

Law Society of Saskatchewan



Bencher Election Results 2015

Thomas Schonhoffer, Q.C.
Executive Director

Voting for the 2015 Bencher election closed on November 15, 2015.

Elections are always bitter sweet at the Law Society. Bitter because we lose a group of experienced Benchers that we have relied on for hearing panels, ethical guidelines and wise policy. Their work should be acknowledged and we thank Thomas Healey, Robert Heinrichs, Q.C., Joel Hesje, Q.C., Heather Laing, Q.C., Darcia Schirr, Q.C., and Lorraine St. Cyr for their contributions.

It's also an exciting time at the Law Society as we welcome new Benchers and new ideas.

This year, there were many constituencies that acclaimed both sitting Benchers and new Benchers as follows:

- East Central – David Rusnak
- South East – Scott Moffat
- Prince Albert – Ronald Parchomchuk
- North West – Jeff Baldwin
- Central – David Chow
- Young Lawyer – Sean Sinclair

There was no candidate from the South West, so the Benchers, pursuant to the authority of Section 20 of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*, may appoint a Bencher to fill that vacancy, which will likely take place at the February 2016 Convocation.

There were three elections; one for 5 Benchers in Saskatoon, another for 4 Benchers in Regina and for 1 Bencher from the North East. The Law Society employed an online election program this year and the verdict is that it was successful, both in terms of being cost-efficient and member-friendly.

First, my congratulations for all those that let their names stand for election. The Law Society requires the assistance of public-spirited members of the profession. Those who stood for election have demonstrated their commitment to the profession.

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

Bencher Election Results 2015	1
Highlights of the Meeting of the Benchers	2
In Memoriam — Iain Mentiplay	3
Many Thanks	4
Law Society President's Dinner	6
Just in Time for Christmas!	8
Judicial Appointments	8
Sarah Rider Joins the Law Society	9
Upcoming CPD Activities	9
PBLS Volunteer Profiles	10
In Memory	10
Notices	11
Equity Office	12
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers	12

Bencher Election Results 2015

Continued...

In Regina, Perry Erhardt, Q.C., the current Vice-President, was deemed elected for another term in order to serve as President in 2016. The incumbents Gerald Tegart, Q.C., Erin Kleisinger, and Ronnie Nordal were re-elected, along with new Bencher David Bishop.

In Saskatoon, incumbents, Brenda Hildebrandt, Q.C., Craig Zawada, Q.C., and Jay Watson will be joined by new Benchers Leslie Belloc-Pinder and Ian Wagner.

Rosanne Newman, Q.C. of Melfort was elected as the North East representative.

I would be remiss in this article if I did not mention that the Law Society of Saskatchewan is well served by the Dean of the Law School and appointed Public Representatives. The complete list of Benchers is as follows:

Jeff Baldwin	Judy McCuskee	Della Stumborg
Leslie Belloc-Pinder	Scott Moffat	Gerald Tegart, Q.C.
Beth Bilson, Q.C.	Rosanne Newman, Q.C.	Ian Wagner
David Bishop	Ronni Nordal	Jay Watson
David Chow	Ronald Parchomchuk	Craig Zawada, Q.C.
Perry Erhardt, Q.C.	David Rusnak	South West Bencher - TBA
Brenda Hildebrandt, Q.C.	Sean Sinclair	
Erin Kleisinger	Dr. Greg Stevens	

Benchers are mandated to represent the public interest where it conflicts with the interests of members or constituencies. However, they are an important local resource that members can draw upon. Biographies for all successful candidates can be found on the Law Society website on the [Bencher Election 2015](#) page.

Highlights of the Meeting of Benchers

September 25, 2015

September Convocation is the time to start the budgetary process that is completed in October. This year, the Benchers identified essential priorities and approved a work plan for the coming year.

The Benchers also considered several special fund claims to compensate clients for misappropriated funds.

The Oath of Office that every new lawyer takes has become dated. The Admissions & Education Committee recommended a revised Oath that was approved by the Benchers.

Access to Justice is continually on the Bencher Agenda. Examining regulation to encourage different types of competitive business innovation and therefore greater access will be on the Agenda for some time. The Benchers reviewed a draft memorandum assembled in cooperation with the Law Societies of Alberta and Manitoba.

