



Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 2021

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JUSTIN KINGSTON
President



SHANNON JAMES
Vice-President



GABRIEL JOSHEE-ARNAL
Treasurer



ELSY GAGNÉ
Secretary



KIM ARIAL
Director



PAUL BOURASSA
Director



DENIS LEFEBVRE
Director



MORGAN McCLELLAND
Director



JEAN-PASCAL SIEWE
Director



MATHIEU ST-GERMAIN
Director

AJEFA OFFICE STAFF

MARIA VIGNEAULT
DENISE LAVALLÉE
IDA ITUZE
BRIGITTE ETIEN



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Meeting
with Honorable
Minister of Justice
Kaycee Madu



On behalf of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta (AJEFA — French-speaking Legal Professionals Association of Alberta), I present this annual report to the members of the Association and the community.

We will remember April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 as the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic when several activities that were to have taken place had to be adapted, postponed or cancelled.

Although the annual banquet was cancelled, 44 members attended our annual general meeting by videoconference on May 29, 2020. This meeting was preceded by a training session on practising law in a virtual world facilitated by Martine Boucher and Jean-Philippe Couture.

In 2020-2021, all consultations with the Centre albertain d'information juridique/Alberta Legal Information Centre took place by telephone or email with the exception of Commissioner for Oath and Notary Public services. These services were offered in person two days per week in Edmonton only, with public health measures in place. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Centre managed to offer 1,266 remote consultations, including 298 Public Notary and Commissioner of Oath services in person, representing 84% of its average annual clientele.

With the collaboration of several partners, AJEFA presented 33 legal information workshops by videoconference to 579 participants, including over 100 youth. New workshops were also developed on the impact of COVID on immigration, employment, landlord/tenant and family law.

In addition, in collaboration with the Fédération des aînés franco-albertains, a humorous video on personal directives was produced and presented at three information sessions facilitated by volunteer lawyers. AJEFA also participated in the first year of two nation-wide projects: one on immigration and the other on sexual harassment in the workplace.

AJEFA was also active in advocacy in 2020-2021 by asking the Law Society of Alberta, Criminal Lawyers' Association and the Provincial Court to have every accused informed of his/her language rights.

The Honourable Mary Moreau, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, organized the first public meeting in French for the members of the Law Society of Alberta on January 22, 2021. More than 40 members of AJEFA responded to her invitation to learn more about the measures adopted by the Court of Queen's Bench to increase its bilingual capacity.

Minister of Justice Kaycee Madu and Opposition Critic Irfan Sabir accepted AJEFA's invitation for a meeting during Alberta Francophonie Month in March 2021. The minister made a commitment to approve the mandate of the Justice in French Advisory Committee which was to hold its first historic meeting on June 8, 2021. It was a major accomplishment for legal professionals who have long awaited this mechanism for collaboration with the provincial government!

Last year was AJEFA's 30th anniversary and I would like to recognize the five signatories of the incorporation on October 26, 1990, namely Louis Desrochers, Pierre Desrochers, Pierre Lamoureux, Mary Moreau and Denis Noël as well as the members of the first Board of Directors: John Moreau (President), Michèle Stanners (Vice-President), Mary Moreau (Secretary), Shirley Jackson (Treasurer), Pierre Comeau, Allan Damer and Denis Noël (Directors).

Thank you to the members of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors who represented AJEFA's 150 members, as well as our employees for all their hard work.

This is the end of my tenth year as a member of the Board of Directors, including three as President. It was an honour for me to have been involved in a cause that is close to my heart. I had the opportunity to work with exceptional people whom I hope to meet up with again in the near future.

Justin Kingston
AJEFA President



Les jeunes et les droits de la personne



- 3 school workshops
- 100 youth participants
- 4 practitioners
- 1 school

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

About 100 youth participated in webinars on careers in justice, the art of debate and human rights. All of these workshops took place virtually in partnership with French for the Future, the Alberta Debate and Speech Association and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord as part of the Youth Mentor Day in Red Deer.

Unfortunately, three school workshops and two mock trials planned for April and June 2020 had to be cancelled due to school closures and the suspension of in-class instruction.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Pierre Asselin, Louis Corriveau, Maryse Culham, Bertrand Malo, Mathieu St-Germain and Maryse Trudel

Thank you to the law students: Sabrina Dueck, Alexandra Laplante and Thalia Sanchez

LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

More than 730 members of the public were informed by videoconference on various fields of law, particularly conjugal violence, pandemic bankruptcy, and personal directives. A virtual booth was set up as part of the newcomers' welcome evening organized by Francophonie albertaine plurielle. It provided an opportunity to raise awareness of several Alberta resources available in French.

