

**2023**

# ANNUAL REPORT

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LAW FOUNDATION  
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## Annual Report | Table of Contents

*Year Ending December 31st, 2023.*

### CHAIR'S REPORT– WILLIAM F. DOW, K.C.

3

### ABOUT THE LAW FOUNDATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

6

#### MISSION

6

#### MANDATE

6

#### ADMINISTRATION

6

#### BOARD AND STAFF

7

#### AREAS OF ENCOURAGEMENT 2019-2023

7

#### GRANT FUNDING REPORT 2013-2023

8

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

9

#### 2023 Centennial Scholarship Recipients

9

#### Law Society/Law Foundation Scholarship

9

#### Holland College Legal Administration Scholarships

10

#### APPENDIX "A" Audited Financial Statements

11

## CHAIR'S REPORT– WILLIAM F. DOW, K.C.



The following report highlights some of the key activities and successes of the Law Foundation of Prince Edward Island throughout 2023.

### **FUNDING ACTIVITY**

In 2023, the Law Foundation contributed \$97,665 in support of continuous programs and services, including the courthouse law libraries, the Community Legal Information Association, the PEI Bar Admission Course, a legal education coordinator position, CanLII levies and various scholarships.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2023 Allocation</b>
Law Libraries (salaries and operational)	\$ 50,000
CanLII	\$ 3,000
PEI Bar Admission Course	\$ 15,000
Legal Education Coordinator	\$ 10,000
Law Society/Law Foundation Scholarship	\$ 10,000
Law Foundation Annual Share of Rent	\$ 2,415

Law Foundation Annual Use of Administrative Services	\$750
Law Foundation Annual Financial/Bookkeeping Services	\$ 6,500
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>\$97,665</b>

In addition, the Law Foundation was pleased to provide \$64,000 in grants to six one-time projects:

Organization	Activity
PEI Association for Community Living ( <i>extension from 2022</i> )	Social Assistance Act - Analysis and Education Related to Housing Options
Sport PEI ( <i>extension from 2022</i> )	Legal Issues in Sports - Clinics/Workshops
PEI Access to Justice Committee	Access to Justice Forum 2022
Philanthropic Grants - Pilot Project	
BLSAC Conference Halifax	PEI Attendees
Community Legal Information	Core Grant

Since 2013, the Law Foundation has provided an estimated **\$2,529,662** to support projects and programs that fit within its mandate.

#### **INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNT REVENUES:**

Robust trust balances and significant interest rate hikes contributed to record high IOLTA remittances in 2023. IOLTA was estimated at \$2,884,942 in 2023 compared to \$1,398,629 over the same period in 2022.<sup>1</sup> This trend is expected to continue into 2024. The Law Foundation will continue to work on developing relationships in the community to encourage more one-time project applications while maintaining a stable reserve fund to support organizations that rely on annual contributions from the Law Foundation.



<sup>1</sup> Unaudited estimates based on quarterly financial reporting. The audited numbers will be available in the annual report.

## 2023 ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN LAW FOUNDATION'S (ACLF)

The Executive Director and Chair attended the annual ACLF meetings held in September 2023 in Toronto, ON. Regular jurisdictional updates were presented. There was a presentation on the implications of financial management that included tax implications on non-profit status and stewardship of IOLTA revenues presented by Florence Carey – Tax specialist.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

In addition to its annual funding of programs and services, the Law Foundation has agreed to fund the following one-time projects for completion in 2024, increasing the overall one-time projects budget projection to \$89,000. The Law Foundation will also open a more minor second funding call in April 2024. An increase was also approved to the Law Society Community Legal Information Association for core funding.

CNIB	Attitudes are Everything pillar - provide greater access to justice to people in Canada with sight loss, and to create systemic change.
CanLII	Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Summarize Prince Edward Island Primary Legal Information.
CLI Project	Updating of CLI their wills and estates publications, last updated in 2010.
East Coast Environmental Law	ECEL will build on the success of their “Public Legal Education Session on Environmental Impact Assessment on Prince Edward Island” project.
Legal Info for Indigenous People	The Bella Coola Legal Advocacy Program (BCLAP) has developed a 76-page booklet Legal Information for Indigenous People (linked below) into a National Edition for distribution across Canada and is customizing this for the PEI indigenous population on PEI.
Sport PEI	Provision of some step-by-step guidance or instruction to help improve the impact of teaching volunteers and staff how to deal with conflict as a volunteer in sport.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Law Foundation welcomed Susan Robinson, K.C. as a new board Governor in November 2023. Sincere thanks are extended to the outgoing Governor, Barbara Smith, K.C., and to the remaining Governors for their generous commitment of time and effort to further the work of the

Law Foundation: Robert MacGregor, Paul Murphy and Deputy Minister, Jonah Clements. The Law Foundation also extends its appreciation to staff member Lisa MacKay, Financial Officer.

Finally, we extend thanks and well wishes to our Executive Director, Rachel Paterson, who after a year of service is moving on to a new project, and welcome our new Executive Director, Nicola Reynolds, who will make an excellent contribution to the Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

**William F. Dow, K.C., Chair**

**Law Foundation of Prince Edward Island**

## **ABOUT THE LAW FOUNDATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

### **MISSION**

The Law Foundation of PEI (Law Foundation) works to promote the advancement of legal knowledge and access to justice for all Prince Edward Islanders. It does this by funding projects and encouraging partnerships that advance the Foundation's mandate.

