investigation underway.
17.	There is an ability to report to police about criminal activity in a manner that protects solicitor/client privilege.
Accessibility	
18.	A complaint help form is available to complainants.
19.	There is a directory available with status information on each lawyer or Québec notary, including easily accessible information on discipline history.
Qualifications and Training of Adjudicators	
20.	There is ongoing mandatory training for all adjudicators, including training on decision writing, with refresher training no less often than once a year and the curriculum for mandatory training will comply with the national curriculum if and when it is available.
21.	There is mandatory orientation for all volunteers involved in conducting investigations or in the charging process to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to do the job.

Admissions & Education



Sean Sinclair

Committee Members

Sean Sinclair — Chair

Darcia Schirr, QC — Vice-Chair

David Chow

Joel Hesje, QC

Heather Laing, QC

Ronald Parchomchuk

Della Stumborg

Non-Bencher Members

Andrea Johnston

Jody Martin

One of the primary regulatory responsibilities of the Law Society is protection of the public by ensuring that only those qualified to practice are admitted to the profession. The Admissions & Education Committee is the gatekeeper for the legal profession in Saskatchewan. The Committee's responsibilities are to establish Rules to:

- ensure that new members have both the requisite integrity and appropriate competency to practice law by administering Admission requirements, the Bar Admissions course (CPLED) and articling
- regulate readmission of those that have left the practice of law
- regulate interprovincial mobility and transfers
- oversee the delivery of continuing professional development

The Admissions & Education Committee is assisted by the Executive Director, the Director of Admissions & Education and the Director of Bar Admissions. The administration staff at the Law Society is responsible for ensuring compliance with the policies.

Meetings

- The A&E Committee meets regularly throughout the year. As some of its business is time sensitive in nature, the A&E committee often meets via conference call in between the 5 regularly scheduled meetings. The Committee held a total of 8 meetings in 2015.

Strategic Planning

- Approved A & E Committee Terms of Reference.
- Identified and prioritized A & E specific initiatives to include in the LSS Work Plan.

Bencher Training

- Developed the following three-part training regime:
 - Part 1 – Administrative Principles (completed - recorded webinar)
 - Part 2 – Complaints Process/Committees and Investigations (completed November 25, 2015)
 - Part 3 – Hearings/Decisions (completed January 15, 2016)

Oath of Office

- The Oath of Office was modernized with the assistance of Chief Justice M.D. Popescul. The Committee considered a new and improved Oath of Office that better reflects the practice of today's lawyers.

Legislative Amendments

- Reviewed *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* and identified A & E specific items for consideration.

A & E Rules

- Made various tweaks and improvements to the overhauled A & E Rules. The Committee considered 12 individual Rule amendments to Part 7 and 7A of the Rules, including such things as: updates to various rules with respect to transfer and mobility, Rule 152 (Approval to Act as Principal), Rule 154 (Articling Term) with respect to a student-at-law's time away from articles.
- Reviewed Schedule 1 to Part 12 of the Rules (fees and assessments) and proposed a revised Schedule 1 and a number of related rule amendments.

Membership Forms

- All of the relevant forms had been revised in 2014 in conjunction with the A & E Rules overall. After working with the revised forms for approximately seven months, identified a number of further revisions that would provide clarity to applicants and/or assist the Law Society in obtaining the necessary information from applicants. Accordingly, the forms were updated to incorporate these additional revisions.
- Reviewed and revised our standard form of Certificate of Standing.

National Mobility Agreement (NMA) Reading Requirements

- Revised the NMA Reading Requirements to only require applicants to read the portion of the materials that is relevant to their intended areas of practice.
- Retained subject experts in each of the practice areas to review and recommend revisions to their applicable section.
- The new reading list is now complete and implemented.

National Requirement for Law Degree Programs

- 2015 was the first year that law societies required applicants to have graduated from a Federation approved law program.

National Admissions Standards Project

- Reviewed the Business Plan related to the proposed national assessment strategy. Although the plan proposes a very comprehensive and topnotch assessment scheme, the Committee identified several questions/concerns to be raised with the Federation NASP Steering Committee.
- Expressed our continued commitment to working together with the other law societies to develop a detailed plan for how a common national assessment program will be carried out.

