



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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*Caption: University of British Columbia Chapter  
Program Coordinators celebrate at 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event  
Photo by Macy Yap Photography*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

*Dear Friends and Supporters of PBSC,*

In 2022, Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) marked its 26th anniversary. Since its inception and at its core, PBSC is a connector of people. It is our incredible team of staff, student volunteers, pro bono lawyers/notaries, partner organizations, and law school supervisors who, together, drive PBSC's impact. Through our inaugural annual report, we are excited to showcase the innovation, ambition, and dedication of our community of staff and volunteers nationwide.

Over the past few years, faced with unprecedented changes across the non-profit sector, PBSC has pivoted programming to maintain and enhance impact. We have remained responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve through supporting local organizations to expand their capacity in delivering targeted programming to their communities.

In the 2022-2023 program year, we were heartened to observe a transition back to in-person service delivery for many long-standing projects. At the same time, innovative virtual and hybrid service delivery continued to expand opportunities for programming. Like many organizations, PBSC continues to strive towards an effectual balance between in-person and virtual service delivery that enhances accessibility, impact, and engagement of our partners.

During the program year, we also saw all Chapters return to hosting in-person events to build community and recruit and celebrate volunteers. Many notable speakers attended PBSC events across the country, including Chief Justice Richard Wagner attending the University of British Columbia Chapter's Volunteer Appreciation Event where he spoke about the importance of PBSC's work and values, and presented the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award to the Chapter's recipient.

PBSC demonstrated resilience and celebrated many successes while adjusting to transitions that arose throughout the year. Across our 22 Chapters, we trained and placed 1,385 volunteer law students who received guidance from 483 pro bono lawyer and notary supervisors. PBSC also trained and engaged 16 hired law students to lead our Family Justice Centre and Indigenous Human Rights Program under the supervision of 61 pro bono lawyers. These students collaborated with 352 organizations to run 435 projects to support more than 14,000 people facing barriers to justice. Additionally, we welcomed new members to the PBSC National team and continued to make strides in carrying out our [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#).

We are continually struck by the innovation and ambition of our network of staff and volunteers across the country. We are immensely grateful for and humbled by our community partners and supervising lawyers who, in the face of uncertainty, have remained dedicated to PBSC's work and mission.

Of course, our work would not be possible without the notable contributions of our remarkable funders. The steadfast support of our funders – particularly during a historically challenging time – has meant the world of difference to PBSC, our partners, and the communities we serve.

In reflecting on PBSC's past and imagining its future, it is evident that our mission remains as important as ever. Guided by our core values of dignity, equity, and humility, each year presents a renewed opportunity to continue building on the lessons we have learned to set new standards for service delivery and leadership in the profession. Supported by a strong foundation and a nation-wide network of partners, we are eager to take on this challenge and look forward to sharing stories of PBSC's impact with you through our annual reports for years to come.

Sincerely,



**Dana Rotenberg**  
National Director, PBSC



**Jutta Brunnée**  
Chair, PBSC Advisory Board



A blue-tinted photograph of a university courtyard. In the background, there is a large, multi-story brick building with many windows. Several large trees are scattered throughout the courtyard. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway with a circular pattern of stones. The overall scene is a typical university campus setting.

# About PRSC

# HISTORY, VISION & MISSION

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) was established in 1996 at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. At the time, it was the first and only pro bono organization in Canada. The visionary support of the Law Foundation of Ontario was instrumental in launching the organization.

PBSC was created to combine education and public interest volunteer work with the goal of ensuring that each new generation of lawyers enters the profession committed to pro bono philosophy and practice. Today, PBSC operates in virtually every law school in Canada.



## *Our Vision*

We envision a society with accessible legal systems, where the dignity and rights of every person are upheld.



## *Our Mission*

We provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice.

# OUR VALUES



## *Dignity*

We believe that every person is entitled to respect, to have their voice heard, and to fully enjoy their rights.



## *Equity*

We stand for substantive equality, inclusion, and diversity in all its forms. We focus on impact (not just good intentions).



## *Humility*

We prioritize listening, learning, and self-reflection. We value the wisdom of the communities we serve, and their lived experiences inform our work.

# OUR APPROACH

## *Collaborative.*

We engage approximately 1,500 law students annually to provide free legal information and services in partnership with nearly 400 community organizations and close to 550 supervising lawyers and notaries.

## *Visionary.*

We cultivate future leaders, advocates, and allies through training and experiential learning opportunities. PBSC has student-led Chapters at 22 law schools across Canada.

## *Responsive.*

Our Chapters respond to local needs in their communities across all areas of law. At PBSC National, we develop programs that address complex and systemic inequities.





# OUR PROGRAMMING

## *Student-Led Chapters*

PBSC National trains and supports the student leaders (Program Coordinators) of our 22 Chapters to recruit, train, and support their peers to engage in impactful volunteer placements with local community organizations under the supervision of pro bono lawyers or notaries.

## *National Office-Led Programs*

PBSC National develops and runs programs that address complex and systemic inequities. During the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC oversaw the operations of two initiatives that were both launched by PBSC National in 2020: the [Family Justice Centre](#) and the [Indigenous Human Rights Program](#).



*Justice is not just about arguing in the Supreme Court – a lot of it is [...] helping people who really need it. PBSC showed me where the rubber meets the road; every student should learn what I learned.*

*Benjamin, Law Student Volunteer*

A blue-tinted photograph of a group of people in a meeting, with the text "Who We Are" overlaid in white cursive. The background shows several individuals seated around a table, engaged in discussion. The text is centered and written in a white, handwritten-style font.

Who We Are

# ADVISORY BOARD



Jutta Brunnée  
**Chair**



Monique Auffrey  
**Member**



Chloé Beudet-Centomo  
**Member**



Mary Condon  
**Member**



Eleonora Dimitrova  
**Member**



Richard Jochelson  
**Member**



Robert Leckey  
**Member**



Tasha Lorenzen-Ewing  
**Member**



Ngai Pindell  
**Member**

# PBSC NATIONAL'S TEAM



Dana Rotenberg  
***National Director***



Jason Goodman  
***Director, Family Justice***



Carolina Cuevas  
***Program Manager***



Xi Wang  
***Program Administrator***



Charlée Tolliver  
***Program Officer***



Amy Tang  
***Bilingual Program Officer***



Ruth Hobbis  
***Communications  
& Projects Coordinator***

A woman with long, dark, curly hair is shown in profile, looking down at a book she is holding with both hands. She is wearing a light-colored, vertically striped shirt. The background is a library with rows of bookshelves filled with books. The entire image has a blue color overlay. The text "Strategic Plan" is written in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

# Strategic Plan

# STRATEGIC PLAN

In consultation with PBSC's Advisory Board, network, and partners, PBSC launched its first [Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) in 2021. The Strategic Plan is a roadmap that continues to guide our evolution in the changing access to justice space. The Strategic Plan identifies three strategic directions to be implemented over a five-year period (2021-2026).