Two information booths and three information workshops had to be cancelled because of the ban on indoor gatherings.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers and consultants: Céline Bégin, Martine Boucher, Christian Cormier, Louis Corriveau, Jean-Philippe Couture, Michael Custer, Colin Gagnon, Julie Gagnon, Dieudonné Kandolo, Roy Klassen, Bianca Kratt, Maryse Trudel, Jean-Pascal Siewe, Amanpreet Sran, Daniel Brière, Immigration Consultant and Claude Forest, Insurance Broker

PERSONAL DIRECTIVES

Thanks to a Government of Canada grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, AJEFA informed 63 seniors about personal directives. The initial plan was to do a provincial tour with comedians and have a skit followed by a discussion with a lawyer. Instead, Pierre Fagnan produced a humorous, informative video written and directed by France Levasseur-Ouimet and starring Isabelle Déchène Guay, Gilles Denis and André Roy. The video was presented at three virtual, interactive information sessions on February 25, March 5 and March 19, 2021.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Louis Corriveau, Colin Gagnon and Julie Gagnon



La famille et le droit

Temps parental et contacts



© 2021
Vous ne devez PAS vous fier à cette
publication pour obtenir des conseils
juridiques.
Elle ne fournit que des informations
générales sur le droit albertain.

FAMILY LAW RESOURCES AND JURIPÉDIA

Amendments to the *Divorce Act* came into force on March 1, 2021. The Centre for Public Legal Education of Alberta (CPLÉA) developed 11 resources to inform the general public of these amendments. AJEFA had them translated into French so that the French and English versions could be published simultaneously. Booklets are now available on our website and in our offices.

Juripédia, a guide designed for Alberta newcomers in 2012, was updated by AJEFA members and reprinted with the financial assistance of Justice Canada.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Carole Aippersbach, Kim Arial, Isabelle Cadotte, Patrick Coones, Maryse Culham, Scott Horne, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Bianca Kratt, Justin Kingston, Morgan McClelland, Albert Nolette, Andréa de Rocquigny, Jean-Pascal Siewe, Maryse Trudel and Natalie Tymchuk

LAW STUDENTS AND INTERNS

AJEFA renewed its partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSD) for the 2020-2021 academic year. Law students from University of Calgary — Catherine Duguay, Sabrina Dueck and Alexandra Laplante — and University of Alberta — Chantal Larocque, Annie Redmond and Thalia Sanchez — helped with the Association's activities.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Kim Arial, Caroline Magnan and Maryse Trudel

In summer 2020, AJEFA hired two law students: Grâce-Chloé Lumbala and Jean-Pierre Desrochers. A special grant from Young Canada Works allowed for the hiring of a communications officer, Andrée Desrochers, from November to the end of March 2021.

Eighteen law students and 14 legal professionals participated in our professional "speed dating" evenings on January 12 and 20, 2021. These virtual networking activities also included a presentation by Pierre Asselin on ACFA's lawsuit against the Government of Alberta and University of Alberta over Campus Saint-Jean funding.



AJEFA'S INTERNAL COMMITTEES

AJEFA members volunteer to sit on various working committees on different aspects of law.

Thank you to the student members and volunteer lawyers who sat on our committees!

Membership

Kim Arial (president), Sabrina Dueck, Shannon James, Chantal Larocque and Andrea Zielinski

Annual meeting and banquet

Paul Bourassa (president), Kim Arial, Jean-Philippe Couture, Elsy Gagné, Shannon James and Mathieu St-Germain

Alberta Legal Information Centre

Gabriel Joshee-Arnal (president), Maryse Culham, Natalie Tymchuk and Andrea Zielinski

Criminal law

Mathieu St-Germain (president), Kim Arial, Paul Bourassa, Catherine Duguay, Morgan McClelland, Owen Nicholson and Maryse Trudel

Human rights

Denis Lefebvre (president), Pauline Blais, Elsy Gagné and Maryse Trudel

Family

Jean-Pascal Siewe (president), Carmen Boucher and Dieudonné Kandolo

Finance

Gabriel Joshee-Arnal (president), Shannon James, Justin Kingston and Morgan McClelland

AJEFA endowment fund

Shannon James (president) and Justin Kingston

Restorative justice

Morgan McClelland (president), Laurier Amyotte, Kevin Bell, Lauraine Charest and Luketa M'Pindou