Prairie Legal Education Pilot Project

- The Pilot Project is a collaborative effort between the Law Society CEOs, law schools deans, and CPLED directors from Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Pilot allows the student to attempt to receive credit for one CPLED Module by completing the module in conjunction with a related law school course. In Saskatchewan, the CPLED Negotiation Module was incorporated into two law school Negotiation Courses, and in Manitoba, the Legal Research and Writing Module was delivered as a workshop for third year students.

List of Recommended Law School Courses

- Reviewed the list of recommended law school courses, consulted with Beth Bilson (Acting Dean) and decided to dispense with the list.

Admissions Applications

- Received more applications to act as a principal than usual that required substantial review and consideration prior to making a decision.
- Referred a number of admission applications directly to a hearing pursuant to new Rule 176(5).

Rule Waiver Applications

- Considered six rule waiver applications relating to requests for a complete waiver or reduction in the CPLED Program and/or a reduction/waiver of the articling requirement.

CPD Policy

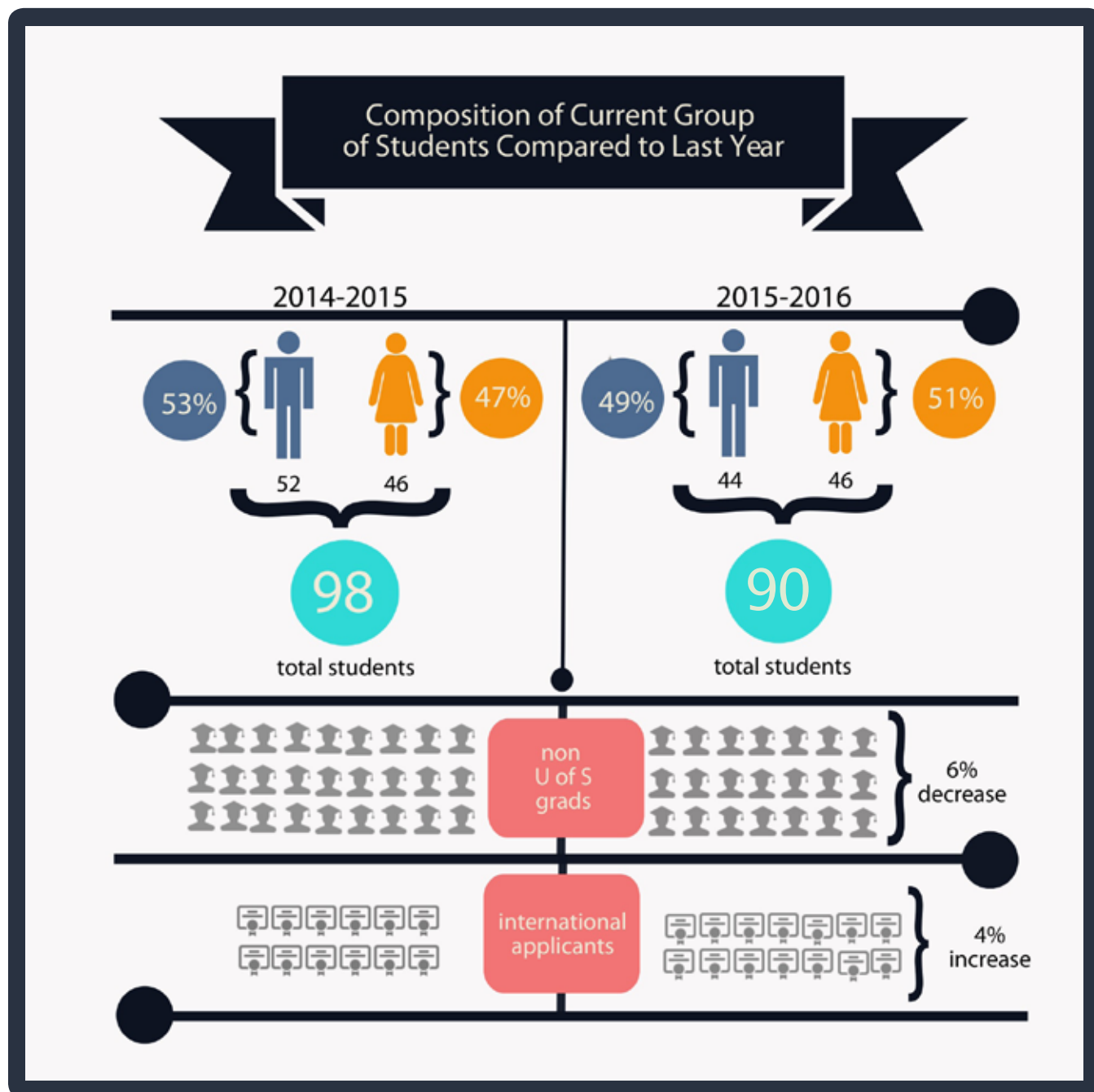
- Made several tweaks and improvements to the CPD Policy, including the addition of “cultural competency training” as an area that qualifies for CPD ethics hours.