## Enhance Impact

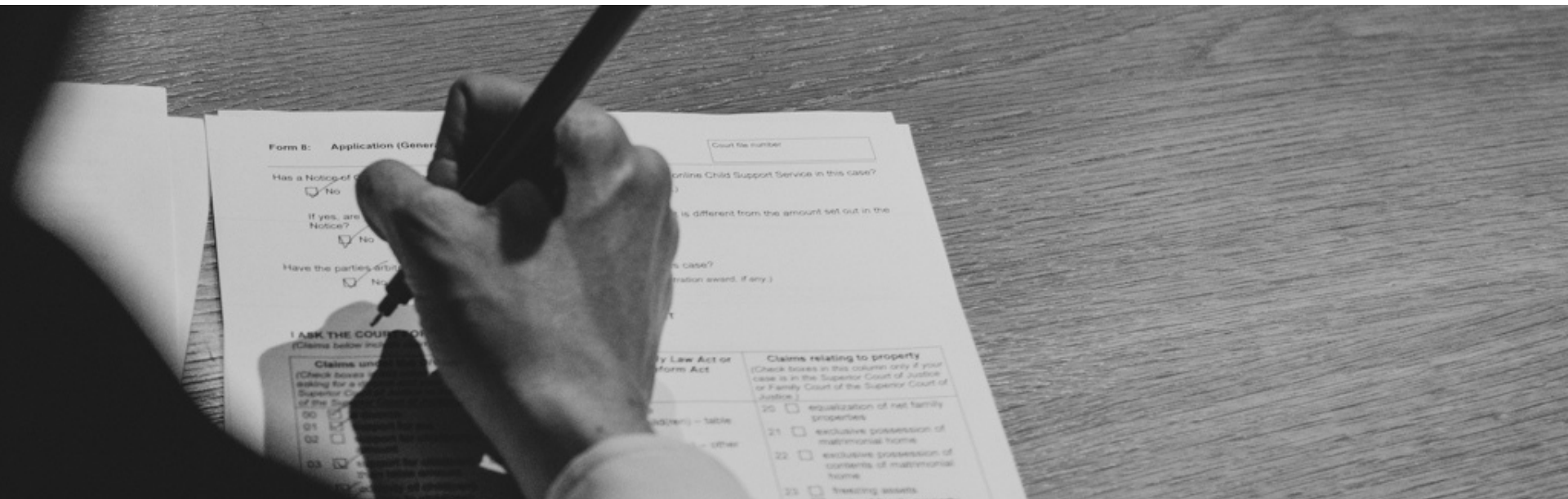
- Review and refine our internal structures and policies to strengthen organizational capacity
- Develop new ways of assessing and prioritizing projects to strengthen our focus
- Expand the use of technology to increase the accessibility and reach of our services

## Strengthen Values Based Leadership

- Integrate an equity and anti-racism framework to foster diversity and inclusion at every level of the organization
- Expand training and mentorship opportunities to promote our core values

## Broaden Resources

- Diversify our funding to build long-term stability and capacity
- Amplify our brand across Canada to increase awareness and engagement



# 2022-2023 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

## *Enhance Impact*

- ✓ Created and refined project development processes with a focus on quality over quantity
- ✓ Improved impact measurement surveying amongst program partners

## *Strengthen Values Based Leadership*

- ✓ Increased capacity of PBSC's national community to challenge systemic inequities through expanded summer learning opportunities
- ✓ Prioritized program development that is sensitive and responsive to the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples and equity-seeking groups

## *Broaden Resources*

- ✓ Celebrated partnership renewals of National, Chapter, and Program Funders and welcomed new funders
- ✓ Supported Chapters to strengthen PBSC's brand within law schools and local communities

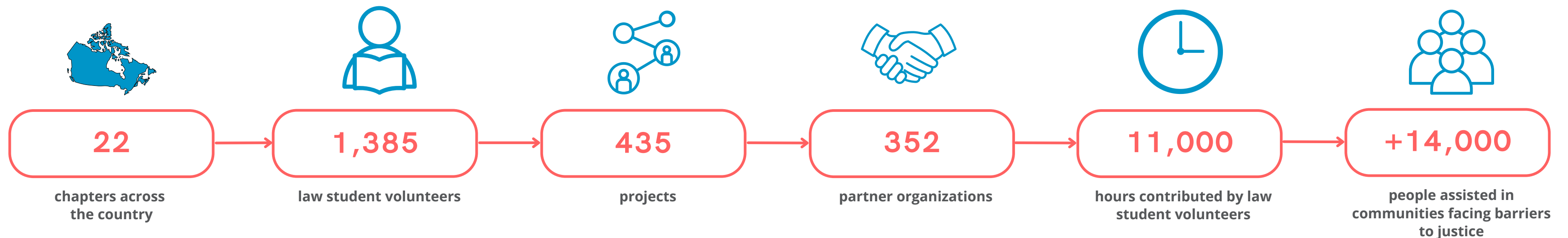


A photograph of a woman with long hair, smiling and looking towards the right. She is in an audience of people seated in rows of chairs. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Impact" is written in a white, handwritten-style font across the center of the image, partially overlapping the woman's face and the background.

Impact

# PBSC BY THE NUMBERS

During the 2022-2023 program year, across our **22 Chapters**, PBSC placed **1,385 volunteer law students** and **16 paid law students\*** on **435 diverse projects** to provide free legal services in partnership with **352 partner organizations**. Students worked with **540 pro bono lawyer supervisors** and **four notaries (Quebec)** to deliver services in virtually all areas of law. PBSC law student volunteers contributed approximately **111,000 hours** and our students supported **more than 14,000 people** facing barriers to justice. Our main tool for measuring impact is our Impact Survey sent to all PBSC volunteers, partner organizations, and lawyer and notary supervisors.



\* 16 law students were employed to lead the Indigenous Human Rights Program and Family Justice Centre.