### **MANDATE**

As set out in the *Legal Profession Act*, Part VII Law Foundation, Section 50(1), the Foundation has the power to establish and maintain a fund and use the proceeds thereof for the purposes of:

- legal education, legal research or law reform,
- the editing and printing of decisions of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island,
- the promotion of legal aid,
- aiding in the establishing, operating, and maintaining of law libraries in Prince Edward Island.



## ADMINISTRATION

The affairs of the Law Foundation are conducted by a Board of Governors composed of five members, four being members of the Law Society and appointed by the Council of the Law Society; and one member who is appointed by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General. Governors serve on the board for a term of two years or until a successor is appointed.

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year to decide on policy matters and to deal with the general administration of the Law Foundation.

Day-to-day administration and management services are provided by an Executive Director, who is engaged on a part-time basis. Financial administration support is provided by a Financial Officer, who is engaged through the services of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island.

## BOARD AND STAFF

### 2023 Law Foundation of PEI Board of Governors\*

- Barb Smith, K.C. Secretary-Treasurer
- Jonah Clements, Attorney General Representative
- William Dow, K.C. (Chair commencing Fall 2022)
- Paul Murphy
- Rob MacGregor (term commenced Fall 2022)

### 2023 Law Foundation of PEI Staff

- Lisa MacKay, Financial Officer
- Rachel Paterson, Executive Director

*\*Biographies of each Board member can be found [here](#).*

## AREAS OF ENCOURAGEMENT 2019 - 2023

The following four areas of encouragement were identified to guide funding decisions, with the overarching goal of strengthening Islanders' ability to access justice and legal information:

- Legal needs of seniors, newcomers, low-income Islanders and vulnerable groups.
- Innovative approaches to enhance access to justice.
- Public legal education that is practical, relevant, and accessible.
- Technology, specifically, projects that explore or use technology that enhances the delivery of legal services and/or public legal education.

## GRANT FUNDING 2013-2023

<p><b>From 2013-2023 the Law Foundation of PEI has provided</b></p> <p><b>\$2,669,457</b></p> <p><b>in funding support to PEI-based projects, services, and organizations.</b></p>			
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grants 2013 - 2022</b>	<b>Grants in 2023</b>
Courthouse Law Library Services	To support day-to-day operations.	\$920,317	\$50,000
Community Legal Information Association	To support day-to-day operations.	\$492,000	\$50,000
Bar Admission Course and Professional Legal Education Sessions	Funds allocated to cover the cost of the course and for coordination of other professional legal education events.	\$330,631	\$25,000



Canadian Legal Information Institute	To support CanLII case law service.	\$34,000	\$3,000
Legal Education Scholarships	\$5,000 annually to support scholarships.	\$50,000	\$10,000
Legal Administration Scholarships	Annual scholarships for students studying legal administration.	\$25,000	\$1,500
Association of Canadian Law Foundations	Annual membership fee. (moved to expenses in 2021)	\$1,400	-
Total programs and services funded 2013-2022	Listed above	\$1,853,348	
Total programs and services funded in 2023	Listed above		\$139,500
Project Grants from 2013-2022	For one-time and multi-year projects.	\$612,346	
Project Grants provided in 2023	For one-time and multi-year projects.		\$64,263.00
<b>Total funding from 2013-2022</b>		<b>\$2,465,694.00</b>	
<b>Total funding provided in 2023</b>			<b>\$203,763</b>

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Law Foundation funds a variety of scholarships to support students pursuing careers in law. In 1985 an endowment fund was started to offer a scholarship to Island students attending the Dalhousie Schulich School of Law. In 1992 an endowment fund was started to offer both an entrance and an upper year scholarship to Island students attending law school at the University of New Brunswick. Beginning in 2008, the Law Foundation partnered with the Law Society of PEI to establish an annual scholarship award for students from PEI engaged in the study of law at an accredited university. Since 2008, the Law Foundation has also offered scholarships for those graduating from legal administration programs on PEI.

### 2023/2024 Centennial Scholarship Recipients



## University of New Brunswick

Law Foundation of PEI Centennial Scholarships were presented to University of New Brunswick students:

- Vanessa L. Frizzell | Award Value: \$2,000 | Degree Year, Program and Campus | 2nd year juris doctor
- Kyle W. Kennedy | Award Value: \$2,000 | Degree Year, Program and Campus | 1st year juris doctor

## Dalhousie Schulich School of Law

Zachary Pierce was awarded the 2023/2024 Dalhousie Schulich School of Law Centennial Scholarship.

## **Law Society/Law Foundation Scholarship**

The Law Society of PEI Scholarship Committee selected the following as recipients for the three [3] 2023 scholarships: Hilary Storey, Abigail Craswell, Bailey Thibodeau.



## **Holland College Legal Administration Awards**

A Legal Administration program graduate award was presented to Katelyn Singer [left] and MacKenzie Bernard [right] at a Holland College ceremony held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## APPENDIX “A” AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS