



Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DRIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS!



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



2024-2025 STAFF

Ida Ituze (legal information officer in Edmonton)
 Maria Vigneault (legal coordinator)
 Denise Lavallée (executive director)
 Florentine Ngarambe (legal information officer in Calgary)
 Terhass Berhane (receptionist)

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On June 1, 2024, 125 jurists gathered in Canmore for the very first joint conference of the AJEFO (Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario) and AJEFA. AJEFA's annual general meeting was held as part of a two-day program including panels on language rights, diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as criminal law. French-speaking legal professionals throughout Canada, from the Great Lakes to the Rockies, attended this major event. The Jean-Louis-Lebel award was presented to Pierre Asselin, a former president of AJEFA who made a notable contribution to the advancement of access to justice in French.

PHOTOS

Pierre Asselin and Elsy Gagné

The Honourable Karen Lische, Vicky Murray, the Honourable René Cormier, Elsy Gagné and the Honourable Anna Loparco

Former and current presidents of AJEFA at the conference: Bianca Kratt, Justin Kingston, Elsy Gagné, Teresa Haykowsky, Allan Damer and Pierre Asselin



2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STANDING Isabelle Reynolds, Isabelle Cadotte, Chiara Concini, Dominique Mathurin and Mikel Gega
SEATED Elsy Gagné (president) and Louis Corriveau
ABSENT Gabriel Joshee-Arnal (vice-president), Morgan McClelland (treasurer) and Maryse Trudel (secretary)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta (French-speaking Legal Professionals Association of Alberta—AJEFA), I am pleased to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

AJEFA was incorporated on October 26, 1990. This year we are taking a breath of history as we celebrate its 35th anniversary. AJEFA currently comprises 160 lawyers and other legal professionals as well as 70 law students, several of whom are actively participating in AJEFA'S projects and activities in Alberta.

AJEFA is also beginning its fourth year of collaboration with representatives from the Alberta Department of Justice, Alberta courts and the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (French-Canadian Association of Alberta—ACFA).

As part of Alberta Francophonie Month, we met with Malcolm Lavoie, Alberta Deputy Minister of Justice, and recommended that Crown prosecutors be offered training on the application of section 530 of the Criminal Code of Canada within the legal system to promote access to justice in French. This recommendation, and others, were well received.

The Alberta Legal Information Centre is also celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. I should point out that the Centre is very busy with its many activities. In 2024, 1,647 free consultations were offered in French. The satellite office in Calgary also offers in-person services. Thanks to the Centre, several of our members devoted to access to justice in French facilitated 43 workshops with a high attendance rate of 1,142.

On the whole, the demand for legal services in French is constantly growing in our communities with more and more French-speaking immigrants choosing to reside in Alberta. This sociodemographic change is also noticeable in Alberta's judiciary.

As President, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all of AJEFA's employees and the executive director for their devotion, interest and contributions. Their work is fundamental to AJEFA's success. I would like to show my appreciation to my fellow board members for their support and participation on various issues. Finally, I would like to highlight the contributions of all the presidents who preceded me since AJEFA's creation:

1990-1991	John Moreau*
1991-1995	Michèle Stanners*
1995-1997	Roy Klassen
1997-1998	Michèle Vincent
1998-1999	Teresa Haykowsky
1999-2000	L'honorable Vital Ouellette*
1999-2000	Laura Snowball (co-présidence)

2004-2006	Allan Damer*
2006-2008	Hervé Durocher*
2008-2011	Louise Huard-Peake
2011-2014	Maryse Ouellette
2014-2016	Pierre Asselin*
2016-2018	Bianca Kratt
2018-2021	Justin Kingston

*Also Jean-Louis-Lebel award recipients. The other recipients of this award are Louis Desrochers (†), the Honourable Mary T. Moreau, Brent Gawne (†), Georges Arès, Rupert Baudais, Denis Noël, Pierre Desrochers, Gérard Lévesque, Michel Bastarache, Edmund Aunger, the Honourable Claudette Tardif, Jean-Jacques Beauchamp (†), the Honourable Anne Brown and Pierre Lamoureux.

Thank you to all of these pioneers and leaders.



Elsy Gagné



NETWORKING

In addition to the AJEFO-AJEFA conference which brought together 125 jurists from across Canada to Canmore on May 31 and June 1, 2024, AJEFA members had several opportunities to meet and create professional as well as personal connections. Jurimidis are networking activities that take place each month in Calgary and Edmonton. Gatherings in Calgary even included law student presentations. The Francophone Law Students Association at the University of Alberta organized several activities, including Jurimidis in Edmonton. Students in the Certification in common law in French program at the University of Calgary benefited from the presence of AJEFA members in their courses and activities. Year-end gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton were also very successful with a total of more than 30 attendees.

