

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

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Thank you and best wishes to Brigitte Etien
and Maria Vigneault!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jean-Jacques Beauchamp



The Honourable
Justice Russell Brown

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 141 members of the Association and the community.

As you know, the pandemic had a direct effect on all of our activities between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. Our annual gathering had been meant to be in person on the 24 of September, but instead took place online with over 50 participants. Nevertheless, we had the privilege of hosting the Honourable Justice Russell Brown of the Supreme Court of Canada who offered an inspiring account on the topic of bilingualism, among other things. We also had the opportunity to honour Mr. Jean-Jacques Beauchamp, a pioneer in the field of restorative justice in Alberta.

In 2021-2022, consultation services offered by the Alberta Legal Information Centre (Centre) took place by telephone or email, with the exception of Public Notary and Commissioner for Oaths services. The Centre offered 1,266 remote consultations, including 282 in-person Notary Public and Commissioner for Oaths services.

Thanks to our numerous partners, AJEFA presented 43 online legal information workshops by videoconference to 1,849 participants, 1,274 of whom were youth. Many workshops were developed on subjects such as sexual harassment in the workplace, 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Rights, and asylum seekers, among others.

In 2021-2022, AJEFA was extremely active in advocacy. Firstly, the Justice in French Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of the government of Alberta, of the Court of Appeals, of the Court of Queen's Bench, of the ACFA as well as the AJEFA, met on three occasions to discuss and further multiple files. The objective of this committee is the improvement of access to justice as well as the capacity to offer legal services in French.

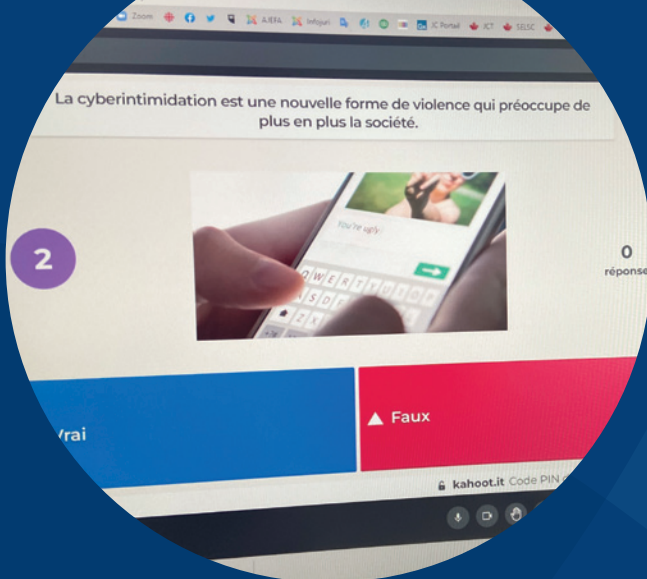
Additionally, online and in-person meetings took place between the AJEFA and the Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc. (FAJEF), with the goal of defending and promoting access to justice in French in all provinces and territories of Canada.

Finally, the Honourable Chief Justice Mary Moreau of the Court of Queen's Bench announced a pilot project regarding the use of French in proceedings before the Court had become officially permanent as of the end of the month of February 2022. This pilot project offering services in French in court is of great importance to AJEFA and to everyone subject to the court system, as it is de facto part of the application of linguistic rights of francophones in Alberta and fosters the rule of law in Canada.

AJEFA continues to raise awareness with the Law Society of Alberta on issues pertaining to linguistic rights so as to assure that all French-speaking defendants can exercise the rights accorded to them by section 530 of the Criminal Code of Canada, and do so without need of an interpreter.

I must thank the members of the administrative council and the AJEFA office staff for their commitment and devotion during my first year on the council as President of the AJEFA. I'm excited to continue the work that is already underway and to see you in person so as to maintain our professional cooperation as well as to share in our passion for Francophonie! Thank you for the trust you have placed in me!

