

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 2020



Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ



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Director

- 1 The Honorable Claudette Tardif receives the Prix Jean-Louis-Lebel, along with Justin Kingston, Elsy Gagné and Denis Tardif.
- 2 AJEFA staff won the 2019 Christmas tree decoration competition at La Cité francophone.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

The period from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 had many achievements. The Jean-Louis-Lebel Prize was awarded to the Honorable Claudette Tardif, *pratiqueO* training was offered in family law and language rights, a book by the Honorable Michel Bastarache was launched and the very first networking activity with law students from the University of Calgary was held.

Since the last provincial election, AJEFA has resumed talks with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to establish the Justice in French Advisory Committee. AJEFA also requested from the Law Society of Alberta the revision of Section 3.2-8 of the Code of Ethics in order to oblige lawyers to provide or find services in French upon request rather than having recourse to an interpreter. These two initiatives are in addition to our association's efforts to improve access to justice in French in Alberta.

Our Centre albertain d'information juridique (Alberta Legal Information Centre), now in its sixth year of operation, conducted nearly 1,500 consultations in the past year. This report contains statistics about this Centre, funded by Justice Canada, as well as a brief summary of our school workshops, legal activities, mock trials and special projects.

I would like to highlight the fact that AJEFA was to celebrate its 30th anniversary on May 29, 2020 in the presence of the Honorable Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Russell Brown. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the banquet and the announcement of an online annual general meeting. On March 17, the office closed its doors to the public. However, the Centre continued to respond to the needs of its clientele by telephone, email and via webinars.

All the members of the board of directors join me in recognizing all the devoted legal professionals who have worked for the association since its creation, including the following chairpersons and recipients of the Jean-Louis-Lebel Prize:

Chairpersons since 1990: John Moreau, Michèle Stanners, Roy Klassen, Michèle Vincent, Teresa Haykowsky, Vital Ouellette, Laura Snowball, Allan Damer, Hervé Durocher, Louise Huard-Peake, Maryse Culham, Pierre Asselin and Bianca Kratt.

Jean-Louis-Lebel Prize Recipients since 1990: John Moreau, Louis Desrochers, Mary Moreau, Michèle Stanners, Brent Gawne, Georges Arès, Rupert Baudais, Hervé Durocher, Denis Noël, Pierre Desrochers, Vital Ouellette, Gérard Lévesque, Allan Damer, Michel Bastarache, Edmund Auger and Claudette Tardif.

I also wish to recognize the founding members of our organization incorporated as of October 26, 1990: Louis Desrochers, Pierre Desrochers, Pierre Lamoureux, Mary Moreau and Denis Noël.

I would like to thank the members of the 2019-2020 board of directors who represented the 130 members of AJEFA as well as its employees: Denise Lavallée, Executive Director, Ida Ituze and Brigitte Etien, legal information officers, Maria Vigneault, project coordinator, and Mélanie Dubreuil, receptionist.

I invite you to learn more about our many events, training sessions and partners in the following pages. I look forward to seeing you in person soon!



Justin Kingston
President



14 school workshops
755 participants
12 speakers
12 schools

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

Nearly 800 students participated in workshops on debating or were informed about one of the following four topics: cyberbullying, language rights, the justice system and careers in justice. These workshops were held in Francophone and French immersion schools in Airdrie, Beaumont, Calgary, Edmonton and Wainwright. Our new partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada in Calgary provided us with two additional volunteers this year.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Christian Cormier, Michael Custer, Marie Dussault, Elizabeth Duke, Roy Klassen, Bertrand Malo, Mathieu St-Germain and Maryse Trudel.

Thank you to the following law students: Chloe Bradget, Sherry Brudnyi, Catherine Duguay and Émilie Saillant as well as Isabelle Bernard from the Alberta Debate and Speech Association.