The Annual General Meeting has gone from a 2-day event to a dinner over the past years. The Benchers have appointed a committee to revitalize the AGM. Any suggestions from the membership are welcome.

Highlights of the Meeting of Benchers

October 16, 2015

The Benchers approved the 2016 budget. It included a \$60 increase in fees to \$1,750.

In Memoriam

Iain Mentiplay, Q.C., formerly of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, passed away on October 9th, 2015, at the age of 79. The Law Society would like to highlight the considerable contribution Iain made to the Law Society and the Saskatchewan legal community.

The following is an excerpt of the eulogy given at Iain's funeral by his friend Jeff Scott.



For many of us in the legal community, Iain's death is the end of an era.

In 1957 Iain received his Law Degree from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was admitted to the Law Society of Scotland. He immigrated to Saskatchewan in 1957. He articulated under John Green at the Legal Department of Saskatchewan Government Insurance. In 1958 he was admitted to the Law Society of Saskatchewan. He continued to work for a number of years at SGI. In 1964 Iain joined the firm of Hanbidge and Lewchuk in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. Then in 1974, Iain started work at McKercher, McKercher, Stack, Korchin & Laing in Saskatoon.

In 1979 Iain began his career with the Law Society. Iain was employed by the Law Society for 20 years. From 1979 to 1991 Iain was Secretary-Treasurer. Then from 1992 to his retirement in 1999, Iain was Senior Counsel and Complaints Counsel with the Law Society. Also, from 1988-1998 Iain was Claims Administrator for Saskatchewan Lawyers' Insurance Association.

Many lawyers in Saskatchewan know Iain because Iain, on behalf of the Law Society, was present when they signed the Membership Roll at the Law Society office. After Iain retired from the Law Society, he told me he believed it was important for him to be present for the signing of the roll by newly admitted lawyers so the lawyers would have a personal contact with the Law Society. For many of us, Iain became the face of the Law Society. Iain was indeed our contact with the Law Society.

Given his varied positions with the Law Society, Iain had the opportunity to work with most of the support staff and professional staff at the Law Society office, work with the President of the Law Society, work with the Benchers of the Law Society, have contact with lawyers from across the province and finally interact with members of the public about the legal services provided by lawyers. Iain's many years of service with the Law Society provided

a great wealth of knowledge to successive Presidents and Benchers of the

Law Society. That source of knowledge combined with his many admirable personal characteristics: unassuming, kind, sensitive, conscientious, discreet, fair-minded and honest made him a trusted, integral and important part of the Law Society.

While he was working with the Law Society and in recognition of his contribution to the practice of law Iain was honoured with receiving a Queen's Counsel appointment.

On a first name basis, Iain knew most of the lawyers in the province. When Iain travelled throughout Saskatchewan he would often take the time to stop by and visit with the local lawyers who were practicing in the community that he happened to be driving through.

When Iain retired in June, 1999 the Law Society hosted a very well attended retirement party for him. Proudly dressed in his kilt, Iain received a certificate of appreciation signed by all of the 21 Presidents of the Law Society under whom he served.

After Iain retired from the Law Society, he was asked by the Benchers to write a book to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Law Society. It quickly became known within the legal community as "THE BOOK". Iain set up meetings with lawyers throughout Saskatchewan whom he intended to profile. Dorene accompanied Iain on his many road trips throughout Saskatchewan as he obtained information for The Book. Later Dorene typed the manuscript and the many revisions to the manuscript. Brian and Alison provided encouragement and support to their dad as he worked on: *A Century of Integrity: The Law Society of Saskatchewan 1907 to 2007*. *Continued on page 4*

In Memoriam

Continued...

Long after Iain had retired from the Law Society he continued to be very much interested and engaged with the Law Society, lawyer organizations and fellowship with lawyers. When the Law Society decided to send the Benchers' Digest in electronic format instead of a hard copy Iain contacted the Law Society and asked for a paper copy of the Benchers' Digest to be sent to him. Often during our visits Iain and I would spend some time going through the articles contained within the latest Benchers' Digest. He would often express an opinion on the latest, for example, policy initiatives of the Law Society.