Elsy Gagné
AJEFA President



YOUTH WORKSHOPS

Over 1,200 youth participated in workshops and webinars on cyberbullying, consent, youth and human rights as well as restorative justice. Students participated from schools in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer and St. Albert, and youth from across the province participated in the provincial activity French for the Future.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers:

Marie-Audrey Girard, Bertrand Malo, Owen Nicholson, Maryse Trudel and Madeleine Williams

Thank you to the law students:

Matthew Gray and Vivien Stefanic

- 12 school workshops
- 1,274 youth participants
- 7 practitioners
- 5 schools

LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

More than 500 members of the public were informed, mostly by videoconference, on various areas of law, notably power of attorney, asylum seekers and return to work post-COVID. AJEFA participated in two projects with a national scope relating to sexual harassment in the workplace and employment law as it pertains to immigration by organizing six workshops and training sessions for over 200 participants. A virtual and in-person booth was organized as part of a newcomer's welcome activity in Calgary and in Edmonton.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers and consultants:

Pauline Blais, Christian Cormier, Jean-Philippe Couture, Elsy Gagné, Julie Gagnon, Marie-Audrey Girard, Shannon James, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Dieudonné Kandolo, Bianca Kratt, Cindy Marshall, Joël Michaud, Yveson Philogène, Maryse Trudel, Pascal Visentin and Daniel Brière, Immigration Consultant

- 2 booths
- 31 legal workshops
- 572 participants
- 15 legal professionals



HONOURABLE JUSTICE VITAL OUELETTE RETIRING

More than 25 legal practitioners and members of the community came together April 22, 2021 to celebrate the honourable Justice Vital Ouellette's retirement from Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. A native of St. Paul, Alberta, Justice Ouellette has been very active in the French-speaking community of Alberta, notably having served as president of AJEFA from 1998 to 2001, president of the Conseil scolaire Centre-Est, and as president of the board of governors of La Fondation franco-albertaine. He has received numerous awards for excellence, including the Jean-Louis-Label award from AJEFA in 2013.



CALGARY OFFICE

For the first time since its founding in 1990, AJEFA has an office in Calgary! As of February 1, 2022, the Alberta Legal Information Centre offers on-site services in Calgary, sharing offices with the Centre d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants francophones (CANAF). Legal Information Officer Florentine Ngarambe has been carrying out phone consultations and welcoming clients needing Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public services. We anticipate that all in-person consultations will resume in 2022-2023.

LEGAL INFORMATION FEATURES

Thanks to a partnership with Le Franco newspaper and Radio Cité, AJEFA published five legal columns and was featured in radio information interviews in a variety of areas of the law, including family, employment, immigration, landlord/tenant and language rights.

These features and interviews are available on their websites, at www.ajefta.ca, as well as in podcast form on the new mobile application Frabio.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers:

Christian Cormier, Teresa Haykowsky, Justin Kingston, Bianca Kratt, Yveson Philogène



STUDENTS AND ARTICLING STUDENTS

AJEFA has renewed its partnership with Pro Bono Student of Canada (PBSC) for the 2021-2022 academic year. Law students from the University of Calgary, Matthew Gray, and the University of Alberta, Vivien Stefanic, presented educational workshops for AJEFA.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers:

Kim Arial, Caroline Magnan and Maryse Trudel

In the summer of 2021, AJEFA hired two law students: Habiba Nour Camara and Cloé Maisonneuve.

On March 3, 2022, 16 law students in the Certification in common law in French at the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan were joined by around 10 law practitioners for a panel on virtual proceedings and networking event in Calgary. On March 17, 2022, 10 law students from the University of Alberta and 10 lawyers participated in a “Cabane à droit” activity at Café bicyclette in Edmonton.



ABOVE

Habiba Nour Camara and Cloé Maisonneuve

BELOW

PHOTO 1 Networking in Edmonton

PHOTOS 2 AND 3 Networking in Calgary



1



2



3



Brenna Haggarty

AJEFA SCHOLARSHIP

In 2021-2022, AJEFA announced the creation of its first scholarship for legal studies in French. In 2014, AJEFA created an endowment fund with the Fondation franco-albertaine which has grown and generated enough interest in 2022 to provide a \$ 2,000 scholarship.

Applicants must be enrolled in a law program at the University of Calgary or the University of Alberta and have taken and/or be enrolled in at least one law course in French. Applicants must demonstrate their involvement in the francophone community and their intention to practice law in French in Alberta.

The very first scholarship recipient, Brenna Haggarty, is currently enrolled in the French Common Law certification program at the University of Calgary and is a graduate of Campus Saint-Jean.

