

STRENGTH

of an Organization

and its PEOPLE

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

Poverty leads to the systemic abrogation of the ability to defend individual rights and freedoms and as such, access to justice for many remains elusive. But as we reflect on 2014-2015, we are inspired by the important role that Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG) plays in the lives of individuals and families in our communities and have comfort in knowing that in our quest of bridging the justice gap in our city we continue to not only serve vulnerable individuals, but educate community members, corporations, government officials and Justice on the social and economic barriers that our clients face in trying to address their legal rights.



Jean Munn, Board Chair and Larry Horecny, Executive Director

This past year we continued on our path of finding better ways to give a voice to our vulnerable and provide the most comprehensive way to serve their individual needs. Through our model of a free summary advice clinic, CLG provided over 5,000 people in our community legal support at our downtown and outreach clinics, with over 1,000 people receiving further service and/or representation.

In recognizing that access to justice for the most indigent extends past legal clinic support, our comprehensive in-house programs - Family Law, Homeless Outreach, Social Benefits Advocacy, Immigration and Elder Law served over 1200 individuals. Recognizing the challenging situations of our clients, CLG is working towards a trauma informed, client-centred approach where we work with them in a safe and welcoming environment and connect them with our team of lawyers, social workers, legal assistants and community partners to address their individual needs.

The enormity of these accomplishments cannot be overstated, and because of the hard work, dedication and commitment from our leadership team, staff, Board members and volunteers, we are able to offer help, support, and hope to vulnerable individuals in our communities.

For our annual report this year, we have chosen to showcase some of the work we have done in our communities through stories in a video annual report that can be accessed from our website at www.clg.ab.ca. It is our hope that you will visit our website to see all that we are doing to support our community members with their legal and individual needs.

Thank you for your help and support as we work together to **Empower Lives Through Law.**



"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."
- James Baldwin

Change can only happen in partnership with community supporters and committed donors. Many thanks to our primary and government funders, organizational supporters, philanthropists, donors, staff and volunteers for supporting the valuable work that CLG does. Because of you, we are able to continue working to bridge the justice gap and increase accessibility to legal support services for individuals experiencing financial difficulties and complex barriers.

Thank you

Alberta LAW FOUNDATION



SERVING the PUBLIC INTEREST



United Way
Calgary and Area



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Calgary, AB T2P 3G2
Phone: 403.234.9266

www.clg.ab.ca



2015

Calgary Legal Guidance Annual Report

Empowering Lives Through Law



“ Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. ”

- Martin Luther King





"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice."
- Nelson Mandela

Calgary Legal Guidance continues to work towards integrating a trauma based approach into our service delivery model. We place our clients first and with our interdisciplinary team of lawyers, advocates, social workers and legal assistants, we work with them on the best way to support their individual needs while addressing their legal and social issues.

Vision To ensure that all economically and socially disadvantaged people in our community have access to the legal information, advice and representation that they may require.

