

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





INFLUENCE. Leadership. Proximity.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT CHRIS WEITZEL, Q.C.

VICE RESIDENT RECHÉ MCKEAGUE

TREASURER JANA LINNER

PAST PRESIDENT LORELEY CHEKAY, Q.C.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR ANNA BEATCH

LEGISLATIVE AND LAW REFORM DIRECTOR JAMES STEELE

PUBLIC OUTREACH DIRECTOR KATHRYN GILLISS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MONTEEN DENT



ELECTED COUNCIL

NORTHWEST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Ryan Armstrong

NORTHEAST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Vacant

REGINA ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Megan Dolo Laura Klemmer Amy Groothuis Crystal Norbeck Greg Sykes Anthony Thera

SASKATOON ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Brea Lowenberger Joni MacKay, Q.C. Alan Rankine Steven Seiferling Clint Weiland Chris Veeman

SOUTHEAST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Vacant

SOUTHWEST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Vacant







PRESIDENT CHRIS WEITZEL, Q.C.

It has been my great honour and privilege to serve as President of CBA Saskatchewan this past year. Even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic which has shifted the manner in which we gather and communicate, it has truly been a pleasure to (virtually) meet with friends and colleagues from Saskatchewan and all across the country.

This has been a unique year, one like we have never experienced. But from it, we have been forced into a transformational change across society with how we work and communicate with others. The justice system is also evolving and modernizing. The CBA has been fortunate to be a collaborative partner with the Courts and the government as they innovate into this new reality. We have worked hard during these times to ensure that the CBA has been able to continue and build upon our great relationships with members, the judiciary and government.

CBA Saskatchewan had to quickly adapt and respond to changing needs as a result of the events in the last 18 months. We have worked diligently to provide member services and support and advocate for process changes in response to the current environment. Section meetings, the Mid-Winter Meeting and CBA governance meetings all took place on a virtual platform this year. Feedback from our virtual events has been mostly positive and it has allowed members to attend the meetings virtually where travel has been a prior issue. We continue to examine this capability going forward.

I am very proud of the ongoing work that the CBA is undertaking. We continue to promote access to justice, inclusivity, reconciliation, advance the rule of law and advocate on issues that enhance the legal profession. This is only possible with the assistance of our dedicated volunteers from the bar and the bench that share a passion to contribute for the benefit of our profession and the public. Thank you for all of your valuable contributions!

I would like to especially thank the staff at the CBA Saskatchewan office and the Members of the Board for their support and hard work. I am extremely pleased to pass the Presidency to your incoming President Reché McKeague.

Take care and stay safe.

Chris Weitzel PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

RECHÉ MCKEAGUE

It has been a fun and challenging year serving the CBASK membership as the Vice-President. I have enjoyed working closely with the other Officers, the Board of Directors, and many CBASK volunteers to represent the voice of our profession and bring you value for your membership.

With the President, I attended a number of virtual Leadership Forum Branch Roundtables. These were organized by the national Association and varied based on geography (West) and branch size (medium). Each was an excellent opportunity to share challenges and successes with our colleagues across the country and for us to find ways to improve your member experience. I was also fortunate to attend a meeting with the Honourable Gordon Wyant, Q.C., Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Saskatchewan, again with the President. We took this opportunity to highlight a couple of our membership's suggestions for improvement to the administration of justice in Saskatchewan, including improved use of technology in the courts and an evaluation of The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act and the use of sheriffs for enforcement.

I participated in the planning of the 2021 CBASK Mid-Winter Meeting, which was a resounding success. More details on the Meeting can be found in the report of the Chair, Anna Singer. I enjoyed working with Anna and the planning committee to bring such exceptional CPD to our province.

A great deal of my focus in the past year has been with the Governance Review Special Committee, which was established by the Board in June 2020. The Committee's terms of reference were approved at the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Board and set out the following scope of review:

- Annual General Meeting purpose, governance powers, accountability; and
- Council's purpose/value, responsibilities, governance powers, composition.

This review of CBASK's governance is timely as several other branches have recently reviewed and updated their governance structures. The Committee's focus is on having Council provide value to members; both members who volunteer to be part of Council and the members that they represent. The aims are for:

- Council members to feel and know that they are contributing to the direction of the branch,
- Council to be a reasonable size so that all Council members serve a function and their voices can be heard
- Clarity of roles on Council so that Council members know what is expected of them

The Committee consulted with the CBASK Council at its February 25, 2021 meeting and through a subsequent Thoughtexchange. An Interim Report & Recommendations was presented to the Board on May 20, 2021. Further consultation is currently being undertaken; final recommendations will be presented to the Board before August 31, 2021.

Reché McKeague VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER



JANA LINNER

In accordance with subsection 20(1) of the CBA-SK Branch Bylaws, the Branch's annual budget for 2021-2022 is submitted to the membership at the Branch Annual Meeting for approval.

Branch financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2020 were prepared by Virtus Group and are found at the end of this Annual Report. In 2019-2020, Branch revenue was \$449,649, expenses were \$370,499, and there was a surplus of \$79,150. The surplus represents the limited in-person events and travel due to COVID-19 restrictions.

As of April 30, 2021, the 2020-21 revenues were \$354,651 and expenses were \$225,057. Total Branch assets as of April 30, 2020 were \$881,408, of which \$871,177 was Cash and Investments and \$5,879 was Capital Assets.

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Branch's resources continues to evolve and be assessed. The Branch's focus for the past year and as the pandemic continued was maximizing value for membership through member services, professional development and advocacy. We thank you for your continued support in purchasing membership and registrations.

Jana Linner TREASURER

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EDUCATION DIRECTOR



ANNA BEATCH

The Education Director supports the Branch's education initiatives for both its student and lawyer members.

Unfortunately, the annual Law Student Welcome Reception and the "Meet Your Match" Mentorship Reception were cancelled due to COVID-19. However, the Mentorship Program still launched in the fall and over 40 matches between law students and lawyers were made. Thank you to the volunteer mentors who helped their mentees start to build essential networks within the legal community.

The Branch put on another successful Law Firm Showcase. It was held virtually on November 5, 2020. Thank you to everyone who participated. On November 4, 2020, the Branch also hosted a virtual panel discussion for law students. Thank you to the five lawyers who presented to the students on their various career paths. They also provided invaluable information regarding student recruitment.

The 2021 Mid-Winter Meeting was also held virtually for the first time from January 26 to 28, 2021. It was very well attended and the Branch received very positive feedback. It was determined that the Mid-Winter Meeting provided great value for the cost. This new platform also allowed for quality presenters from across Canada to participate. Thank you to the Planning Committee and all of the volunteer presenters – the quality of the planning and the presentations was second to none.

Sections also continued to be a key priority for the Branch and the continuing foundation of the Branch's education for its members. Due to COVID-19, Section meetings were held virtually. They were also free for members. Although it is more difficult to network at virtual meetings, the virtual platform made meetings more accessible to members – members located anywhere in Saskatchewan could attend. Meetings will continue to be held virtually for the foreseeable future. Thank you to the Section executive committees for going above and beyond in what has been a very challenging year – so many interesting and informative meetings have been held this year. As the Branch is also committed to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, we also finalized a territorial acknowledgment for Section meetings.

In sum, despite COVID-19, the Branch was able to shift in a timely manner and provide value to its members via virtual events. There is no doubt that the Branch will continue to be challenged this upcoming year, but I am certain that the Branch will continue to provide exceptional educational opportunities to its members. I look forward to serving as Education Director for the 2021-2022 year.

Anna Beatch EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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LEGISLATION & LAW REFORM

JAMES STEELE

I have been honoured to hold the position of Legislation and Law Reform Director for the past year. It is a privilege to play a role in the changing legal landscape, and to engage with CBA members on their input on the law.

Requests for feedback are sent to the appropriate CBA section chairs and/or distributed to the membership at large. Member feedback is collected and then forwarded. On occasion our Branch is also asked to provide feedback on possible interventions by the CBA at the National level.

Highlights from this past year include the following:

- 1. Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan sought feedback on a consultation paper relating to establishing a new unlocking rule for all new and existing locked-in retirement account (LIRA) contracts, which hold locked-in pension monies pursuant to The Pension Benefits Act, 1992.
- 2. The Law Reform Commission sought input on contributory fault and apportionment among wrongdoers.
- 3. The Law Reform Commission was seeking input on a recent report on how Saskatchewan could reform the law of fraudulent conveyances and preferences by adopting the Uniform Reviewable Transactions Act.
- 4. Court Services sought feedback on future changes to the method of appointing court-appointed counsel.
- 5. The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan sought CBA feedback on proposed regulations to support The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act (Saskatchewan).
- 6.CBASK has been in discussion with Court Services, and the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, regarding increased availability of virtual appearance for parties involved in small claims matters. Future updates will be disclosed when they are available.
- 7.CBASK has worked with the Saskatchewan Realtors Association to help reduce the increasingly short timelines between condition removal and possession dates, on real estate transactions. Formal proposals have been communicated to the Saskatchewan Realtors Association, and we are awaiting their reply.

As a CBA member, your input into proposed changes to legislation is extremely valuable and sought after. We encourage you to continue to provide your valuable input.

James Steele LEGISLATIVE & LAW REFORM DIRECTOR

PUBLIC OUTREACH DIRECTOR

KATHRYN GILLISS

The pandemic has certainly affected the legal profession in a number of ways and the CBA Saskatchewan Branch Public Outreach portfolio was not immune to this. Regrettably, the pandemic forced the cancellation of many of our Law Day Events last year and the ongoing restrictions certainly affected our planning efforts in the fall of this year. However, we took this opportunity to review the Public Outreach Director role in greater detail.

This review was not solely as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. CBA National and many of the branches did not proceed with Law Day activities given membership priorities. Our Board, therefore, took this opportunity to review not only the role Law Day plays in our public outreach but also the value it provides to our membership. In this review, we determined that the mock trial event was no longer viable and we also placed many other events on hold as we move through the reopening of the province and development of a new focus for the Public Outreach Role.

In our review we have revamped the Public Outreach role to focus on the facilitation and promotion of the profession's public image and the public's awareness of the profession through both outreach to the membership and the public. We hope to achieve this through:

- Promoting the positive contributions lawyers and jurists make to society through the Courts and the administration of justice;
- The importance of these positive contributions on society as a whole;
- Encouraging members to improve the lawyer-client relationship and work with the membership to promote the same to the public; and
- Work with both legal and justice stakeholders to promote access to justice, both theoretically and practically to the public.

I was fortunate to already take some of these steps as a sitting member on the A2J Network this year. I was honoured to work with so many passionate stakeholders on the need for continued access to justice in our profession. I have also had the privilege of participating in the Dean's Forum and the SALI Virtual Conference this year. We were able to follow up some of these projects with a conversation with the Deputy Minister on the continued need for access to justice and the impact COVID has had on A2J.

We look forward to developing this portfolio with many stakeholders in the legal community and the public. I have been so honoured to work on the development of this role and hope to see it through to a formalized portfolio for the new year. As members, I encourage anyone with comments on how public outreach can best serve the membership to reach out to the Board to ensure that our Board of Director's portfolios continue to serve the membership and its evolving needs.

Kathryn Gilliss PUBLIC OUTREACH DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MONTEEN DENT

I would like to encourage all members to keep current on branch events including upcoming professional development through our bi-monthly email newsletter SaskWatch. This is the quick way twice a month you can see the launch of new programming, learn of deadlines and see current consultation requests. You can also visit our website cbasask.org. If you're not receiving SaskWatch contact us at info@cbasask.org.

During this last year, branch staff worked hard to make the move to virtual as seamless as possible for members and volunteers. The move of section meetings onto zoom meant members had access to a more comprehensive list of topics and speakers. People from outside of Saskatoon and Regina could now participate in a section meeting and have the same experience as everyone else. I am thrilled to say section attendance jumped by 13%. Last spring and summer our programming was focused on providing the information you needed to adapt and navigate the new processes within the Courts and within the community.

As you will have read in previous reports, our 2021 Virtual Mid-Winter Meeting was a success with 83 of 84 respondents giving it a 4 or 5 out of 5 stars. The online platform provided access to all the sessions, allowed our sponsors and exhibitors to participate, and gave members an opportunity to visit with colleagues. The Planning Committee worked hard to ensure varied presenters from in and out of the province. Planning is already underway for the 2022 Mid-Winter Meeting and given current circumstances we are once again planning a virtual event for January 25-27, 2022.

Students remarked that they missed the opportunity of meeting lawyers due to the cancellation of our College of Law Welcome Reception last September. While it appears classes may resume in the fall it appears non-class activities will be restricted so we are planning for a virtual reception so students and members can interact and join conversations all while lounging around the virtual pool.

We continued to use the MentorCity App for connecting CBA members and students. Last fall the Mentorship Reception was cancelled but this coming year, like the Welcome Reception, we hope to provide an opportunity for students and mentors to meet even if virtual but in a format that allows for some positive connection. Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to be mentors. We would encourage everyone to consider volunteering this fall. "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" ~ Winston Churchill

Legal Directory sales remained strong and represent one of three strong sources of revenue for the branch as well as being useful to lawyers and staff. We are beginning updates to the Directory and orders for the 2021/22 Legal Directory will open August 9, 2021 on our website cbasask.org.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Thoughtexchange and consultation requests. We represent over 1200 lawyers in the province and want to ensure your voice on matters is heard. Please watch for requests for feedback in SaskWatch and section emails. Have a concern about certain legislation or something occurring within the legal profession, don't hesitate to contact the branch.

I continue to represent the needs and values of CBA Saskatchewan at our Management Team meetings on a bimonthly basis. Here the staff leaders from across the CBA meet to ensure we are providing a high level of service and products to our members. Currently we are focused on the launch of a new product in 2022 that will help you access professional development programming in a new, easier to use format. There will also be a refresh of our websites and we are currently overseeing an operational review to ensure the CBA remains operationally responsive to member needs.

I am very pleased to announce that I now work with two awesome colleagues, Jodi Snow and now Sharon Hiebert who joined the branch last October. Together we make a strong team focused on providing you with excellent member service. On a personal note, I am pleased to report that I am back at work full-time and continuing to feel better every day. Thank you for your words of support and encouragement. While this is an Annual Report for 2020-2021, we at the branch are already focused on bringing you the best programming and opportunities for 2021-2022. It continues to be my honour and privilege to serve the members of CBA Saskatchewan. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Monteen Dent EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SPECIAL THANKS TO CBASK VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to all our Volunteers who go above and beyond and ensure CBA Saskatchewan programs and sections are the strongest they canbe. Thank you for generously sharing your time, energy, and expertise.

Committee & Branch Representatives Awards: Terry Kimpinski, Q.C.

Equality: Fraiba Jalal

Resolutions, Constitution & Bylaws: Robert Thornton, O.C.

Aboriginal Liaison:

Andrea Phillips

Lawyers Financial (CBIA): Kaylea M. Dunn

JUDICIARY REPRESENTATIVES:

Court of Appeal: Chief Justice Robert Richards **Court of Queen's Bench: Justice Ron Mills Provincial Court:** Judge Hugh Harradence

BAR JUDICIAL COUNCILS:

leff Grubb, O.C. Heather Laing, Q.C. Sean Sinclair Michael Tomka Donald Worme, O.C. Suzanne Young

Public Legal Education Association: Steven Dribnenki

Oueen's Bench Rules of Court: Michelle Ouellette, Q.C.

Indigenous Law Student Association: Acacia Rambow

Law Student Association: Nicole Tryhorn

2021 MID-WINTER PLANNINGCOMMITTEE:

Anna Singer

Troy Baril Anna Beatch Davida Bentham Angela Giroux Reché McKeague Matthew Wiens

BARNOTES EDITORIAL BOARD:

Hannah Zip Clyde Drover Nicole Hamm Tonya Lambert Foluke Laosebikan Christine Libner Amjad Murabit James Steele

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Robert Affleck Judge Karl Bazin Andrew Bitz Jessica Buhler Loreley Chekay Nordika Dussion Spencer Edwards Adam Fritzler Judge Hugh Harradence Nancy Hopkins Marinko Jelovic Judge Earl Kalenith Laura Klemmer Kelsey Kreklewich Angela Kruk Holli Kuski Bassett Judge Erin Layton Megan Lorenz Joni MacKay, Q.C. **Kit McGuinness** Reché McKeague Jared McRorie Brad Mitchell Ashala Naidu Charmaine Panko Shoshanna Paul Ben Parsonson Jennifer Pereira, Q.C. Andrea Phillips Ion Ponath Alan Rankine Carleen Ready Bonnie Reddekopp Talon Regent Mike Riou Carly Romanow

Nikki Rudachyk Steve Seiferling Caroline Smith Terri Uhrich Elizabeth Ulmer Will Vavra Christopher Weitzel Rochelle Wempe Scott Wickenden Amanda Wickett Shannon Williams Kellie Wuttunee Cindy Yelland

LAW DAY COMMITTEE

Anna Beatch Jana Linner

LAW PRACTICE OPTIONS PANEL

Mobolanle Depo-Fajumo Leanne LaPrise losh Morrison Ashala Naidu Talon Regent

FIRMS – LAW FIRM SHOWCASE

Department of Justice Canada **Evolve Family Law** Lakefield LLP Kanuka Thuringer LLP Kapoor, Selnes & Klimm Legal Aid Saskatchewan McDougall Gauley LLP McKercher LLP Miller Thomson LLP MLT Aikins LLP Naidu Legal Services Olive Waller 7inkhan & Waller Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan Robertson Stromberg LLP Sask Ministry of Justice SGI Stevenson Hood Thornton **Beaubier LLP**

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SPECIAL THANKS TO CBASK VOLUNTEERS

SECTIONS EXECUTIVE

ABORIGINAL LAW North

Chair: Shoshanna Paul *Vice Chair:* Anna Beatch *Secretary:* Leah Bitternose *South Chair:* Sonia Eggerman *Vice Chair:* James Fyfe

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Chair: Darlene Wingerak *Vice Chair:* Anna Singer

ADMINISTRATIVE &LABOUR LAW: North

Chair: Amy Gibson *Vice Chair:* Michael MacDonald *LLR:* Shane Buchanan *South Chair:* Ashton Butler *Vice Chair:* Vacant

ARTICLING STUDENT

Chair: Cheryl Giesbrecht *Vice Chair:* Iffat Ritter *South Chair:* Allison Graham *Vice Chair:* Marie Digney

BUSINESS LAW

Chair: Marinko Jelovic *Vice Chair:* Michael Stevens *Secretary:* Erin Moch *LLR:* David Ukrainetz *South Chair:* Nicole Hamm *Vice Chair:* Cary Wessel

CANADIAN CORPORATE COUNSEL: North

Chair: Jeff Benjamin *Vice Chair:* Kezia Sonntag *South Chair:* Charlene Greve *Vice Chair:* Evan Olson *LLR:* Ryan Klassen

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Chair: Matthew Schmeling *Vice Chair:* Nicole Folk

CIVIL LITIGATION

North Chair: Michael Scharfstein Vice Chair: Samuel Edmondson LLR: Andrea Rohrke South Chair: Jonathan Milani Vice Chair: Jenna Sambrook

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Chair: Jared Epp *Vice Chair:* Jodi Wildeman

ENVIRONMENTAL ANDRESOURCES LAW: North

Chair: Chad Eggerman *Vice Chair:* Vacant *South Chair:* Angela Stolz *Vice Chair:* Heather Franklin

FAMILY LAW:

Chair: Deborah Giles *Vice Chair:* Ashala Naidu *Secretary:* Leslie Tallis *LLR:* Kate Crisp *South Chair:* Kendra Jacobs *Vice Chair:* Roxanne Ouellette *LLR:* Kim Newsham

IMMIGRATION LAW NORTH & SOUTH

Chair: Chris Veeman *Vice Chair:* Scott Bell *Secretary:* Bhavan Jaggi *LLR:* Davida Bentham

INSOLVENCY LAW NORTH

Chair: Mike Russell *Vice Chair:* Paul Olfert

PRIVACY AND ACCESS LAW

North Chair: Ashley Smith *Vice Chair:* David Krebs *South Chair:* Matthew Barnes *Vice Chair:* Adam McNeil

PUBLIC SECTOR AND MUNICIPAL LAW

Chair: Thomson Irvine Q.C. *Vice Chair:* Jayne Krueger

REAL PROPERTY

North Chair: Cameron Klein *Vice Chair:* Lane Zabolotney

REAL PROPERTY AND WILLS

South Chair: Jeff Norwig *Vice Chair:* Kaylea Lax

SOGIC *Chair:* Barton Soroka

TAXATION LAW *Chair:* Adam Unick *Vice Chair:* Haley Irwin

WILLS ESTATE AND ELDER LAW

Chair: Allison Katarey *Vice Chair:* Courtney Fisher

WOMEN LAWYERS

North Chair: Lauren Scharfstein *Vice Chair:* Bonnie Cherewyk *South Chair:* Andrea Johnson *Vice Chair:* Rachel Haack

YOUNG LAWYERS

North Chair: Ashala Naidu *Vice Chair:* Andrea Phillips *South Chair:* Kelsey Kreklewich *Vice Chair:* Tava Burton

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ACCESS SECTION ANNUAL REPORTS PLEASE VISIT WWW.CBASASK.ORG/SECTIONS



2020-2021 BRANCH COMMITTEES



AWARDS COMMITTEE

TERRY J. KIMPINSKI, QC

The Awards Committee oversees the administration and awarding of both the Distinguished Service Award and the Community Service Award.

The 2020/2021 Award Committee members included: Terry J. Kimpinski, QC (Chair); CBA Saskatchewan Past President Loreley Chekay, QC; and CBA Saskatchewan President, Christopher S. Weitzel, QC.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes significant and exceptional contributions and/or achievements by members of the CBA Saskatchewan:

- to the legal profession in Saskatchewan or jurisprudence in Saskatchewan or Canada;
- to the law or the development of law in Saskatchewan; or
- involving a significant law-related achievement for the benefit of residents of Saskatchewan.

The Committee was proud to present the Distinguished Service Award to Michelle Ouellette, QC this year.



Congratulations!

Michelle Ouellette, Q.C. **2021 DSA AWARD RECIPIENT**

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award recognizes the valuable contributions of our members who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, public service and commitment to their respective communities throughout the Province. This Award is usually presented annually at the Branch Annual Meeting.

This year, the Awards Committee selected Jessie Buydens as the deserving recipient of the Community Service Award.



Congratulations!

Jessie Buydens
2021 CSA AWARD RECIPIENT



MID-WINTER MEETING COMMITTEE

ANNA SINGER

The CBA Saskatchewan Mid-Winter Meeting is enjoyed as a wonderful way to earn CPD credits while connecting with fellow practitioners and exhibitors from around the province. As it has with everything else, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a curveball into plans for this year's meeting, but our planning committee were undeterred and made the proverbial lemonade.

Embracing the theme "Stay Warm – Stay Informed," our planning committee successfully converted the meeting to a virtual event held over three half days on January 26, 27 and 28, 2021 in Saskatoon on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. Through an online platform, the Mid-Winter Meeting welcomed distinguished speakers from across the country with discounted registration fees. Attendance increased 35% from the previous year, and survey respondents rated the event a whopping 4.5 out of 5 stars, with very positive comments.

The meeting opened with the President's Forum, where CBA President Brad Regehr delivered a powerful presentation about the Legal Profession and Reconciliation, followed by concurrent sessions on the new family law rules, legal automation, workplace impacts of COVID-19, and tips for indemnities and releases.

Day two began with a very well received and timely keynote address from the Honourable Chief Justice Richards of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan discussing the Duty of Lawyers to Support Democracy and the Rule of Law, moderated by Michelle Ouellette, Q.C. The concurrent sessions included a discussion of gender identity and The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, as well as strategies in response to cyberattacks. The day concluded with a Q&A panel discussion on addition, harm reduction and the opioid epidemic entitled "Ending the War On Drugs."

Finally, the shortened third day began with the annual St. Thomas More College John Stack Lecture on Ethics & Civil Responsibility. This year's speakers were the Honourable William Vancise, Q.C. and Judge David Arnot who presented on the Independence of the Judiciary in Current Political Climates. The day ended with concurrent presentations on professional regulation and a discussion of Indigenous Lives Matter and Reconciliation.

A special thanks to the planning committee members: Troy Baril, Anna Beatch, Davida Bentham, Angela Giroux Reché McKeague, Tom Richards and Matthew Wiens, who stoically met for noon-hour zoom calls over several months. The generous support of our exhibitors and sponsors deserves recognition, as does the hard work of the CBA Saskatchewan Branch staff including Executive Director Monteen Dent, Administrative Coordinator Sharon Hiebert, and Jodi Snow Coordinator of Member Services. I was honoured to be a part of this unique and successful event, and I thank the CBASK for all of the guidance and assistance I received. Stay warm and stay informed!

Anna Singer MWM COMMITTEE CHAIR



RESOLUTIONS, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ROBERT THORNTON, Q.C.

There have been no Resolutions of Branch Council during this Branch year other than customary motions approving the Branch budget, Council Meeting Minutes and Council Meeting agendas.

With respect to Bylaws, an amendment to the Bylaws is to be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting to clarify the terms of office for executive members of Sections.

Future Bylaw amendments may arise from the work of the Branch Governance Review Committee ("GRC"), which was established earlier this year. The GRC is chaired by Lindsay Ferguson and includes as committee members Reché McKeague (Branch Vice-President), Kerry Simmons, Q.C. (CBABC Executive Director) as an advisor, and me.

The terms of reference of the GRC include:

- a) To review the purpose, governance powers and accountability of the Annual General Meeting of the Branch; and
- b) To review the purpose, responsibilities, governance powers, and composition of Branch Council.

To this point in its work, the GRC has completed its review of other CBA Branch governance structures, consulted with Council about potential governance changes to Council and submitted some initial recommendations to the Branch Board of Directors.

The GRCs final report is to be provided to the Branch Board of Directors before August 31, 2021.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LORELEY CHEKAY, Q.C.

Pursuant to Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch Bylaw 13(2), the following slate of candidates has been submitted to the Executive Director.

BRANCH COMMITTEES & CHAIR

Awards: Terry Kimpinski, Q.C. Education: Anna Beatch Equality: Lindsay Ferguson Judicial Compensation & Benefits: Reché McKeague Legislation & Law Reform: James Steele Public Outreach: Kathryn Gilliss Resolutions, Constitution & Bylaws: Robert Thornton, Q.C. Mid-Winter Meeting: Holli Kuski Bassett Queen's Counsel: Chris Weitzel, Q.C.

Below is a list of CBA Saskatchewan Branch Board of Directors, Elected Members of Council as well as nominations and appointments to National Standing Committees, Branch Sections and representatives on external bodies required to be nominated or appointed at this time. Please note some positions have not yet been confirmed as of the printing of this report.

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: **Reché McKeague** *Vice-President:* **Jana Linner** *Treasurer:* **Steven Dribnenki** *Past President:* **Chris Weitzel, Q.C.** *Education Director:* **Anna Beatch** *Legislation and Law Reform Director:* **James Steele** *Public Outreach Director:* **Kathryn Gilliss**

2021-2022 ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Northwest: Ryan Armstrong Northeast: Terri Karpish Regina: Anthony Thera Laura Klemmer Mobolale Depo-Fajumo Crystal Norbeck Megan Dolo Amy Groothuis Saskatoon: Mark Dolan Chris Veeman Carleen Ready Beau Atkins Emily Sutherland Jessie Buydens Southeast: Erin Bolton Southwest: Ryan Hrechka

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT COMMITTEES / EXTERNAL BODIES

BAR JUDICIAL COUNCILS: Court of Appeal: Heather Laing, Q.C., Nicholas Cann, Q.C. Court of Queen's Bench: Jeff Grubb, Q.C., Sean Sinclair Provincial Court: Donald Worme, Q.C., Suzanne Young

Lawyers Financial (CBIA): **Kaylea Dunn** Public Legal Education Association: **Alan Rankine** Aboriginal Liaison: **Stephen Mussell**

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2021-2022 BRANCH SECTION CHAIRS

ABORIGINAL LAW North: Kellie Wuttunee South: Sonia Eggerman

ADMINISTRATIVE & LABOUR LAW North: Amy Gibson South: Ashton Butler

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION: Darlene Wingerak

ARTICLING STUDENT *North:* Cheryl Geisbrecht *South:* Allison Graham

BUSINESS LAW *North:* Marinko Jelovic *South:* Nicole Hamm

CANADIAN CORPORATE COUNCIL *North:* Kezia Sonntag *South:* Charlene Greve

CIVIL LITIGATION *North:* Michael Scharfstein *South:* Jonathan Milani

CRIMINAL JUSTICE Thomas Hynes

CONSTRUCTION LAW Jodi Wildeman

ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCES LAW *North:* Carolyn Wilson *South:* Angela Stoltz

FAMILY LAW *North:* Ashala Naidu *South:* Kendra Jacobs IMMIGRATION LAW Chris Veeman

INSOLVENCY LAW Craig Frith

PRIVACY & ACCESS LAW *North:* Ashley Smith *South:* Matthew Barnes

PUBLIC SECTOR & MUNICIPAL LAW TBD

REAL PROPERTY NORTH Cameron Klein

REAL PROPERTY & WILLS SOUTH Kaylea Lax

SOGIC Barton Soroka

TAXATION LAW Adam Unick

WILLS, ESTATE & ELDER LAW Allison Katarey

WOMEN LAWYERS *North:* Lauren Scharfstein *South:* Andrea Johnson

YOUNG LAWYERS *North:* Kasya Naidu *South:* Tava Burton

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

Our Mid-Winter Meeting provides an opportunity for firms and organizations to sponsor educational sessions and for Exhibitors to highlight innovations they offer to improve the legal profession. Advertisers help ensure reduced production costs for our two publications, BarNotes and Legal Directory. Please consider directing your support to these organizations.

ADR Institute of Saskatchewan	Lawyer Done Deal Corp.
Ashmeade & Low Investigations LTD	Lawyers Financial (CBIA)
Brunsdon Lawrek & Associates	Mercedes-Benz
Chicago Title Insurance Canada	Nutrien
ChildView	PLEA
CLASSIC	Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan
College of Law, University of Saskatchewan	SGI
Divorce Mate	SaskTel
Do Process Software	St. Thomas More
Globe Printers	Stewart Title
ISC	Virtus Group LLP
Law Society of Saskatchewan Legal Resources	

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (unaudited)

AUGUST 31, 2020





INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members,

Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of **Canadian Bar Association**, **Saskatchewan Branch** that comprise the statement of financial position as at **August 31**, 2020, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioners' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Canadian Bar Association**, **Saskatchewan Branch** as at **August 31**, **2020**, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

November 20, 2020 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Virtua Group LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (unaudited) AS AT AUGUST 31, 2020 (with comparative figures for 2019)

	ASSETS		
Comment exects		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Current assets Cash Investments (Note 3) Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses		\$ 303,718 139,349 346	\$ 388,512 227,853 1,190 2,067
		443,413	619,622
Investments (Note 3) Tangible capital assets (Note 4)		 349,928 5,878	90,429 7,487
		\$ 799,219	\$ 717,538
	LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Government remittances payable Deferred revenue (Note 5)		\$ 14,074 3,353 31,430	\$ 12,443 4,009 29,874
		 48,857	46,326
	NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted Unrestricted		 312,850 437,512	312,850 358,362
		 750,362	671,212
		\$ 799,219	\$ 717,538
Commitment (Note 8) Significant event (Note 10)			

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

APPROVED BY:

_____ Director

Director



	r	nternally restricted operating reserve	Ur	nrestricted	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	\$	312,850	\$	358,362	\$ 671,212	\$ 636,744
Excess of revenue over expenses		_		79,150	79,150	34,468
Net assets, end of year	\$	312,850	\$	437,512	\$ 750,362	\$ 671,212



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (unaudited) FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2020

(with comparative figures for the year ended August 31, 2019)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenue		
Bar notes advertising	\$ 2,150	\$ 4,343
Canadian Bar Insurance Association license fees	10,365	8,847
Interest	9,826	8,160
Law day	-	4,000
Legal directory sales and advertising	57,805	61,121
Memberships and CBA rebates	228,839	222,679
Miscellaneous	1,889	-
National sponsorship	2,280	743
Online revenue sharing	4,893	11,355
Professional development	103,078	95,517
Section fees	 28,524	30,481
	 449,649	447,246
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	10,298	11,544
Amortization	1,609	3,690
Bar notes	7,750	23,369
Board of directors expense	11,646	15,488
Branch annual meeting	676	2,418
Branch committee expenses	1,386	2,264
Council	552	781
Law day	-	4,294
Legal directory	27,153	30,475
Office and general	31,280	23,058
President's dinner	-	1,066
Miscellaneous	1,199	-
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan donation	5,000	5,000
Professional development	61,054	63,601
Professional fees	19,150	8,681
Rent (Note 8)	20,793	21,710
Sections	30,654	53,328
Service recognition	3,023	4,317
Wages and benefits	 137,276	137,694
	 370,499	412,778
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 79,150	\$ 34,468

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (unaudited) FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2020

(with comparative figures for the year ended August 31, 2019)

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	79,150 \$	34,468
Items not involving cash:			
- Amortization		1,609	3,690
- Unrealized gain on investments		(5,995)	-
		74,764	38,158
Non-cash operating working capital (Note 6)		5,442	9,219
		80,206	47,377
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities:			
Additions to investments		(165,000)	(29,370)
Proceeds on disposal of investments		-	42,205
-		(165,000)	12,835
Increase (decrease) in cash		(84,794)	60,212
Cash position - beginning of year		388,512	328,300
Cash position - end of year	<u>\$</u>	303,718 \$	388,512

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



1. <u>Nature of operations</u>

The Provincial Council of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Bar Association is the governing body of the provincial organization which has the duty to carry on the work of the Branch and advance the objectives of the Canadian Bar Association at the provincial level.