CPD Programs

- Introduced a new event—the Sidebar Social Series (a CPD event targeted at junior lawyers which includes food, beverages and presentations from judges at the various levels of court).

CPLED Students

- The 2015 CPLED year started with 93 students. Although these numbers are not quite as high as our record breaking number in 2014 of 103 student, these numbers are significantly higher than the numbers we have experienced over the last several years. We are continuing to attract many students to the province.





David Rusnak, QC

Committee Members

David Rusnak, QC — Chair

Heather Laing, QC — Vice-Chair

Joel Hesje, QC

Judy McCuskee

Ronald Parchomchuk

Non-Bencher Members

Patrick Kelly, QC

Michael Milani, QC

Brad Hunter, QC

Tom Schonhoffer, QC

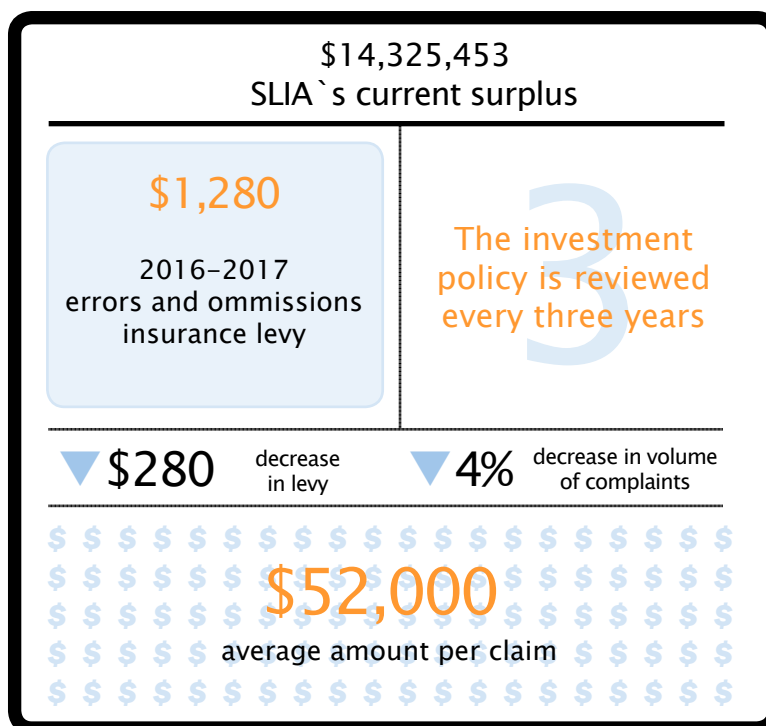
Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association Inc. (SLIA) is a non-profit corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. SLIA provides mandatory errors and omissions insurance to the members of the Law Society of Saskatchewan pursuant to the Legal Professions Act.

SLIA is a member of the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association (CLIA). CLIA is a reciprocal insurance exchange which offers mandatory liability insurance to lawyers licenced by a law society and a voluntary excess insurance program.

The program is run by in-house counsel and a claims coordinator who report to a Board of Directors composed of both Bencher and non-Bencher members.