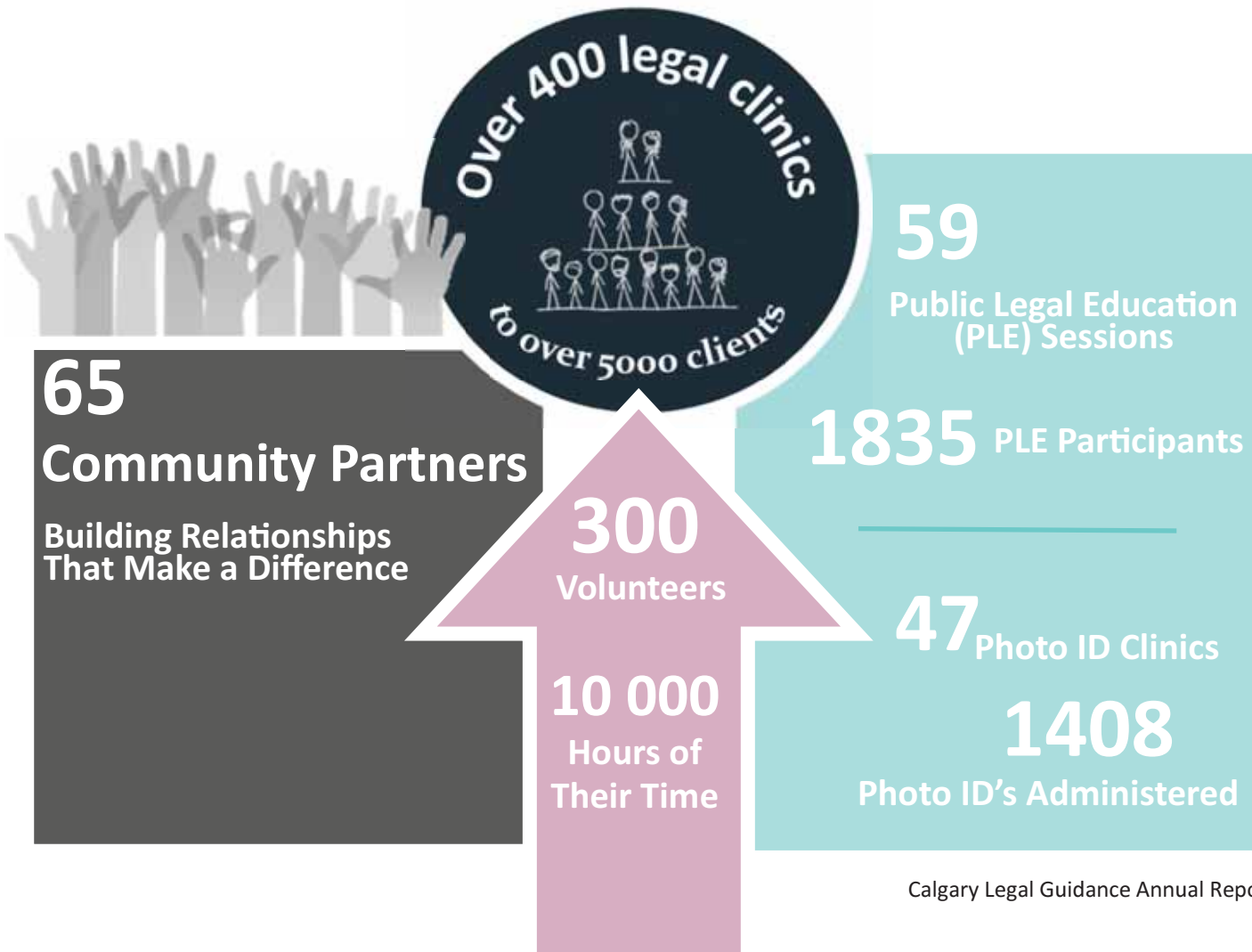


Mission To provide legal assistance and information to economically and socially disadvantaged persons who would not otherwise have access to such services.

"The time is always ripe to do right." - Nelson Mandela



Community Impact



Treasurer's Report 2014 – 2015

I am pleased to report a surplus of over \$33,000 for this fiscal year. CLG finances remain strong, with a cash balance of \$309,383 and short and long-term investments (in GICs) of \$985,092.

Total revenues in the current fiscal year reached \$2.8 million, representing a \$0.2 million increase (6%) over the prior year. The increase is largely due to increased funding from the Alberta Law Foundation for our core programs by \$0.2 million. Funding from our other funders has remained relatively stable year over year. Thanks to our generous donors this year, we raised close to \$74,000 from individual donations. Operating expenses were \$2.7 million in the fiscal year, an increase of \$0.2 million, mainly due to inflationary increases in salary and wages and incremental advertising and website development costs. The figures below illustrate the sources and uses of funding of the 2014-2015 fiscal year:

FUNDING SOURCES

- 1 – ALF \$2,099,614
- 2 – United Way \$145,642
- 3 – FCSS \$126,778
- 4 – Solicitor General \$121,250
- 5 – Law Society of Alberta \$77,572
- 6 – Donations \$73,778
- 7 – Casino & Other \$112,077

FUNDING USES

- 1 – Community Legal Services \$2,005,453
- 2 – Dial-A-Law & Lawyer Referral Services \$122,529
- 3 – Family Law/Domestic Violence \$272,821
- 4 – Social Benefits Advocacy \$156,549
- 5 – Restricted Fund \$126,841
- 6 – Program Stability and Other \$39,240



Wendy Ng CA, CBV
Treasurer, Board of Directors

It is a rewarding experience to be a part of CLG and its mission to provide legal assistance and information to disadvantaged persons who would not otherwise have access to such services. Looking into the future, I will continue to focus on a balanced budget and finding ways to be more efficient with our resources while expanding our reach into the community. CLG is fortunate to have loyal funders and donors and the dedicated team of volunteers and staff. In particular, I would like to thank the Alberta Law Foundation