Congratulations to Pilar Alvarado, lawyer and AJEFA member who received the award for Promotion of Women's Rights from Florentine Ngarambe (AJEFA) at the Célébr'ELLES gala organized by the Immigrant Association Portal (PIA).





OUR STUDENTS

AJEFA hired Olu Akinniyi, a law student from the University of Calgary, as a summer employee in 2024. Thanks to a partnership with the Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) network, AJEFA received the support of Emily Briand and Charlotte Williams as volunteer students for the 2024-2025 academic year. Thank you to Shannon James for being the project supervisor.



Lena Clayton

LAW STUDENT BURSARY

Since 2022, AJEFA has been supporting legal education in French by awarding an annual \$2,000 bursary through its endowment fund administered by La Fondation franco-albertaine. Thanks to the growing fund, this year AJEFA is able to support four students registered in a common law program in French who will share a total amount of \$5,000. The 2024 recipients are Lena Clayton and Charlotte Williams from the University of Calgary, as well as Shivana Maguire and Catherine Roy from the University of Ottawa. These bursaries are an investment in the practice of law in French in Alberta.



Charlotte Williams



Shivana Maguire



Catherine Roy

DEBATE SUMMIT

JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1ST AT CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN (EDMONTON)

The Alberta Debate and Speech Association and AJEFA organized a French-language debate competition with a record number of participants—68 students from 12 secondary schools in Calgary (Western Canada, West Island College), Edmonton (Archbishop MacDonald, Joseph-Moreau, Maurice-Lavallée, Michaëlle-Jean, Harry Ainlay), Grande Prairie (Nouvelle Frontière), Lethbridge (La Vérendrye), Saskatoon (Canadienne-française), Sherwood Park (Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif) and St. Albert (Alexandre-Taché). The team from École Maurice-Lavallée won the gold medal.

Many thanks to our judges and volunteer timekeepers : Jillian Aisenstat, Hope Anaky, Lynda Beach, Marie-Christine Bérubé-Lajoie, Ava Deuzeman, Valérie Dier, Halima Ellaham, Sirine Ellaham, Rania Eshak, Ann Fu, Bertrand Giroux, Amina Good, Kroutoume Guilavogui, Komlan Aimé Kpatogbe, Patrick Lachance, Guillaume Laroche, Léa Lavoie, Charlotte Legrand, Renée Levesque-Gauvreau, Abigaëlle Manzuzi-Mahouna, Laurier Moquin, Camille Morin, Thierno Moussa Bah, Chourouk Nafai, Erica Norton, Rohan Persad, Anne Prince, Louis Prince, Christine Ramsay, Austin Redmond, Gisèle Rheault, Gloria Sanouvi-Awoga, Maude Savoie, Quinten Starko, Stacy Tah, Cléa Thibeault, Nalanda Thondrayen, Rosalie Vigneault and Sylvie Volia Lebon.



LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

AJEFA had 1,142 participants in 43 workshops including some on new topics such as the role and responsibilities of a personal representative, medical assistance in dying and domestic violence. Participants also included 601 youth from Calgary, Edmonton and St. Albert who attended workshops on cyberbullying, consent, debate and careers in justice.

For the first time, AJEFA organized a panel on a diversity of careers in justice in collaboration with Campus Saint-Jean held on October 3, 2024. As part of a national project, AJEFA also offered legal officers and practitioners three specialized training sessions on artificial intelligence at work, intercultural communication and popularization of legal language. More than 100 attendees received this enriching training.

Finally, the services offered by the Alberta Legal Information Centre and AJEFA was promoted through 19 information booths during events in Calgary and Edmonton, particularly teachers' conventions.

Thank you to the Honourable April Grosse, the lawyers, Kim Arial, Ève Bédard, Christian Cormier, Allan Damer, Shantale D'Aoust, Emilie-Claire Draper, Julie Gagnon, Mikel Gega, Marie-Audrey Girard, Teresa Haykowsky, Shannon James, Justin Kingston, Julie Laliberté, Justine Mageau, Caroline Magnan, Dominique Mathurin, Joël Michaud, Isabelle Reynolds, Sifa Serushago, Hosneara Thibodeau, Pascal Visentin, Christina Wallace; the law students, Olu Akinniyi, Danielle Bazinet, Emily Briand, Chiara Concini, Matthew Gray and Charlotte Williams; and the consultants, technicians and community stakeholders, André Beauregard, Maryse Bermingham, Isabelle Bourgeois, Gabrielle Blais-Pucci, Banyk Chia, Chérif Diallo, Guillaume Laroche, Quinten Starko and Anita St-Georges.