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

8,051 website visits

1,014 Twitter subscribers

1,417 Facebook subscribers

293 Instagram subscribers

168 LinkedIn subscribers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2022 BANQUET SPONSORS



MCLENNAN ROSS



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

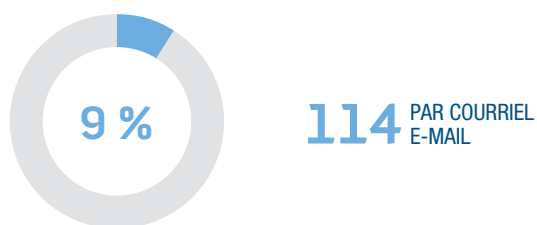
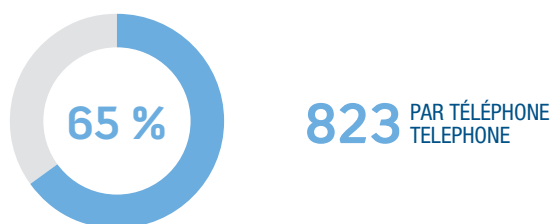
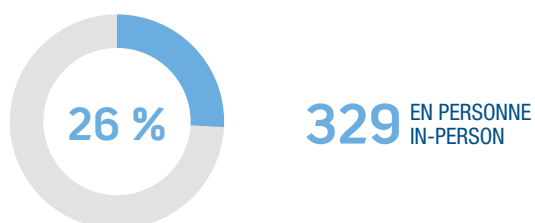
Justice Canada, Canadian Heritage, Service Canada, City of Edmonton, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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 Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
- Association canadienne-française d'Alberta (ACFA) and its 13 regional offices
- Association des étudiants en droit francophone de l'Université de l'Alberta
- Association francophone de Brooks
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Centre d'accueil francophone de la Cité des Rocheuses
- 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
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Conseil scolaire Franco-Sud
- Conseil scolaire Nord-Ouest
- 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
- Journal Le Franco
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Radio Cité 97,9 FM
- Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta (RIFA)
- Réseau national des étudiant(e)s pro bono du Canada (Calgary and Edmonton)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton
- The Workers' Resource Centre

MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

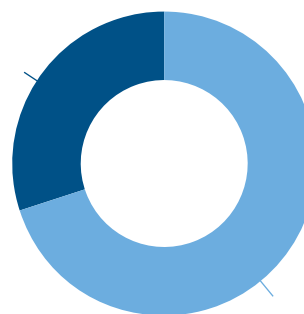
MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS



LANGUES UTILISÉES LANGUAGES USED

312 EN ANGLAIS
ENGLISH

30 %



70 %

954 EN FRANÇAIS
FRENCH

AUTRES LANGUES PARLÉES
PAR NOTRE PERSONNEL

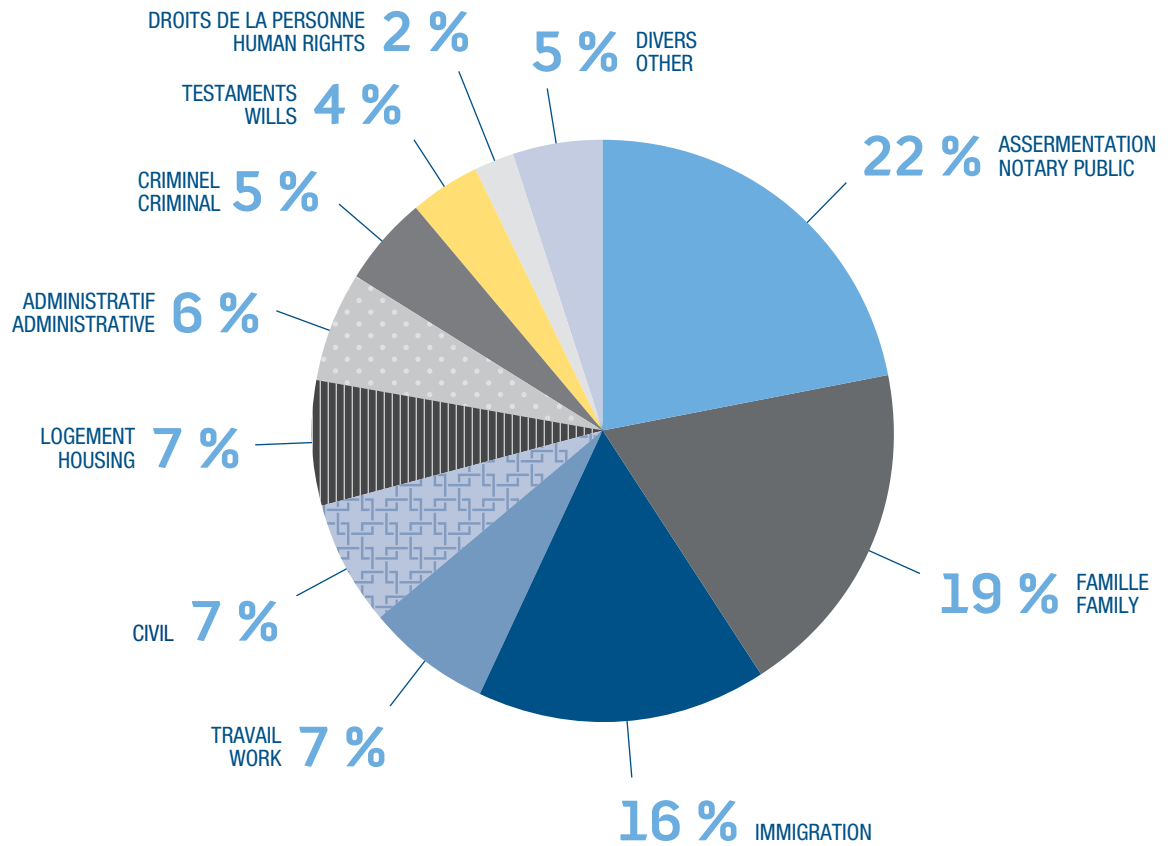
OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN
BY OUR STAFF

- Arabe / Arabic
- Amharique / Amharic
- Espagnol / Spanish
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Kiswahili
- Tigrigna

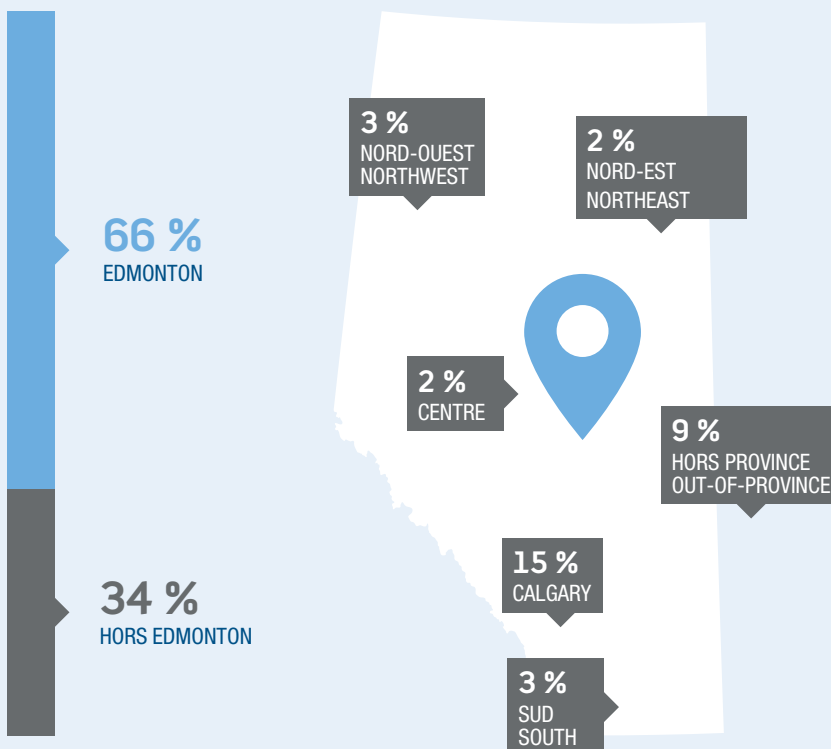
Malgré les défis causés par la pandémie, le Centre a réussi à offrir 1 266 consultations à distance, dont 282 services d'assermentation et de notaire public en personne, ce qui représente 84 % de sa clientèle moyenne annuelle.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Centre managed to offer 1,266 remote consultations, including 282 in-person Public Notary and Commissioner for Oaths 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

 **43** ATELIERS WORKSHOPS

 **1 846** PARTICIPANTS

 **20** JURISTES BÉNÉVOLES VOLUNTEER LAWYERS