Highlights

- We expect the surplus will remain constant over the next few years.
- Budgeted expenditures and revenue for the upcoming year are slightly less than last year.
- See the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.
- We are in the process of reviewing SLIA's Investment Policy.
- We updated the Insurance Committee section of the Bencher Policy Manual.



Library



Jeff Baldwin

Committee Members

Jeff Baldwin — Chair

Joel Hesje, QC

Sean Sinclair

Dr. Greg Stevens

Non-Benchers Members

Melanie Hodges Neufeld

Tom Schonhoffer, QC

In September 2013, the Benchers approved a strategic plan for the Library. This plan articulated three directions for the Library to better ensure member competency:

1. Convert from print to online resources in order to facilitate greater and more equitable access for members;
2. Create more in-house resources; and
3. Explore partnership opportunities to reduce redundancies.

Traditionally, the purpose of law libraries has been to ensure and maintain competency and the administration of justice by collecting, cataloguing, creating and distributing legal information to the profession and members of the public. In the last few years we have diversified and introduced initiatives to meet all three Law Society strategic goals, particularly in the area of access.

Improving confidence in the LSS among all stakeholders

The library manages the Law Society website and produces several publications to inform our membership and the public about Law Society initiatives:

- One of the Law Society's most popular outlets is our blog, Legal Sourcery. Introduced in March 2014 to provide useful legal research tips and Law Society news, the blog quickly grew in popularity and has received over 100,000 views. At the end of 2015, Legal Sourcery was awarded the Canadian Law Blog Award (Clawbie) for Best Law Library Blog:

Few categories prompt so many nominations from our readers as Best Law Library Blog, and no blog receives so many or such enthusiastic nominations as Legal Sourcery. The blog of the Law Society of Saskatchewan consistently generates engaging and informative posts about legal developments, regulatory changes, research trends, and just plain fun observations and contests.

- In 2015 the Library began publishing the Benchers' Digest, the Law Society's quarterly newsletter.

Improve capacity, competence and knowledge of the membership

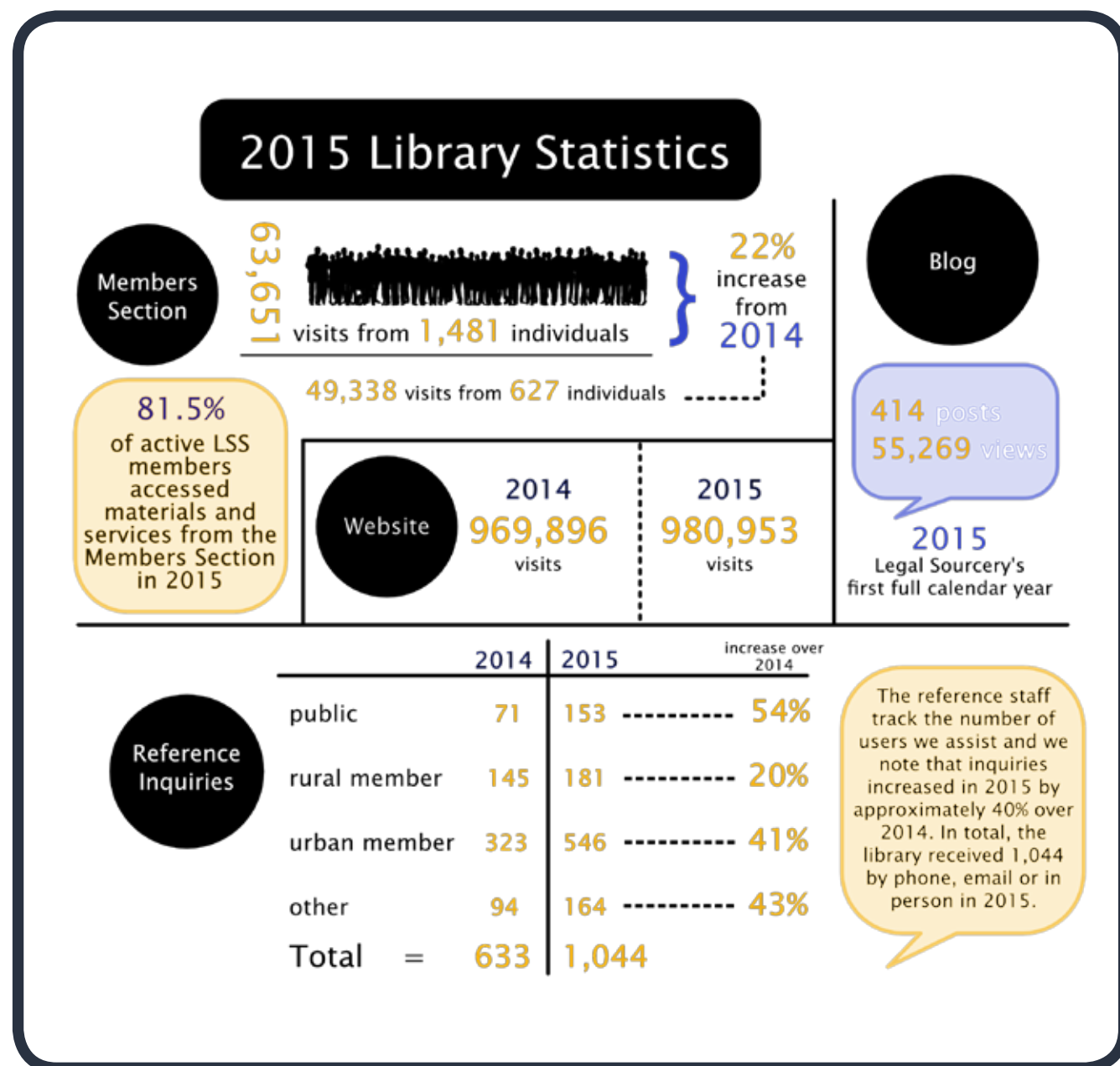
To meet the legal research needs of our members, we aim to provide many online resources while recognizing the continued need to maintain a print collection. We also understand that simply providing the resources does not ensure legal research competency. Therefore, numerous training opportunities, legal research guides and online tutorials are available. Resources and training in 2015 included:

- Through careful negotiation, we now offer more online resources to all members for less cost. In 2015 we added the WestlawNext platform to our Members' Section. The platform offers case law research, the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest, the Canadian Abridgment, CriminalSource, FamilySource and LabourSource.
- In addition to maintaining resources such as *The Queen's Bench Rules of Saskatchewan: Annotated*, *Case Mail*, *The Limitations Manual* and the Saskatchewan Case Digest Database, the second edition of the *Saskatchewan Builder's Lien Manual* was released in January 2015 in print and ebook. *Civil Appeals in Saskatchewan: The Court of Appeal Act & Rules Annotated* was also released, in collaboration with the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan, in November 2015.

- In 2014, a temporary agreement was negotiated with the College of Law Library to grant our Saskatoon members borrowing privileges while our Saskatoon branch was under construction. In the spring of 2015, the College agreed to make this arrangement permanent.
- The Library offered several legal research webinars and in-person presentations in 2015 and produced subject resource lists and legal research guides.

Improve access to legal services

- In 2015, the Library began exploring access initiatives in partnership with other organizations. The Library partnered with the Family Law Information Centre to provide free Family Law Information Sessions for the public in Regina and Saskatoon. Staff from the Family Law Information Centre assists members of the public with the court forms available on the new PLEA Family Law website. The Library provides advertising, registration and space for the sessions.



Looking Forward

Throughout this Annual Report there have been many references to the strategic plan approved in 2015. It was instrumental in designing the budget and the work plan for 2016. Here are some of the initiatives in the work plan.

Confidence in the Law Society among all stakeholders

- Tribunal Training—Administrative law has become extremely specialized and Benchers and other lawyers who sit on Law Society hearing panels require training.
- Communication—Improving stakeholder confidence requires improved communication to the stakeholders. The Benchers approved hiring a Communications Coordinator.
- Trust Safety—The security of lawyers' trust accounts facilitates commerce and dispute resolution. The daily balance of money held in lawyers' trust accounts averages approximately \$500,000,000. The Law Society is embarking on a long term project to modernize the trust accounting rules to better facilitate commerce and reduce the regulatory burden on lawyers.