19 booths
43 legal workshops
1,142 attendees
1 mock trial
22 legal officers
9 legal practitioners



CASINO

The AJEFA recruited 32 volunteers on October 29 and 30, 2024 for its second casino to raise funds for its legal information centre. Many thanks to all of the following volunteers who generously offered their time:

Terhass Berhane
Fernande Bergeron
Ghislain Bergeron
Chiara Concini
Suzanne Corneau
Isabelle Déchène Guay
Lianne de Kappelle
Jean-Pierre Desrochers
Justine Fallu
Gabriel Joshee-Arnal
Olivia Labelle

Danielle LaBrie
Denise Lavallée
Louise Lavallée
Marcel Lavallée
Joël F. Lavoie
Léa Lavoie
Roxanne Lavoie
Zoé Lavoie
Ernest LeFebvre
Joël Michaud
Denis Noël

Maryse Ouellette
Anne Prince
Louis Prince
Mireille Rijavec
Gisèle Rheault
Adri Strydhorst
Brendan Thompson
Emma Tucker
Maria Vigneault
Michèle Vincent

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

8,579 website users
1,852 Facebook subscribers
1,004 X (Twitter) subscribers
422 Instagram subscribers
421 LinkedIn subscribers

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS OF THE 2025 AJEFA CONFERENCE

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



PARTNERS FOR REFRESHMENTS



ADVERTISING SUPPORT



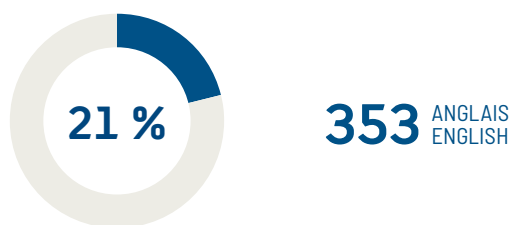
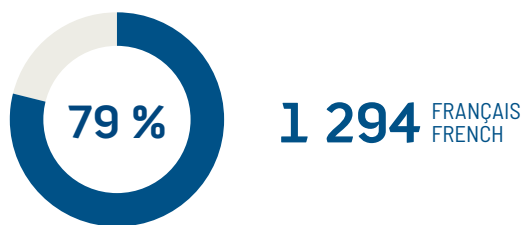
THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Justice Canada, Alberta Lottery Fund, City of Edmonton, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

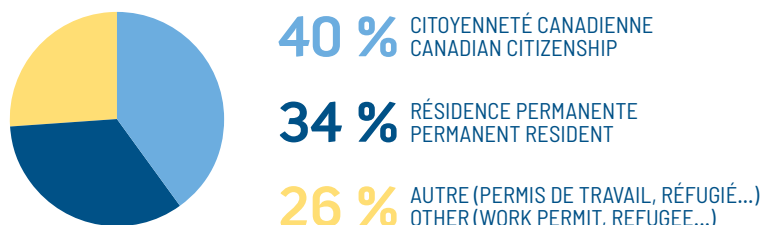
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Debate and Speech Association
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta and its 13 regional offices
- Association des étudiants en droit francophone de l'Université de l'Alberta
- Association francophone de Brooks
- Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
- Boréal 92.1 FM
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Centre d'accueil francophone de la Cité des Rocheuses
- Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones (Calgary)
- Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta
- Club de l'Amitié
- Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest
- Conseil scolaire Franco-Sud
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Edmonton Police Service
- Éducaloi
- Fédération des aînés franco-albertains
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.
- Français pour l'avenir/French for the future
- Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Le Franco (newspaper)
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Nord-Ouest FM (CKRP 95.7)
- Parallèle Alberta
- Portail de l'Immigration Association
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Pro Bono Students Canada (Calgary)
- Programme de Certification de common law en français
- Radio Cité 97.9 FM
- Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton
- Workers' Resource Centre