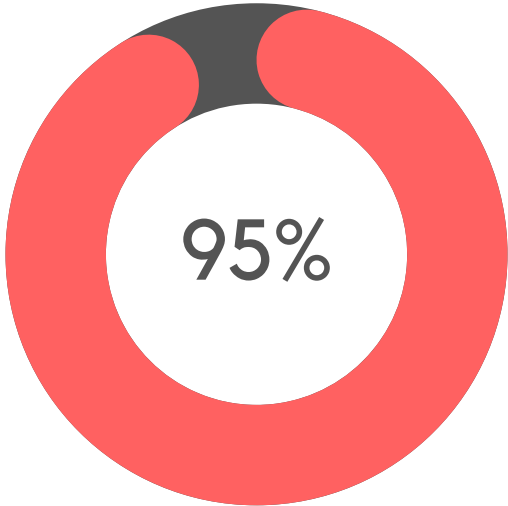
# IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS

Based on the responses to our Impact Survey, we are proud to report that during the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC Chapter Programming partners:

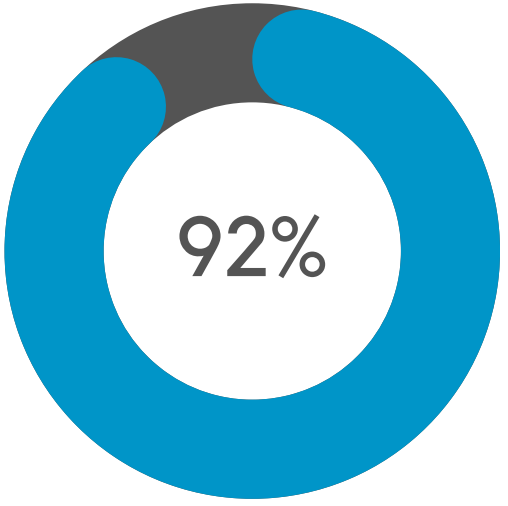
**ASSISTED APPROXIMATELY  
7,248 CLIENTS**

**PRODUCED AN ESTIMATED  
1,633 BLOGS, PODCASTS,  
RESEARCH MEMOS,  
NEWSLETTERS, ETC.**

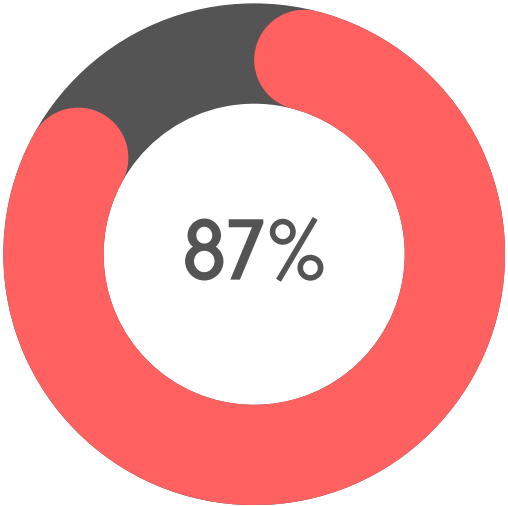
**DELIVERED APPROXIMATELY  
340 PUBLIC LEGAL  
EDUCATION SESSIONS**



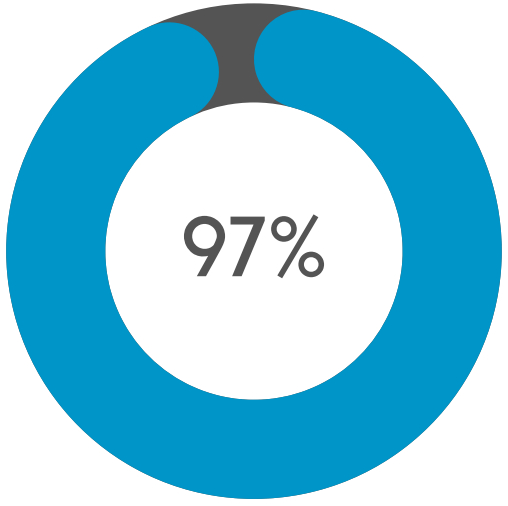
of partner organizations were satisfied with the student volunteers' work



of student volunteers indicated that their PBSC placement enriched their legal education



of lawyer and notary supervisors indicated they would supervise a PBSC student volunteer again



of student volunteers indicated that they would recommend PBSC to other law students

"My Pro Bono Students Canada placement at Project Genesis has been one of the most meaningful experiences of law school so far! I received exceptional guidance and supervision from a multidisciplinary team. My eyes were opened to the many different career paths that can be built from a law degree."

*Elise, Law Student Volunteer*

"We are so grateful to get to partner with the committed and invested PBSC students that are part of our Trans ID Clinics year after year. Not only are they an essential part of the program, but it is so encouraging to see them leading the way in what it means to provide safe, inclusive and affirming legal support and services."

*Parker, Trans ID Clinic Coordinator*

"I cannot express my thanks enough. I was able to get an appointment within a few days. Prior to the appointment, I was sent a very helpful guide that was relevant to the documents I was having trouble with. Meeting with [the law student volunteer] was amazing. She was kind and professional and answered all of my questions. I left the zoom meet feeling confident that I could fill out my documents correctly. I really appreciate the help I was given and encourage anyone to reach out to these incredible students when in need of assistance. Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy lives to help others. You are making a difference!"

*Client, University of Windsor  
ID Clinic*

"The presentation on Indigenous law was fantastic! The [PBSC volunteers] tailored the material to the group extremely well, and kept the presentation flowing, with good pacing. They engaged the students and encouraged them to think at a truly high level."

*PLE Session Attendee*

"The people I worked with helped me so much and made me feel safe, they weren't judgmental nor did they make awkward comments. They kept a professional and respectful environment. Above and beyond my expectations, I would definitely recommend them for help with gender related issues."

*Client, Friends of Ruby Trans ID Clinic*

"My work as a pro bono student with the Association for the Rights of Household and Farm Workers has been one of the most meaningful experiences I've had so far in law school. Through this experience, I gained practical legal research skills and learned about the process of strategic litigation. I also gained a better insight into the systemic exploitation of migrant workers in Canada and the ways in which our current legislative framework creates precarity in housing and work and denies them access to justice. I am passionate about workers' rights and housing rights and I greatly value the opportunity to be of service to some of the most marginalized workers in Canada."

*Rebecca, Law Student Volunteer*

A group of people, including men and women, are seated in rows, looking towards the left. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Training" is written in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

# Training

# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

## When?

Held virtually from May 11-13, 2022.

## What?

Inspiring, informative, and engaging sessions to prepare PBSC students for their roles. Content was carefully curated to provide an informative and interactive learning experience in a virtual format. Each session was offered bilingually, either through concurrent presentations in French and English or through live, synchronous interpretation.