KIOSKS AND LEGAL INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

More than 300 members of the public were informed in various areas of the law, including workplace harassment, domestic violence and tenants' rights. These workshops were held in Brooks, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Saint-Isidore. Our information kiosk was set up at special events such as Law Day, the Francophone Newcomer's Welcoming Event and the teachers' convention in Calgary. This was an opportunity to publicize the many resources in French available at our office and online, including the course "Rôle parental après la séparation" (Parenting after separation).

10 kiosks
25 workshops
337 participants
15 lawyers
5 régions visited

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Pauline Blais, Christian Cormier, Jean-Philippe Couture, Michael Custer, Colin Gagnon, Dieudonné Kandolo, Bianca Kratt, Chrystelle Malongue, Cindy Marshall, Joël Michaud, Denis Sawyer, Jean-Pascal Siewe, Amanpreet Sran, Maryse Trudel, Moira Váně as well as Daniel Brière, immigration consultant.

LAW STUDENTS

The AJEFA was delighted to sign its first partnership with the National Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) in Calgary. This allowed us to work with three law students: Catherine Duguay, Brenna Haggarty and Robert Sandall. In Edmonton, a new agreement was signed with PBSC to undertake projects with the following law students: Chloe Braget, Elizabeth Duke and Adrienne Faulkner.

University of Moncton law student Shantale D'Aoust was AJEFA's summer employee in 2019. Finally, the AJEFA welcomed for a three-week self-proposed internship Owen Nicholson, a Franco-Albertan studying common law at the University of Ottawa. These law students revised legal information resources and facilitated school workshops. In addition, the first networking event between our members and law students in Calgary involved the participation of the bilingual law cohort from the University of Saskatchewan.



SOMMET DES DÉBATS

This year's Sommet des débats (Summit Debate Tournament) drew participants from three provinces and the Northwest Territories. The competition took place on February 6 and 7, 2020 at Campus Saint-Jean in Edmonton. Ten schools registered 12 teams: La Rose Sauvage and Western Canada High School (Calgary), Old Scona Academic, Maurice-Lavallée and Michaëlle-Jean (Edmonton), École Boréale (Hay River, NWT), Lethbridge Collegiate Institute (Lethbridge), Mirabel High School (Montreal), École canadienne-française (Saskatoon) and Alexandre-Taché (St. Albert).

These Grades 10 to 12 students received training in the art of debate and had the opportunity to debate some subjects related to the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act. This event received funding from the Government of Alberta and Canadian Heritage. Our winners were Dilys Wang and Zelalem Araya from Western Canada High.

Thank you to our volunteers: Sandrine Beaudry, Isabelle Bernard, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Robert Lees-Miller, Guillaume Laroche, Danusia Moreau and Gisèle Rheault.



24 participants
10 schools
7 Canadian regions

TRAINING FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Through a partnership with *praticuO*, the Centre for Continuing Professional Education of the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa, AJEFA organized two half-day conferences on family law and the practice of law in French in Western Canada. These training sessions were held at the annual general meeting in Calgary on May 31 and June 1, 2019. Thirteen legal experts from across the country shared their knowledge with 46 lawyers and community workers.

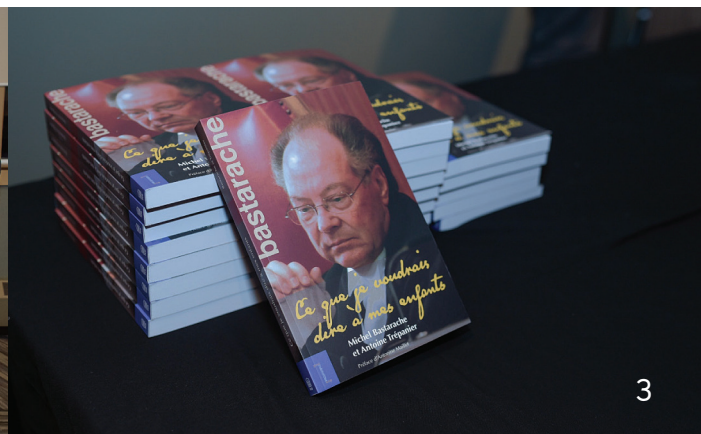
Thank you to the following lawyers and legal experts: Paule Armeneau, Julie Laliberté, Cindy Marshall and Kyla Sandwith (Alberta); Régine Tremblay (British Columbia); Guy Jourdain and Rénald Rémillard (Manitoba); Gabrielle Beaulieu, Paul Mongenais, Mark Power and Alain Roussy (Ontario); Johanne Clouet and Sylvie Schirm (Quebec) and Roger Lepage (Saskatchewan).