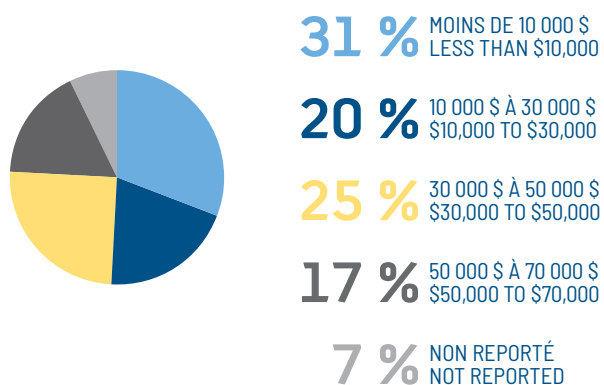
LANGUES UTILISÉES / LANGUAGES USED



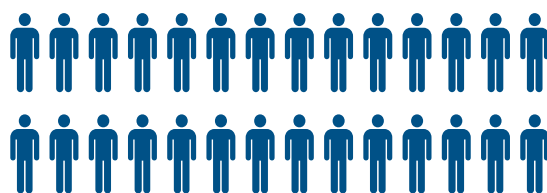
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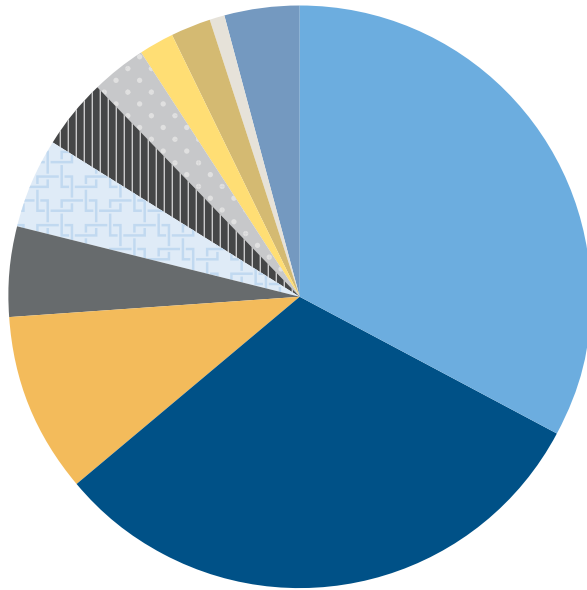
1 647
CONSULTATIONS
APPOINTMENTS



MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS

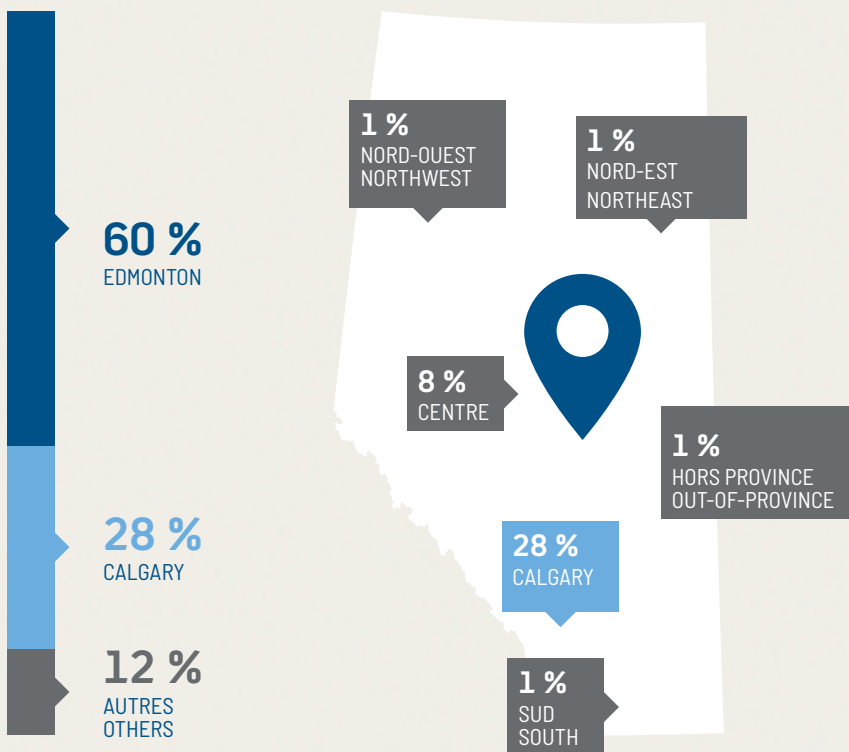


DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITÉS / AREAS OF LAW



- 33 %** IMMIGRATION
- 31 %** ASSERMENTATION NOTARY PUBLIC
- 10 %** FAMILLE FAMILY
- 5 %** CIVIL
- 5 %** TRAVAIL WORK
- 4 %** LOGEMENT HOUSING
- 3 %** ADMINISTRATIF ADMINISTRATIVE
- 2 %** TESTAMENTS WILLS
- 2 %** FISCALITÉ FISCAL
- 1 %** CRIMINEL CRIMINAL
- 4 %** DIVERS OTHER

LIEU DE RÉSIDENCE / PLACE OF RESIDENCE



NOTES

Comparé à 2023-2024, le nombre de consultations (rendez-vous) est passé de 1 436 à 1 647, soit une hausse de 13 %. Le nombre de clients a augmenté de 10 %, soit de 976 à 1 089.

Compared to 2023-2024, the number of appointments increased by 13% from 1,436 to 1,647. The number of individual clients increased by 10% from 976 to 1,089.

Le Centre a ouvert ses portes en 2015, et depuis, des milliers d'Albertains ont bénéficié de ses services. Joyeux 10^e anniversaire!

The Centre started offering services in 2015 and has since come to the aid of thousands of Albertans. Happy 10th anniversary!