## Who?

Attendees included incoming Chapter Program Coordinators, Family Justice Centre Student Caseworkers and Indigenous Human Rights Program Students. Speakers included The Honourable Mahmud Jamal, Dr. Cindy Blackstock, anti-oppression educator May Lui, and representatives from each of our National Funders.



**The Honourable Mahmud Jamal**

Welcoming Remarks



**Dr. Cindy Blackstock**

Keynote Speaker



**May Lui**

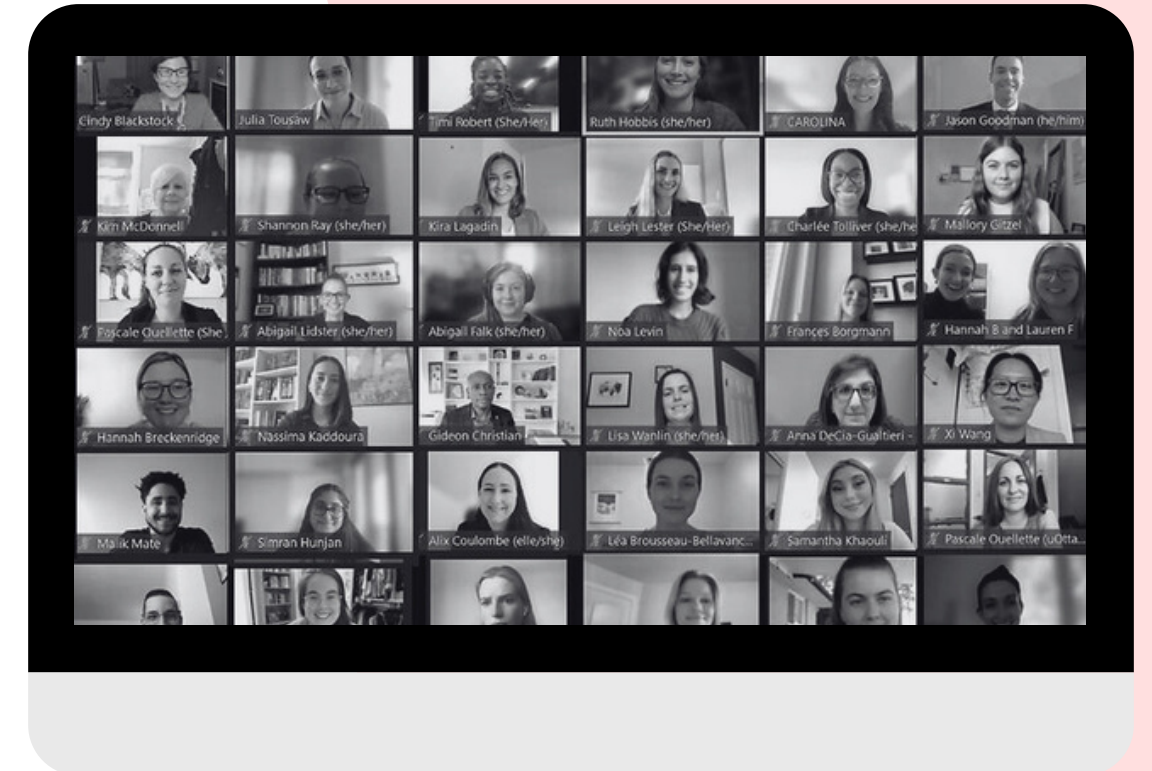
Anti-Oppression Educator

# SUMMER LEARNING

In addition to the three-day National Leadership Conference, PBSC offered continued summer learning opportunities through six capacity-building training sessions held throughout the summer, including:

- **Indigenous Worldviews & Cultural Humility** facilitated by Elder Constance Simmonds, Cree Métis Knowledge Keeper (Treaty 6, northern Saskatchewan) and Elder-in-Residence, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- **Authentic Allyship** facilitated by Sheliza Jamal, Executive Director, Founder, and Lead Facilitator, Curated Leadership
- **Formation portant sur le langage inclusif** facilitated by Michael Lessard, lawyer, and Suzanne Zaccour, Feminist Author, Researcher, and Public Speaker
- **Gender Expression and Identity**, facilitated by Danielle Araya, The 519
- **Trauma-Informed Lawyering** facilitated by Yukimi Henry, Director, Student Support & Inclusive Learning at George Brown College
- **Legal Practice, Self Care and Stress Management** facilitated by Yukimi Henry, Director, Student Support & Inclusive Learning at George Brown College

Attendees included Program Coordinators, Family Justice Centre Student Caseworkers, and Indigenous Human Rights Program students. To advance PBSC's strategic priority of offering training to a wider audience, for the first time ever, we expanded invitations for our summer training events to recent PBSC volunteers nationwide.



## What's next?

Based on the success of this expanded programming, in the 2023-2024 program year, we launched the Summer Learning Institute, featuring additional sessions and an expanded audience. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting initiative in next year's Annual Report.



A group of five diverse students (three women and two men) are smiling and standing in a hallway. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. The text "Student-led Access to Justice Projects" is written in a white, handwritten-style font across the center of the image.

Student-led Access  
to Justice Projects

# OUR CHAPTERS

Thank you to our 2022-2023 Program Coordinators, On-site supervisors, law student volunteers, and lawyer and notary supervisors.

We are grateful to our Chapter funders, and our 22 law school partners across Canada, for championing PBSC's work and impact.

## Law School Partners

- University of Victoria
- University of British Columbia
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of Calgary
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Manitoba
- Lakehead University
- University of Windsor
- Western University
- University of Toronto
- Osgoode Hall Law School
- Lincoln Alexander School of Law
- Queen's University
- University of Ottawa (Common Law)
- Université d'Ottawa (droit civil)
- Université Laval
- Université de Montréal
- McGill University
- Université de Québec à Montréal
- Université de Sherbrooke
- University of New Brunswick
- Université de Moncton

## Chapter Funders

Alberta Law Foundation  
Barreau du Québec  
Chambre des notaires du Québec  
Law Foundation of British Columbia  
Law Foundation of Saskatchewan  
Manitoba Law Foundation  
New Brunswick Law Foundation





# Project Highlight

## University of New Brunswick Chapter

## EXPANDING THE IMPRINT TRANS ID CLINIC

Individuals seeking to update their name and gender markers on legal documents face a frustratingly complex process. This frustration is amplified by feelings of vulnerability: disclosure of one's trans status increases the risk of discrimination and violence.