After Iain had retired he continued to attend many of the Regina Bar events, the annual meeting of the Law Society and the Mid-Winter Meeting of the Canadian Bar Association. He got so much out of the conversations he had with other lawyers and he wanted to keep current with what was happening in the legal community. During my last visit with Iain we talked about the upcoming Benchers election.

Integrity, duty, devotion and dedication best sums up Iain's contributions to the legal community and to the wider community.

Many Thanks

Donna Sigmeth, Q.C.
Deputy Director/Complaints Counsel

The Benchers and professional staff of the Law Society of Saskatchewan wish to express their sincere gratitude to members of the profession who volunteered their time to act as *pro bono* counsel to members facing discipline, to those who acted as "alternate" Complaints Counsel to review complaints against staff, Benchers or Benchers firms and to those who acted as Conduct Investigation Committees.

We would also like to extend thanks to Law Society members and members of the judiciary who have contributed their time as members of various Law Society Committees, as Law Society representatives to other organizations and as volunteers for educational programming. We recognize that the vocation of law is demanding and we greatly appreciate the invaluable contribution of the time given by Law Society members and members of the judiciary.

Non-Benchers Volunteers for 2015 Many thanks to the following people...

Law Society Committee Members and Representatives to Other Organizations:

Melanie Baldwin
Merlis Belsher
David Brundige, Q.C.
Colin Clackson, Q.C.
Amanda Dodge
Robert Gibbings, Q.C.
Brent Gough, Q.C.
Brian Hendrickson, Q.C.
Kathy Hodgson-Smith
Scott Hopley
Heather Jensen

Kara-Dawn Jordan
Patrick Kelly, Q.C.
Robert Kennedy, Q.C.
Ken Koshgarian
Marianne Kramchynsky
Eileen Libby, Q.C.
Michael Milani, Q.C.
Ken Neil
Eric Neufeld, Q.C.
William Nickel
Jamie Patterson

Chief Justice M.D. Popescul
William Preston, Q.C.
Karen Prisciak, Q.C.
Professor Tim Quigley
Chief Justice R.G. Richards
Randy Sandbeck, Q.C.
Norma Sim, Q.C.
Evert Van Olst, Q.C.
Gregory Walen, Q.C.

Continued on page 5

Many Thanks

Continued...

Designated Complaints Counsel:

Thomas Campbell
Michael Fisher, Q.C.
Robert Gibbings, Q.C.
Brian Hendrickson, Q.C.
Peter Hryhorchuk, Q.C.

Paul Korpan, Q.C.
Leah Kosokowsky
Eileen Libby, Q.C.
Gordon Mayer
John McIntosh, Q.C.

Reché McKeague
George Patterson, Q.C.
Larry Zatlyn, Q.C.
Catherine Zuck, Q.C.

Conduct Investigation Committee:

Gregory Walen, Q.C.
Evert Van Olst, Q.C.



2015 Volunteers

Many thanks for the following people...

John Agioritis
Brent Barilla, Q.C.
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, Q.C.
Kaylea Dunn
Gregory Fingas
Sherry Fitzsimmons
Ken Fox, Librarian, LSS Library
Jacqueline Francis
Aaron Friedman
Lynsey Gaudin
Melvil Gerspacher, Q.C.
Joseph A. Gill
Justice G.V. Goebel
Danielle Graff
Joelle Graham
Tammi Hackl
Robert Hale
Christine Hansen-Chad

Judge H.M. Harradence
Melanie Hodges Neufeld
Sheri Hupp
Kendra Jacobs
Meaghan LaRose
Bob Kasian
Pat Kelly, Librarian, LSS Library
Alan Kilpatrick, Librarian, LSS
Library
Kristél Kriel
Ron Kruzeniski, Q.C.
Alyx Larocque, Saskatchewan
Office of the Information and
Privacy Commissioner
Jeffrey Lee, Q.C.
Richard Leland
Patrick Loran
Harold MacKay, Q.C.
Ryan O. Malley
Meghan McCreary
Justice M.T. Megaw
Ann Marie Melvie, Librarian, Court
of Appeal for Saskatchewan
Stephen Miazga
Robert Millar, Q.C.
Dwight Newman