Capacity, competence and knowledge of the membership

- Entry-level Qualifications—The Law Society of Saskatchewan has approved a national standard that students must meet to obtain entry to the profession. The CPLED (Bar Course) program must now be modernized to train and evaluate for these qualifications.
- Innovating Regulation—The Law Society is also engaged in innovating regulation and is discussing the idea of entity regulation along with other Canadian Law Societies. Much has been written about improving the quality of legal services by working with law firms to construct ethical and managerial infrastructure.

Access to legal services

- Finally, *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* provides lawyers a monopoly over legal services, but we know that economics works against some people and some services. The Law Society has participated in and supported numerous initiatives over the years to improve access to legal services. Innovating regulation also has the potential to allow for different delivery models that may work to provide access. In addition, the Law Society, along with the Department of Justice, is currently looking at the idea of legal technicians.

—Thomas J. Schonhoffer, QC
Executive Director

Special Thanks

Law Society Committee Members and Representatives to Other Organizations

Melanie Baldwin, QC	Kara-Dawn Jordan	Chief Justice M.D. Popescul
Merlis Belsher	Patrick Kelly, QC	William Preston, QC
David Brundige, QC	Robert Kennedy, QC	Karen Prisciak, QC
Colin Clackson, QC	Ken Koshgarian	Tim Quigley
Amanda Dodge	Marianne Kramchynsky	Chief Justice R.G. Richards
Robert Gibbings, QC	Eileen Libby, QC	Randy Sandbeck, QC
Brent Gough, QC	Michael Milani, QC	Norma Sim, QC
Brian Hendrickson, QC	Ken Neil	Evert Van Olst, QC
Kathy Hodgson-Smith	Eric Neufeld, QC	Greg Walen, QC
Scott Hopley	William Nickel	
Heather Jensen	Jamie Patterson	

Conduct Investigation Committee

Evert Van Olst, QC	Gregory Walen, QC
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CPLED Face-to-Face Volunteers

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Cst Kevin Breitzkreuz	Alan Kilpatrick	Charlene Richmond
Tim Brown	Russ McDowell	William H. Roe, QC
Joanne Colledge-Miller	Stephen McLellan	Randy Sandbeck, QC
Brent Cotter, QC	Justice Megaw	Nicole Sarauer
Sherri Cybulski	Ann Marie Melvie	Ashley Smith
Justice R.W. Danyliuk	Jason Mohrbutter	Michael Tochor, QC
Kayla Demars Krentz	Joanne Moser	Judge C.C. Toth
Victor Dietz, QC	Stacy Muller	Itemobong Umoh
Ken Fox	Peter Nokonechny	Greg Walen, QC
Tony Gerein	Charmaine Panko	Chris Weitzel
Pam Harmon	Shaunt Parthev, QC	Craig Zawada, QC
Brian Hendrickson, QC	Valerie Payne	
Brenda Hildebrandt, QC	Amanda Quayle	

Designated Complaints Counsel

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Michael Fisher, QC
Robert Gibbings, QC
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Peter Hryhorchuk, QC

Eileen Libby, QC
Gordon Mayer
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Reché McKeague
Paul Korpan, QC

Leah Kosokowsky
George Patterson, QC
Larry Zatlyn, QC
Catherine Zuck, QC

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Judge M.T. Beaton
Dale Beck
Catherine Benning
Kirby Burningham
Justice N.W. Caldwell
Joanne Colledge-Miller
Sherri Cybulski
Justice R. W. Danyliuk
Victor Dietz, QC
Christopher Donald
Kaylea Dunn
Greg Fingas
Sherry Fitzsimmons
Ken Fox
Aaron Friedman
Lynsey Gaudin
Melvin Gerspacher, QC
Richard Gibbons
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Danielle Graff
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Robert Hale

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Jeffrey Lee, QC
Richard Leland, QC
Partick Loran
Harold MacKay, QC
Ryan O. Malley
Meghan McCreary
Justice M.T. Megaw
Ann Marie Melvie
Stephen Miazga
Robert Millar, QC
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*The Law Society of Saskatchewan is a leader
in fostering public confidence through effective and
innovative regulation of legal services.*

Law Society of Saskatchewan