To address this issue, the **Imprint Trans ID Clinic** run in partnership with **Imprint Youth Association** provides free legal information, form-filling services, and referrals in a trans-positive and inclusive space. Law student volunteers from PBSC's University of New Brunswick Chapter assist clients with their legal transition by explaining all necessary steps in accordance with provincial laws and regulations. Lawyer supervisors assist clients with complicating factors and provide guidance to student volunteers.

When the pandemic drove the Clinic online, an opportunity for expansion presented itself. Previously held in-person in Fredericton, New Brunswick, the Clinic was able to extend services virtually to other Atlantic provinces, including Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia. This impactful expansion was made possible through a partnership with McInnes Cooper, who generously provides supervising lawyers. In the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC law student volunteers supported 4 clinics and assisted 40 clients. This sizeable expansion increases access to the Clinic, where clients can find comfort in a smooth and supported legal transition.

### What's next?

Next year, PBSC's University of New Brunswick Chapter and Université du Moncton Chapter are partnering to expand the program to New Brunswick's Francophone community.

# Project Highlight

## Université Laval Chapter

### HOPE FOR SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

In the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC's Université Laval Chapter developed a new project with **Maison Painchaud**, a Community Residential Centre located in Quebec City. The organization's mission is to provide housing, counselling, and support to adults involved in the criminal justice system with the aim of promoting social integration.

The law student volunteer matched with this project developed a legal information guide for Maison Painchaud's clients and their families. The guide addresses several topics, including arrest and pre-sentence process, types of sentences, roles of various actors in the justice system, and the rights of persons involved in the justice system. With this guide, Maison Painchaud's clients have access to crucial information that can empower them to understand the criminal justice system and to exercise their rights within it.



*2022 Launch Event, Université Laval Chapter*

"Volunteering with PBSC was an invaluable experience and one of the highlights of my first year. I was able to volunteer with an organization that makes a real positive impact in the community while gaining valuable skills in legal research and translating legal concepts into plain language."

*Alexa, Law Student Volunteer*

"These past months have been an incredible learning experience, and an absolute privilege to directly play a part in connecting our clients to volunteer lawyers and community resources. [...] I was able to work with our clients to create a supportive space to identify legal issues, and provide them with the resources they require to obtain the legal help they need. As I embark toward my career in law, this opportunity has opened my eyes to the impact of pro bono work, and a lifelong commitment to improving access to justice."

*Emily, Law Student Volunteer*

"Volunteering with PBSC has been a highlight of my law school education. In my first year, I was assigned to a project helping unhoused and low-income people obtain government ID. I have been committed to that project for three years. Through PBSC, I have been able to form meaningful connections with the community where I live and make a positive, tangible impact on people's lives. For many people, not having government ID is an almost insurmountable barrier to employment and social assistance. Helping clients overcome that barrier has been extremely rewarding. Volunteering on this project has also helped me develop the client-centered skills that are invaluable for a career in law."

*Matthew, Law Student Volunteer*



# Project Highlight

## Lakehead University Chapter

## SUPPORTING RESILIENCE AND CULTIVATING A WAY FORWARD

Indigenous women are a resilient, influential, and integral part of our society. Intersectionality teaches us that people experience the world differently based on their unique identities. For Indigenous women, this experience is often informed by race and gender.

In the 2022-2023 program year, student volunteers at PBSC's Lakehead University Chapter worked with the **Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)** to meaningfully support Indigenous women in the Thunder Bay community and beyond.

This project focused on supporting Indigenous women who have been charged with criminal offences and was comprised of two significant parts.

- A student volunteer met with clients and assisted the lawyer supervisor in drafting Gladue letters, a pre-sentencing document which highlights the client's background and includes recommendations for access to culturally relevant and appropriate alternatives to incarceration.
- A student volunteer developed resources to support Indigenous people in navigating the legal system through a cultural lens.

Both parts of this project emphasized allyship and empowerment to support Indigenous women in overcoming barriers to justice as the legal system continues to work towards reconciliation.

# Project Highlight

## University of Saskatchewan Chapter

### WELCOMING NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

Newcomers to Canada who are applying for citizenship or refugee status face systemic barriers, which compound the challenges associated with navigating a complex system of laws and policies. Barriers faced often include language, race, socioeconomic status, and gender. The legal needs of newcomers are unique to each individual and their own lived experience.

In the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC's University of Saskatchewan Chapter developed a new project with **Global Gathering Place**, which aimed to mitigate barriers for newcomers in navigating Canada's immigration system. Through a weekly Immigration Law Clinic, four law student volunteers and a supervising lawyer met with newcomer clients to assist them in pursuing their claims through the preparation of Citizenship, Spousal Sponsorship, and Permanent Residence applications.

This project addressed a long-standing gap in legal services in Saskatchewan by providing enhanced direct assistance to newcomers to help them integrate into their new country and reunite with loved ones.

*Did you know?*

**In the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC's University of Saskatchewan Chapter engaged 80 law student volunteers to work on 22 projects.**

# Project Highlight

## University of British Columbia Chapter

### SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Violence against women is a systemic, human rights issue that affects more than 20,000 women in British Columbia every year. To help overcome all forms of gender violence, the PBSC University of British Columbia Chapter partners with **Atira Women's Resource Society**, an organization in Vancouver's downtown dedicated to offering housing, education, and support to women and children affected by violence.

In the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC law student volunteers supported Atira's Legal Advocacy Program by attending the organization's legal clinic every week where they conducted client intake interviews, and provided referrals to individuals facing a variety of legal issues.

This longstanding project aims to empower women and provides invaluable support to vulnerable families affected by violence in the city of Vancouver.



**2022 Launch Event, Thompson Rivers University Chapter**  
**Photo by Dilprit Suri**



# CHIEF JUSTICE RICHARD WAGNER AWARDS

Established in 2019, the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Awards honour outstanding PBSC student volunteers across Canada who embody our core values of dignity, equity, and humility.