LAUNCH OF MICHEL BASTARACHE'S BOOK

The AJEFA, in partnership with Campus Saint-Jean, organized the launch of the book: "Michel Bastarache : Ce que je voudrais dire à mes enfants" (Michel Bastarache: What I Would Like to Say to My Children) on January 9, 2020. Sixty guests answered our invitation to meet Mr. Bastarache, a former Supreme Court judge, to discover his extraordinary journey: his childhood in Acadia and his many careers. Many distinguished judges and lawyers were in attendance to congratulate and thank this great

defender of language rights in Canada, namely Russell Brown, judge of the Supreme Court of Canada; Catherine Fraser, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Alberta; Mary Moreau, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Alberta; Jamie Edelman, High Court judge in Australia; Jane Fagnan, Provincial Court judge; and David Percy, acting dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Alberta.



3 mock trials
12 young actors
5 lawyers
3 regions



MOCK TRIALS

The AJEFA organized and participated in mock trials in Calgary and Edmonton as part of the Fondation franco-albertaine's annual province-wide fund raising activity. Our Vice-President, Shannon James, accepted the role of prisoner to raise money for the AJEFA endowment fund, which now stands at \$35,763. This endowment fund provided financial assistance in 2019-2020 to eight law students: James Allan, Matthew Benson, Jean-Pierre Desrochers, Adrienne Faulkner, Samuel Gagnon, Alexandra Heine, Sadie Howe and Omelia Tedesco-White.

In March, Kim Arial, a Calgary criminal lawyer, guided students from École Notre-Dame-des-Monts in Canmore in the conduct of a mock trial at their school.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Kim Arial, Pierre Asselin, Anita St-Georges, Maryse Trudel and Guillaume Laroche, president of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association.



TRAINING IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Thirty participants from Airdrie, Cold Lake, Devon and Edmonton received training in restorative practices on Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24, 2019. Peggy Barrette of the International Institute for Restorative Practices offered practical ideas that could be used by stakeholders and volunteers from legal, school and community circles. As a follow-up, a workshop on the facilitation of peacemaking circles was offered to ten participants by the mediator, Jean-Jacques Beauchamp, on January 8, 2020.

Thank you to the members of our advisory committee: Laurier Amyotte, Kevin Bell, Lauraine Charest, Morgan McClelland and Luketa M'Pindou as well as our volunteer trainer, Jean-Jacques Beauchamp.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

8 295 hits
906 Twitter subscribers
133 Twitter publications
1 025 Facebook subscribers
98 posts on Facebook