The objective of the Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch (the "Organization") is to serve as an advocate for members of the legal profession.

The Organization is exempt from income tax under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act.

2. <u>Summary of significant accounting policies</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-forprofit organizations which required management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. The financial statements reflect the following policies:

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recorded on the statement of financial position when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The Organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value.

The Organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value of these financial instruments are recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. Fair value is the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged at arm's length between willing, unrelated parties in an open market.

The Organization's recognized financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

<u>Cash</u>

Cash consists of cash on hand, balances with banks and investments which mature within three months of the date of acquisition and are held for the purposes of meeting short-term cash commitments.



2. <u>Summary of significant accounting policies</u> (continued)

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets at the following rates:

Computer equipment	5 years
Computer software	3 years
Office equipment	15 years

Tangible capital assets acquired during the year are recorded at one-half the annual rate. Artwork is protected and preserved and is not amortized.

Revenue recognition

The Organization uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions whereby restricted contributions related to expenses of future periods are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenses are incurred. All other contributions are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

The Organization accounts for membership fees, program delivery, administrative activities associated with general membership, and luncheon activities of the CBA, SK Branch.

Revenue sources received in advance are deferred and recorded as revenue in the period to which they relate.

Contributed materials and services

Contribution of materials and services are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of operations only when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials are used in the normal course of operations and would otherwise have been purchased. The amount of contributed materials and services recognized in the financial statements is \$nil (2019 - \$nil).



3. Investments

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
High Interest Savings Account, interest at 1.38%	\$ -	\$ 157,297
GIC, interest at 1.75%; maturing June 2022	47,503	46,684
GIC, interest at 2.3%; maturing June 2020	-	45,556
GIC, interest at 1.9%; maturing June 2021	43,745	43,745
GIC, interest at 0.75%, maturing August 2021	65,000	-
GIC, interest at 1.12%, maturing July 2022	80,130	-
GIC, interest at 1.15%, maturing July 2023	32,103	-
GIC, interest at 1.4%, maturing July 2023	95,192	-
GIC, interest at 1.4%, maturing August 2024	95,000	-
Canadian Western Bank non-registered investment; amounts are held as collateral against Canadian Western Bank VISA. Interest at 2.41%, maturing October 2020 Canadian Western Bank non-registered investment; amounts are held	25,604	25,000
as collateral against Canadian Western Bank VISA. Interest at 1.1%, maturing October 2020	 5,000	
	489,277	318,282
Less: Current portion	 (139,349)	(227,853)
	\$ 349,928	\$ 90,429

4. <u>Tangible capital assets</u>

		2020				2019
	 Cost	cumulated ortization	1	Net Book Value	N	et Book Value
Office equipment Computer hardware	\$ 12,445 14,301	\$ 11,567 14,301	\$	878	\$	1,708 779
Computer software Artwork	2,710 5,000	2,710		- 5,000		- 5,000
Altwork	\$ 34,456	\$ 28,578	\$	5,878	\$	7,487



5. <u>Deferred revenue</u>

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Prepaid legal directory	<u>\$</u>	31,430	\$ 29,874

6. <u>Non-cash operating working capital</u>

Details of net change in each element of working capital relating to operations excluding cash are as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
(Increase) decrease in current assets:		
Accounts receivable	\$ 844 \$	2,921
Prepaid expenses	 2,067	(2,067)
	 2,911	854
Increase (decrease) in current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,631	12,443
Government remittances payable	(656)	3,715
Deferred revenue	 1,556	(7,793)
	 2,531	8,365
	\$ 5,442 \$	9,219



7. Financial risk management

The Organization has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage the principal risks assumed with financial instruments. The significant financial risks to which the Organization is exposed are:

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Organization is exposed to credit risk on the accounts receivable from its customers, however, does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Organization's exposure to interest rate risk is limited to the interest earned on investments. This risk is mitigated as the Organization's investments currently consist of fixed rate investments.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Organization's exposure to liquidity risk is dependent on the receipt of funds from its operations, external borrowings and other related sources. Funds from these sources are primarily used to finance operations and capital expenditure requirements, and are considered adequate to meet the Organization's financial obligations.

8. <u>Commitment</u>

The Organization leases equipment and premises under agreements requiring aggregate minimum payments over the next four years as follows:

2021	\$ 25,645
2022	7,757
2023	4,180
2024	3,135

Operating lease rent expense for occupied premises for the year ended August 31, 2020 amounted to \$20,793 (2019 - \$21,710).

9. <u>Comparative figures</u>

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation in the current year.



10. Significant event

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic for the COVID-19 virus. The Organization is following health advisories and mandatory requirements from local, provincial and national health and government organizations. The financial impact on the Organization is unknown, but may be significant.