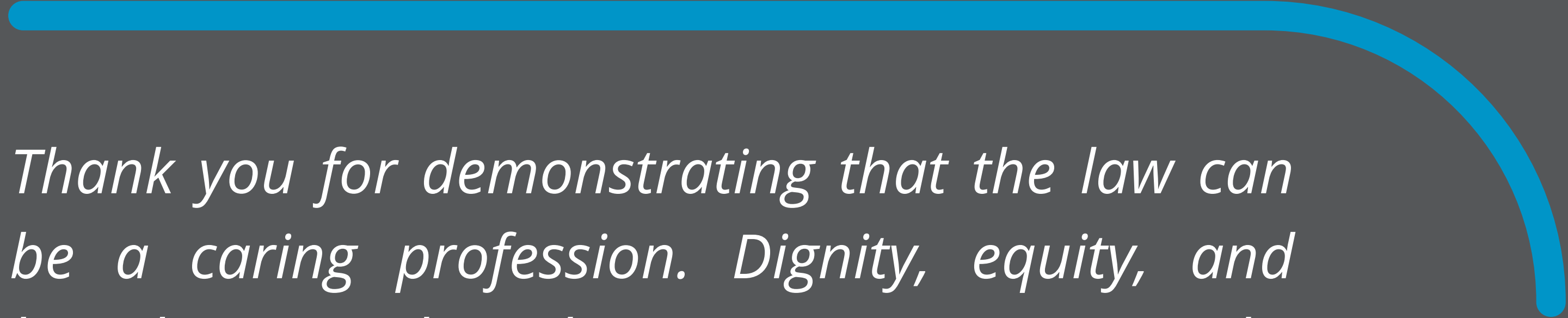

The 2023 awards, sponsored by our National Law Firm Partner, McCarthy Tétrault, were presented to a recipient at each Chapter at events and celebrations held across the country in March and April.

We were honoured to have Chief Justice Richard Wagner attend our University of British Columbia Chapter's Volunteer Appreciation Event and award ceremony on March 24, where he delivered inspiring remarks and presented the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award to the Chapter's 2023 recipient.

Congratulations to the recipients of our [fourth annual Chief Justice Richard Wagner Awards!](#)



*Caption: The Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada, presents CJRW Award to 2023 UBC Chapter recipient, Anica Villamayor  
Photo by Macy Yap Photography*



*Thank you for demonstrating that the law can be a caring profession. Dignity, equity, and humility are values that I encourage you to take with you when you leave university. Nurture them. Practice them. Share them with others.*

*The Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada*

(speaking at the University of British Columbia Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Event)





*Caption: Chief Justice Richard Wagner attends  
University of British Columbia Chapter's Volunteer Appreciation Event  
Photo by Macy Yap Photography*

# National Office-led Programs

# FAMILY JUSTICE CENTRE

PBSC's [Family Justice Centre \(FJC\)](#) is a first-of-its-kind initiative that brings together students from every law school in Ontario and volunteer lawyers to offer free family law services to low-income, self-represented litigants. Since its clinics opened in early 2021, the FJC has provided a diverse array of services, including summary advice, legal coaching, and assistance with drafting court documents, which are focused on supporting individuals who do not qualify for legal aid but cannot afford the market rate for a family lawyer. The FJC also creates public legal education resources to support self-represented litigants in navigating the family justice system. Virtual delivery of these services and resources connects lawyers, students, and clients from across the province and supports access to justice for historically underserved communities in Northern and rural Ontario.



# WHAT OUR FJC CLIENTS, STUDENTS & LAWYERS HAVE TO SAY

"I would highly recommend [the] FJC. I am dealing with an incredible amount of stress and ... the team at [the] FJC was able to communicate with me in a professional and empathetic manner. For the first time in over a year I have been given hope. I am truly grateful."

*Client*

"The FJC provides a vital service to people who often have no choice but to represent themselves. Navigating family law can be complex and emotional, and the services provided by the FJC help clients understand their rights, responsibilities, and options. With guidance from the FJC, clients can feel empowered to make informed decisions about their family law matters."

*Lawyer Supervisor*

"My experiences with clients at FJC have solidified for me the important role that pro bono work and furthering access to justice should have in my future career. Learning as a Student Caseworker has fostered my passion for working in family law and provided me with the tools necessary to start my legal career with confidence. My involvement in FJC allowed me access to unparalleled hands-on family law experience which taught me the drafting skills that have benefited me daily as I now work at a Toronto family law firm for 2L summer. I cannot recommend the FJC enough for a student interested in family law. It is a great opportunity to learn in a supportive environment while at the same time making a real difference in the lives of clients."

*Student Caseworker*

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE FJC?

## *Looking ahead...*

The FJC has plans to strategically expand its service delivery through the creation of new student volunteer roles, continued outreach to clients with a focus on rural communities, new partnerships with colleagues in the access to family justice community, and piloting in-person services.

## *Thank you.*

PBSC would like to acknowledge that the FJC's work during the 2022-2023 program year was made possible by the generous funding of its Founding Partner, Epstein Cole LLP, Champion Partner, Shulman & Partners LLP, and Program Partner, Legal Aid Ontario, as well as the support of Friends of the FJC, Thomson Rogers, Boulby Weinberg LLP, and Settify, and In-Kind Partners, DivorceMate and Clio.

We also want to thank our dedicated roster of volunteer lawyers from across the province who offer their time and expertise in service of the FJC's clients and mentorship of our student caseworkers.

# INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The [Indigenous Human Rights Program](#) is a partnership between PBSC and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) designed to combat anti-Indigenous discrimination by working with Friendship Centres to build knowledge about human rights among urban Indigenous communities, and to empower individuals to make decisions about their rights. The program pursues this mission through two main pillars of work.

- 1 Public legal education initiatives designed to build knowledge and capacity for discussion about human rights within urban Indigenous communities
- 2 Human rights clinics located within Friendship Centres that provide free summary legal advice about discrimination and potential human rights claims of Indigenous-identifying people





# INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The Indigenous Human Rights Program's first pilot clinic was launched at the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in Ottawa in January 2021 and its second pilot clinic was launched at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre in May 2022. In parallel, the program launched several public legal education initiatives, including the Indigenous Human Rights Podcast and projects with the Human Rights Legal Support Centre and Ontario Human Rights Commission to develop informational resources on human rights for Indigenous communities.

During the 2022-2023 program year, PBSC and the OFIFC temporarily paused the summary legal advice services offered by the Indigenous Human Rights Program in response to several staffing and operational changes. Following this decision, PBSC worked closely with the OFIFC to develop a plan for a sustainable relaunch of clinical services that accounted for our learnings from the program's pilot stage, while using the opportunity to focus on expanding the program's public legal education work. PBSC engaged 13 students from three of its participating law schools (the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law - Common Law, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law) to work on these initiatives, which included the development and presentation of a new public legal education session on human rights, run with our participating Friendship Centres; continued development and production of the Indigenous Human Rights Podcast; and working in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission on the development of informational resources regarding discrimination of Indigenous peoples in the retail setting.