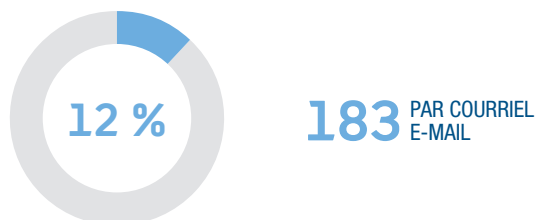
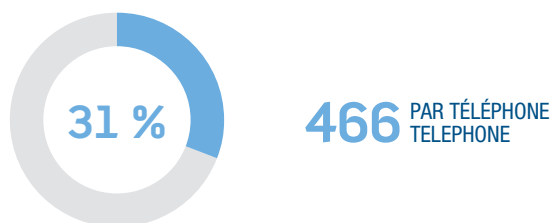
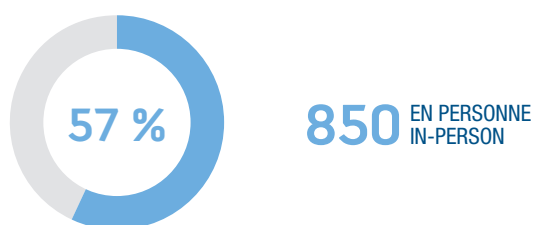
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all our Francophone and Anglophone partners who shared their expertise and resources with us, helped us promote our legal information centre, referred Francophone clients to us and organized activities in their respective regions.

- Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA) and its 13 regional offices
- accès•emploi
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association (ARJA)
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society (AJFAS)
- 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 (La Cité des Rocheuses)
- Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones (CANAF – Calgary)
- Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta (CPLEA)
- Coalition des femmes
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta (CDÉA)
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC)
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc. (FAJEF)
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Francophonie albertaine plurielle (FRAP)
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- Legal Aid Alberta
- *pratiqUO* (Centre for Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa)
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Pro Bono Students Canada (Calgary and Edmonton)
- Radio Cité 97,9 FM (Edmonton)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton

MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

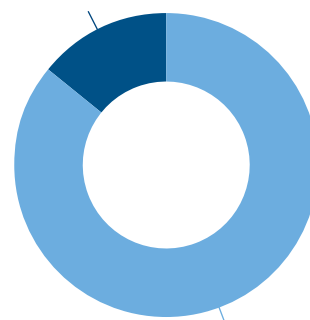
MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS



LANGUES UTILISÉES LANGUAGES USED

215 EN ANGLAIS
ENGLISH

14 %



86 %

1 284 EN FRANÇAIS
FRENCH

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

- Espagnol / Spanish
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Kiswahili

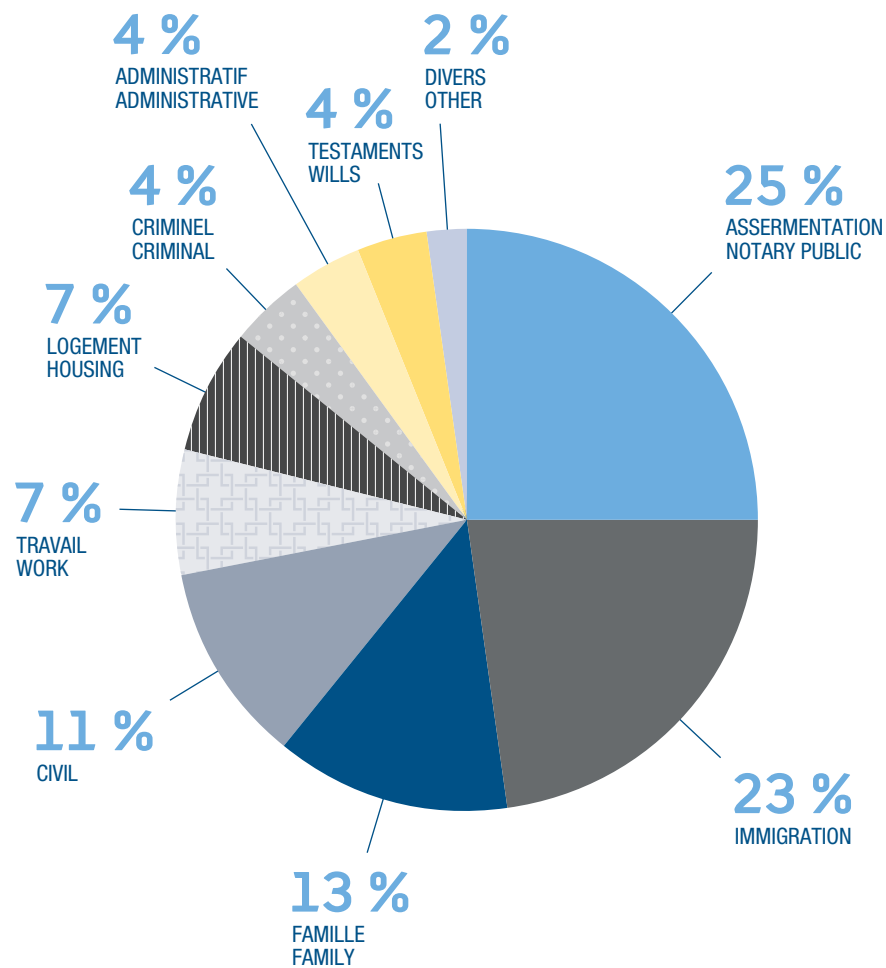
* Grâce à un partenariat avec l'Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC), 23 de nos clients à bas revenu ont rencontré des avocats bénévoles qui parlent français.