Political-legal

Elsy Gagné (president), Pierre Asselin, Paul Bourassa, Jessica Fleming, Justin Kingston, Gérard Lévesque, Steven Lumbala and Patrick Trudel



WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

9,821 website visits

1,124 Twitter subscribers

1,095 Facebook subscribers

259 Instagram subscribers

125 LinkedIn subscribers



Tweet from Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta on January 23, 2021:

The first ever QB Francophone Bar Town Hall Friday was well attended. Chief Justice Mary Moreau, Justices Anna Loparco and Jane Fagnan and Legal Counsel Julie Laliberte spoke about advances in access to justice in French, the new French Policy and Protocol pilot project and more.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO HAD COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR 2021 BANQUET



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

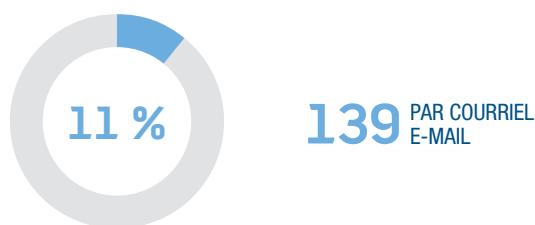
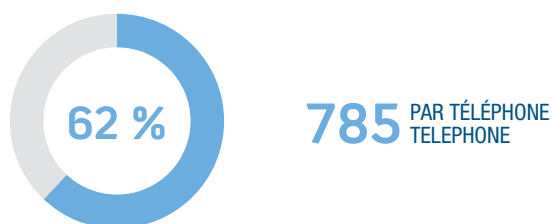
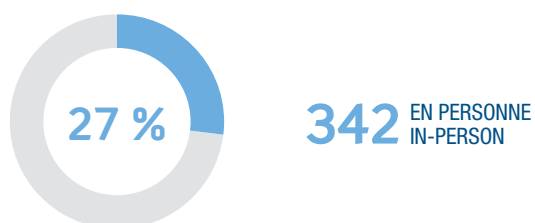
Justice Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Canadian Heritage, Service Canada and the City of Edmonton

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE PARTNERS who shared their expertise and resources with us, helped us promote the Alberta Legal Information Centre, referred clients to us, and organized activities in their respective regions.

- Accès Emploi
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Family de l'Alberta Society
- Association canadienne-française d'Alberta (ACFA) and its 13 regional offices
- University of Alberta's Francophone Law Students Association
- Francophone Association of Brooks
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Centre d'accueil francophone de la Cité des Rocheuses
- CANAF — Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones
- Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta
- Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.
- Francophonie albertaine plurielle
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Radio Cité 97.9 FM
- Pro Bono Students Canada (Calgary and Edmonton)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton

MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

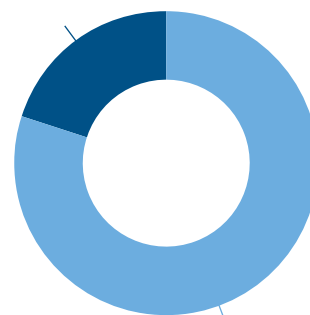
MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS



LANGUES UTILISÉES LANGUAGES USED

253 EN ANGLAIS
ENGLISH

20 %



80 %

1 013 EN FRANÇAIS
FRENCH

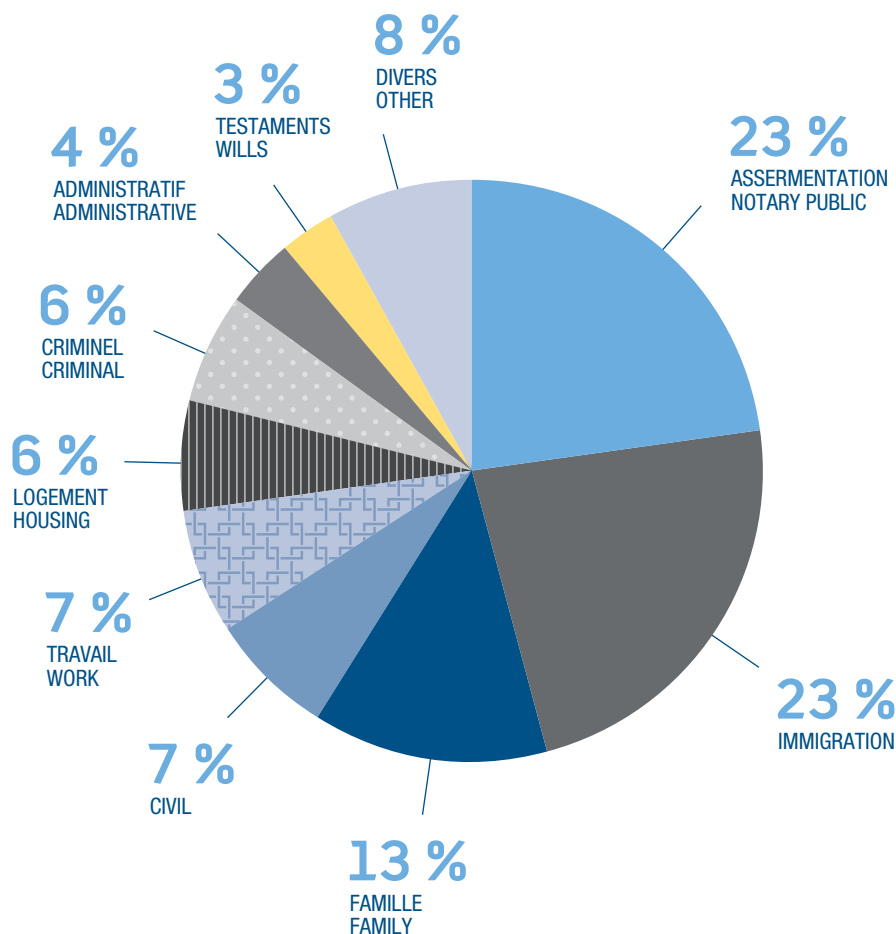
AUTRES LANGUES PARLÉES
PAR NOTRE PERSONNEL
OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN
BY OUR STAFF

- Espagnol / Spanish
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Kiswahili

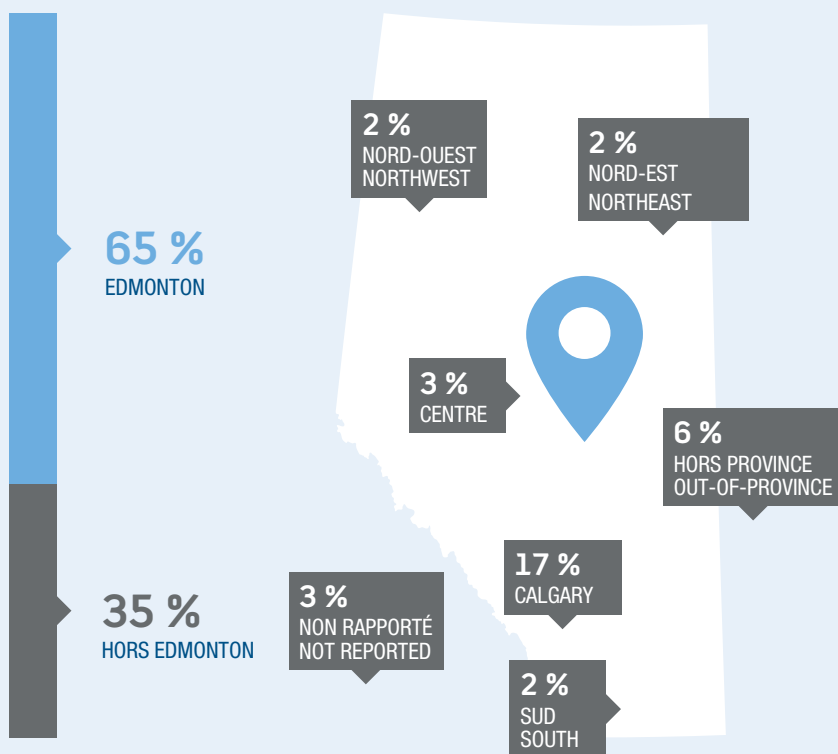
Malgré les défis causés par la pandémie, le Centre a réussi à offrir 1 266 consultations à distance, dont 298 services d'assermentations et de notaire publique en personne, ce qui représente 84 % de sa clientèle moyenne annuelle.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Centre managed to offer 1,266 remote consultations, including 298 in-person Public Notary and Commissioner of Oath services, representing 84% of its average annual clientele.

DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITÉS / AREAS OF LAW



LIEU DE RÉSIDENCE / PLACE OF RESIDENCE



ACTIVITÉS D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE

LEGAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

 **33** ATELIERS WORKSHOPS

 **579** PARTICIPANTS

 **13** JURISTES BÉNÉVOLES VOLUNTEER LAWYERS