## *What's next?*

PBSC is pleased to share that through its close collaboration with the OFIFC, and their receipt of precedent-setting funding for this important initiative, the Indigenous Human Rights Program will be relaunching its clinical services in the 2023-2024 program year.

PBSC is grateful to all of the students, volunteer lawyers, partners, and Advisory Council members that have participated in, supported, and guided this program since its inception and in particular over the past transitional year, which has laid the foundation for its continued growth and impact.

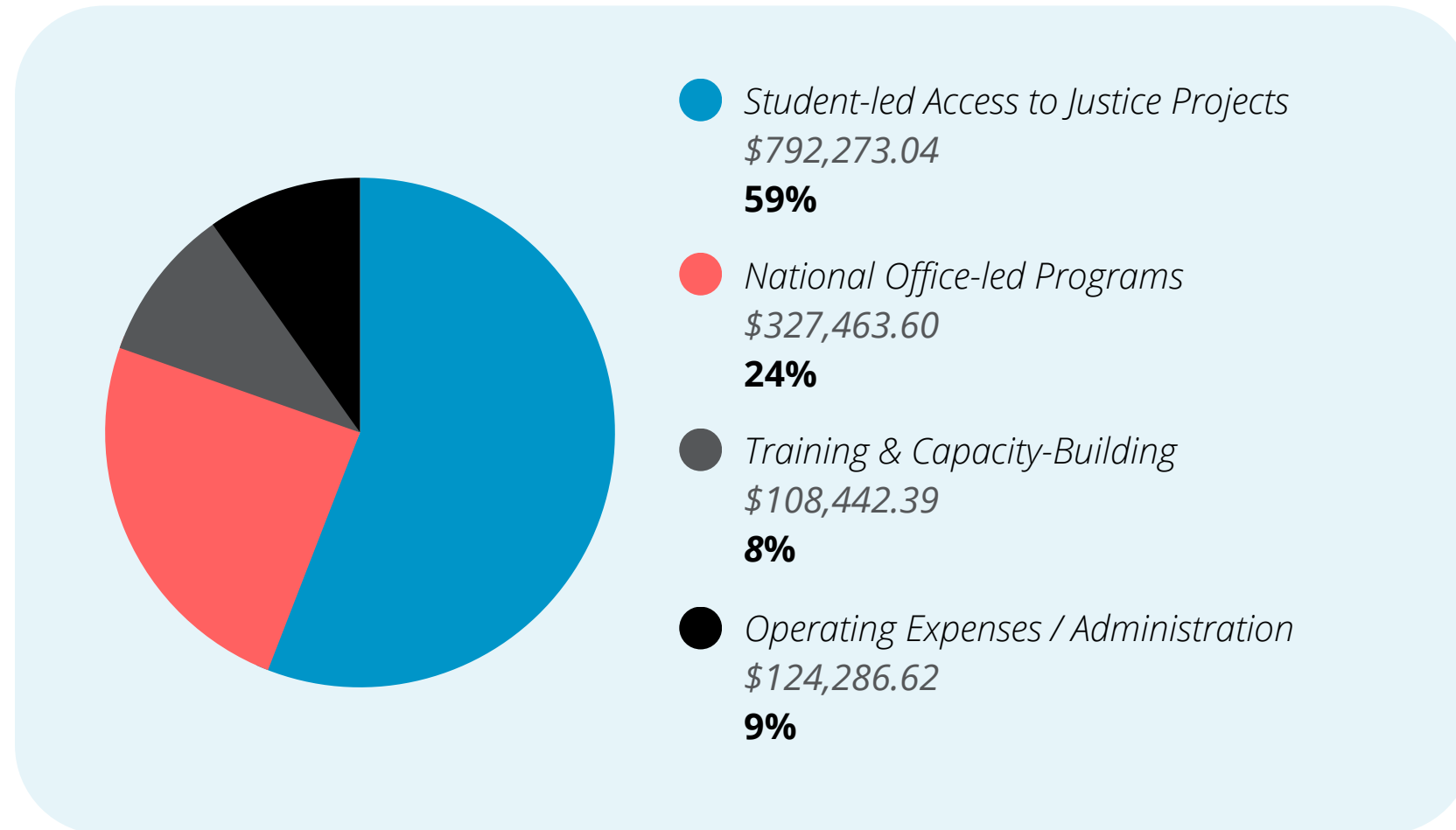


# Financial Summary

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Expenses

This summary reflects expenses incurred from May 2022 and April 2023.



The financial information presented above has been compiled by PBSC's National Office and includes expenses administered by PBSC's National Office and expenses reported by PBSC Chapters.

### Student-led Access to Justice Projects

With the support of PBSC's National Office, PBSC's 22 law school Chapters respond to barriers to justice in their local communities. In 2022-2023, under the leadership of 40 student staff from coast to coast, PBSC Chapters ran 433 diverse projects in partnership with 340 community organizations through the engagement of 1,374 law student volunteers and 483 pro bono lawyer and notary supervisors.

### National Office-led Programs

PBSC National Office develops and runs novel projects that address complex and systemic inequities. In 2022-2023, PBSC operated the Indigenous Human Rights Program and the Family Justice Centre, engaging 16 hired students (including 10 full-time summer roles) to serve clients and create/deliver public legal education resources. These programs are primarily funded through dedicated program funding.

### Training & Capacity-Building

PBSC National Office curates learning opportunities with the goal of increasing the capacity of the legal profession to challenge systemic inequities. During the 2022-2023 year, PBSC hosted our annual National Leadership Conference and offered summer learning opportunities that included sessions on anti-oppression, Indigenous worldviews and cultural humility, inclusive gender language, trauma-informed lawyering, and others.

### Operating Expenses / Administration

PBSC's National Office provides training, guidance, and oversight to facilitate programming across the Country, which entails administrative support, technology, membership to professional groups, office expenses and occupancy, marketing, and other related expenses.