** Nos agentes juridiques ont rencontré 83 clients en personne à Calgary grâce à un partenariat avec le Centre d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants francophones (CANAF).

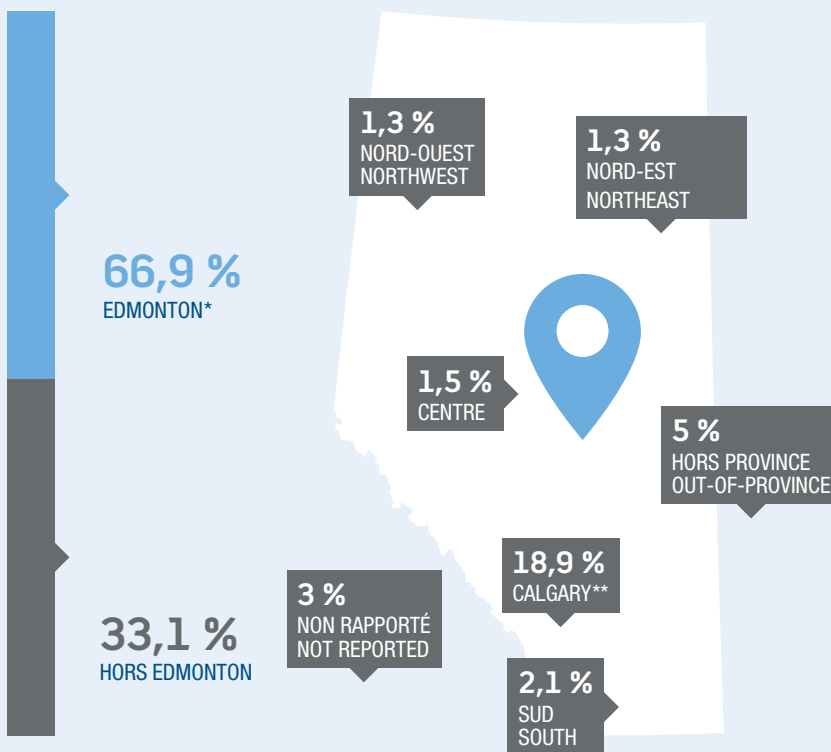
* Thanks to our partnership with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC), 23 of our clients were provided with legal advice in French from volunteer lawyers.

** Our legal information officers helped 83 clients in person in Calgary through a partnership with the Centre d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants francophones (Francophone Newcomers Centre — CANAF).

DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITÉS / AREAS OF LAW



LIEU DE RÉSIDENCE / PLACE OF RESIDENCE



ACTIVITÉS D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE

LEGAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

 **39** ATELIERS WORKSHOPS

 **1 092** PARTICIPANTS

 **30** BÉNÉVOLES VOLUNTEERS

 **8** RÉGIONS REGIONS