Crystal Norbeck
Lara Olayemi
Yens Pedersen
Michael Phillips
Graham Purse
Chief Justice R.G. Richards
Crystal Robertson
Bill Roe, Q.C.
Todd Rosenberg
Kyle Ross
Mike Russell
Bryan Salte, Q.C.
Nicole Sawchuk
Nathan Schissel
Steven Seiferling
Sean Sinclair
Anna Singer
David Stack, Q.C.
Gregory A. Swanson
Michael Tochor, Q.C.
Keir Vallance
Christopher Veeman
Shane Wagner
Gregory Walen, Q.C.
Justice D.L. Wilson
Shannon Whyley

Law Society President's Dinner



**President Brenda Hildebrandt, Q.C., and
Vice-President Perry Erhardt, Q.C.**

To celebrate the term of current Law Society President Brenda Hildebrandt, Q.C., the annual Law Society President's Dinner was held October 16 in Saskatoon. Thank you to all who attended and to our President for her hard work this year.



**President Brenda Hildebrandt, Q.C.,
entertaining the crowd**



**Tom Conway, Federation of Law Societies President,
and Donna Sigmeth, Q.C., Deputy Director of the
Law Society**

Law Society President's Dinner

Continued...



**The Honourable Judge Miguel Martinez;
Kevin Fenwick, Q.C., Deputy Minister of
Justice and Deputy Attorney General;
The Honourable Judge S. Anand**



**Past Presidents Vic Dietz, Q.C.,
and Rob Heinrichs, Q.C.**



**Law Society Staff l-r: Melanie Hodges Neufeld, Director of Legal Resources; Valerie Payne,
Complaints Counsel; Stacey McPeek, Complaints Counsel; Andrea Johnston, Director of
Admissions & Education; Barbra Bailey, Policy Counsel; Donna Sigmeth, Q.C., Deputy Director**

Just in Time for Christmas!

Kelly Laycock
Publications Coordinator, Law Society Library

It is with great pleasure that the Law Society of Saskatchewan Library announces the November Release of:

Civil Appeals in Saskatchewan: The Court of Appeal Act & Rules Annotated

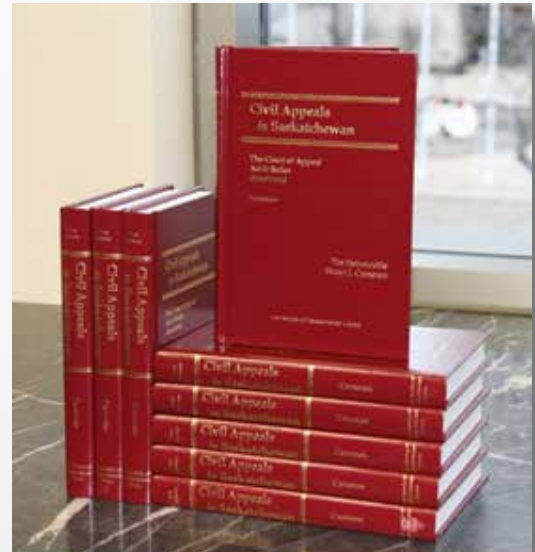
This highly anticipated resource is a brand-new annotated guide created in coordination with the Court of Appeal, with the generous support from the Law Foundation. The Honourable Stuart J. Cameron applies his 34 years of experience on the Court of Appeal to help practitioners navigate the sometimes complicated civil rules and legislation of Saskatchewan's highest court.

The history of this endeavor is one that has seen many incarnations. It began as an early draft from notes and ponderings of a former member of the court, the Honourable Calvin Tallis. Over the course of the next six years, that draft was kneaded by many capable hands, through the evolution of writing, editing, formatting and design, to become the fully realized, nearly 400-page annotation of the legislation and rules.

The importance of this new guide has been extolled by Chief Justice Robert Richards in the Foreword to this first edition:

Stuart Cameron's annotation is helpfully cast as a guide to practice in relation to the civil side of the court's mandate. It is written and organized with care, clarity and thoroughness. The research has been exhaustive. At many points, by way of a practice tip, the reader will also gain the benefit of my former colleague's considerable appellate experience. This annotation fills a major gap in the tool kit available to lawyers and will doubtlessly become an important starting point for counsel in the analysis of practice and procedure problems involving the Court of Appeal.

This important resource is now in stock.
Please contact the Law Society Library at **306.569.8020** to place your order.



**9 x 6 hc * 392 pages
\$195.00 + tax and shipping**

Judicial Appointments



The Honourable Steven Schiefner has been appointed a judge of the Provincial Court for Saskatchewan in Prince Albert. Judge Schiefner graduated from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan and was admitted to the Bar in 1994. Since then, he has worked in private practice and the public sector, including several years as the City Solicitor for Moose Jaw. Most recently, he was the Vice-Chairperson of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board where he was appointed in 2008.



Law Society of Saskatchewan Continuing Professional Development



Sarah Rider joins the Law Society

The Law Society of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that Sarah Rider has assumed the role of CPD Program Coordinator. Julia Bewcyk, formerly in this role, has relocated to Toronto to pursue a Creative Photography Diploma at Humber College. Julia transferred out of the position at the Law Society on August 28, 2014. The Law Society would like to thank Julia for her contribution to the Continuing Professional Development Program and to welcome Sarah as she begins her new role.

Sarah earned a Bachelor of Arts in May 2010 from the University of East Anglia in the UK and a Master of Arts in October 2011 from Western University in London, Ontario. Since graduating with her MA, Sarah's work experience has been varied including stints with a highly successful tech start-up and an established IT Research and Advisory company. Her passion, though, is for Higher and Adult Education. She has

enjoyed roles at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario as an Academic Services Consultant for the Access Studies department, coordinating government funded programming for Continuing Education and at her Alma Mater, Western University, as an Admissions Representative for the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Sarah relocated to Regina from London, Ontario, in July 2015 with her husband. She had lived in London for five years after moving there from her home in the UK for her Masters program. She is delighted to be joining the Law Society of Saskatchewan as their new CPD Program Coordinator.

The Law Society is pleased to offer the following upcoming Continuing Professional Development activities.

Gain the Edge! Negotiation Strategies for Lawyers

Presenter: [Latz Negotiation Institute](#) – Martin Latz

Tuesday, 1 December 2015 – Saskatoon

Wednesday, 2 December 2015 – Regina

The Use of Technology in Evidence

Presenter: Loreley Berra, *Ministry of Justice*

Wednesday, 20 January 2016 – 12pm to 1pm

Cybercrime and Law Firms

Presenter: Ian Hu, *practicePRO*

Wednesday, 27 January 2016 – 12pm to 1pm

Therapeutic Justice

Presenter: The Honourable Judge Clifford C. Toth,
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

Tuesday, 9 February 2016 – 12pm to 1pm



For the most up-to-date information about upcoming CPD activities and for further information about the CPD Policy, refer to "Continuing Professional Development" on the Law Society website (www.lawsociety.sk.ca/continuing-professional-development).



Volunteer Profile – Lloydminster Legal Grounds: Stephanie Dobson and Ryan Armstrong

For this issue's Volunteer Profile, we wanted to take the time to give a special thanks to two lawyers who were instrumental in helping us with the inaugural Lloydminster Legal Grounds. Lloydminster Legal Grounds is a partnership with Pro Bono Law Alberta where 9 lawyers from Lloydminster provided free legal advice to 57 individuals from their community on September 18th, 2015. This event would not have been nearly as successful as it was without the help of two key members of the Lloydminster bar who helped us find a suitable space for the clinic and encourage other lawyers to volunteer their time. A special thanks goes out to all of our volunteers that day: Meaghan LaRose, A.J. Fox, Adriene Shapka, Chantelle Lefebvre, Don Smith, Harvey Neufeld, and Celene Polischuk. However, a very special thanks to Stephanie Dobson and Ryan Armstrong for helping us organize everything!



Stephanie Dobson

Stephanie is a Collaborative Family Lawyer, Family Mediator, and Registered Parenting Coordinator and Arbitrator at Meridian Law Group in Lloydminster, Alberta. She has been practicing for 9 years in Lloydminster, primarily assisting high conflict families develop effective co-parenting relationships for the sake of their children. Stephanie is dedicated to the non-profit community in her involvement as a board member of the Alberta Law Foundation and the Legal Education Society of Alberta, and as President of the Collaborative Divorce Alberta Association. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys spending quality time with her three young children and husband.

Ryan Armstrong

Ryan was born and raised in Lloydminster. He obtained Bachelor's degrees in Business and Law from the University of Saskatchewan before returning to Lloydminster to article and practice with Robertson Moskal Sarsons. His practice is primarily litigation and negotiation in the areas of family law and civil disputes. He also has a real estate and criminal practice. He resides on an acreage outside of Lloydminster with his wife and two children.



Interested in getting your name in our Volunteer Profile?

Learn about our [volunteer opportunities](#) and [sign up as a volunteer!](#)

In Memory

**Robert Henry Bertram passed away
on September 30, 2015**



Notices

2016 CONVOCATION DATES OF THE BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

January 15

(Bencher Training in Saskatoon at College of Law)

February 17, 18 and 19 — Regina

DoubleTree Hotel

April 28 and 29 — Regina

DoubleTree Hotel

June 15, 16 and 17 — Saskatoon

Radisson Hotel

(annual meeting set for evening of Thursday, June 16)

CBA also has their AGM June 16th, so Convocation begins on Wednesday to compensate for ending early on Thursday)

September 14, 15 and 16 — Saskatoon

Radisson Hotel

October 28 — Regina

Hotel Saskatchewan

Budget & President's Dinner

December 1 and 2 — Saskatoon

Radisson Hotel

BAR ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

The CPLED Bar Admissions team at the Law Society of Saskatchewan would like to congratulate

Amy Gibson and Calen Nixon

for their exemplary performance in the 2014 – 2015 CPLED Bar Admissions Program.

Amy and Calen received the Law Society's Award of Distinction

for displaying the highest levels of academic achievement in the CPLED Program.

DESIGNATED COMPLAINTS COUNSEL

Occasionally, the Law Society receives complaints against Benchers or [Law Society](#) staff.

These complaints are referred to [outside Designated Complaints Counsel](#) rather than being reviewed by the in-house [Complaints Counsel](#).

In the past, former Benchers have most often filled this role because of their experience and expertise in the discipline process.

If you are interested in volunteering your time in this capacity, please advise Donna Sigmeth at dsigmeth@lawsociety.sk.ca.

EQUITY OFFICE

The Equity Office at the Law Society of Saskatchewan is committed to both eliminating discrimination and harassment and promoting equity in the legal profession. The services of the Equity Office are available to articling students, lawyers and their support staff for advice, information or assistance.

If you have a question or concern about **discrimination or harassment in your workplace**, or if you would like to **improve equity and diversity in your workplace**, please contact the Equity Office.

Toll free @ **1-866-444-4885**
or equity@lawsociety.sk.ca

All information is confidential.

A call to the Equity Office is not a complaint to the Law Society. Except for information about the misappropriation of funds, the Equity Office reports only anonymous statistics to the Law Society.

This office is not a lawyer referral service and cannot provide legal advice. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lawsociety.sk.ca/for-lawyers-and-students/equity-office>.

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Provides to Saskatchewan lawyers and their family members:

- * CONFIDENTIAL assistance in effectively dealing with problems;
- * The services of an INDEPENDENT professional consultant;
- * Services provided without charge.

For confidential information and assistance, please call Homewood Human Solutions at
1-800-663-1142



Benchers' Digest

The Benchers' Digest is published by the Law Society of Saskatchewan Library to update Saskatchewan lawyers on policy and regulatory decisions made by the Benchers after each Convocation, to inform members about Society programs and activities, and to provide news and announcements of interest to the legal profession. Members are encouraged to send in articles and photos of interest; however, publication rests with the Editor. Articles and photos can be submitted to melanie@lawsociety.sk.ca.

Current and archived issues may be viewed on the Law Society Website – see www.lawsociety.sk.ca, "Publications/ Benchers' Digest."

The Law Society of Saskatchewan Library
Court House, 2nd Floor
2425 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canada S4P 4W6
Telephone: (306) 569-8020
Fax: (306) 569-0155