# Partners & Funders

#probono

pro bono  
students canada

pro bono  
students canada

THOMSON REUTERS

# OUR PROJECT PARTNERS

## A

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada  
Access Pro Bono  
Access to Justice BC  
Association coopérative d'économie familiale Rive-Sud de Québec (ACEF)  
ACORN Canada  
Action Autonomie  
Action travail des femmes  
Action-chômage Côte-Nord  
Afghan Women's Organization (AWO)  
Association des familles de personnes assassinées ou disparues (AFPAD)  
Afrique au féminin  
AIDS Committee of Ottawa  
All Saints  
ALPHA Education  
Amethyst  
AMI.ca  
Amici Curiae  
Animal Justice  
Anova  
Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)  
Artemis Place  
Avocats sans frontières (ASF)  
ASK Wellness  
Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick (AAPNB)  
Association de l'Ouïe de l'Outaouais  
Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta  
Association des parents francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFPNB)  
Association for Media Literacy (AML)  
Association pour la défense des droits du personnel domestique (RHFWD)  
Association des locataires de Villera  
Atira Women's Resource Society  
ATLAS  
Atlohsa  
🏠  
Barbra Schlifer Commemorate Clinic (BSCC)  
Battered Women's Support Services  
Battista Smith Migration Law Group  
BC Civil Liberties Association  
BC First Nations Justice Council  
BC Society of Transition Houses  
Bella Coola Legal Advocacy Program  
Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC)  
Black Youth Helpline  
Brique par brique  
Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network)  
CAFGRAP  
Centre d'accueil et d'accompagnement francophone des immigrants (CAFI)

CALACS de Granby  
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society  
Calgary Legal Guidance  
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS)  
Canadian Bar Association (CBA)  
Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment  
Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (CCTEHT)  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)  
Canadian Criminal Justice Association  
Canadian Health Coalition  
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)  
Canadian On Paper Society for Immigrant Physicians Equity (COPSIPE)  
Canadian Red Cross  
CAN-AM Friendship Centre  
CARI St-Laurent  
Carrefour aliénation parentale (CAP)  
Carrefour jeunesse-emploi de Sherbrooke  
CBA Alberta  
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society  
Centre Boreal  
Centre communautaire Bon Courage  
Centre communautaire LGBTQ+ de Montréal  
Centre d'Amitié Autochtone de Val-D'Or (CAAVD)  
Centre de justice de proximité de l'Outaouais (CJPO)  
Centre de justice de proximité du Grand Montréal  
Centre de lutte contre l'oppression des genres  
Centre de recherche-action sur les relations raciales (CRARR)  
Centre de règlement des différends sportifs du Canada  
Centre d'information juridique de l'Ontario  
Centre Elizabeth Fry de l'Outaouais  
Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)  
Centre pour femmes immigrantes  
Centre-Femmes de Beauce  
CFBX - FM  
Citizens With Disabilities Ontario (CWDO)  
CJAM Radio  
CJSW 90.9 FM  
CLASSIC  
Clinique de droit notarial de l'Outaouais (CNO)  
Clinique de Réfugiés du Nouveau-Brunswick (CRNB)  
Clinique interdisciplinaire en droit social de l'Outaouais (CIDSO)  
Clinique juridique du Grand Montréal  
Clinique juridique du Grande Montréal  
Clinique juridique Saint-Michel  
Cliquez Justice  
COCQ-SIDA  
Comité juridique contre les violences à caractère sexuelles  
Comité Logement Ahuntsic  
Communauté autochtone de Sherbrooke

Communauté autochtone Opitciwan  
Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP)  
Community Clinic of York Region  
Community Legal Assistance Society  
Community Legal Education Association  
Community Legal Services  
Community Living London  
Community Social Planning Council  
Community Unemployed Help Centre  
Connective  
Conseil régional de l'environnement de Laval  
Contact-Ainés  
Cooper Institute  
Creative Manitoba  
🏠  
Dans la rue  
Disability Alliance of BC  
Don Valley Community Legal Services (DVCLS)  
Downtown Mission  
DUKE Heights BIA  
E  
East Coast Environmental Law  
Égalité Santé en Français  
EL2ES Inc.  
Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic  
Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba  
Elizabeth Fry Society of New Brunswick  
Environment North  
Environmental Law Club  
EPICentre  
Esquimalt Community Arts Hub  
F  
FAIR Canada  
Family Transition Place  
FCJ Refugee Centre  
Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers ON  
Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers BC  
Federation of Metro Tenants' Association  
Femmes du monde  
Fondation du Dr. Julien  
For better  
Foyer du Monde  
Friends of Ruby  
🏠  
Garage à musique  
Global Gathering Place  
Grands frères grandes soeurs de l'Estrie  
Gris Estrie  
Gris-Québec

## H

Halton Community Legal Services  
HanVoice Human Rights Lab Project  
Harmony In Action  
Harvest House Atlantic  
Head and Hands  
Health Justice  
HIV Legal Network  
Humane Canada  
Huron Perth Legal Clinic

## I

Inclusion Canada  
Indigenous Law Research Unit  
Indigenous Perspectives Society  
Indus Community Services  
Inform'elle  
Inter-Val 1175  
Island Sexual Health

## J

Jessyca Greenwood  
Jeune Barreau de Montréal  
John Howard Society  
John Howard Society of Saskatchewan  
John Howard Society of Southeastern - Community Hub  
Journal Le Collectif  
Juripop  
Juristes à domicile  
Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY)  
Justice for Girls  
Justice Pro Bono  
JusticeTrans

## K

Ka Ni Kanichihk  
Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society  
Kamloops Pride  
Kamloops Society for Community Inclusion  
Kehkimin Wolastoqey langage immersion school  
Kensington Bellwood Community Legal Services (KBCLS)  
Kerby Centre  
Kinbrace  
Kind Space  
Kingston Chamber of Commerce  
Kingston Youth Shelter  
Kinna-awaya Legal Clinic  
Korean Legal Clinic (KLC)

## L

l'A-Droit  
Lakehead Community Legal Clinic  
Law and Mental Health Disorder Association (LAMDA)  
Law Society of Manitoba  
Law Society of Ontario (LSO)  
Law Students' Society of Ontario (LSSO)  
Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston (LDAK)  
LeBlanc Law  
Legal Aid Alberta  
Legal Aid BC  
Legal Aid Manitoba  
Legal Line  
Legal Listening Series  
L'En-Droit de Laval  
LEVEL  
Level Justice  
Life\*Spin  
Lookout Society  
Luke's Place

## M

Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre  
Mahdi Weinstock  
Maison Oxygène Outaouais  
Maison Painchaud  
Maison Richelieu Hébergement Jeunesse  
Maison Unies-Vers-Femmes (MUVF)  
Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties  
Manitoba Eco-Network  
Manitoba Harm Reduction Network  
Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council  
Manitoba Law Reform Commission  
Martha's Table  
Matthew House  
McGill Food and Agriculture Law Clinic  
McCarthy Tétrault  
Mérule pleureuse Québec  
Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children (METRAC)  
MIELS-Québec  
Migrant Workers Centre  
Miller Thomson LLP  
Millhaven Lidars Liason Group  
Mining Watch Canada  
Mission communautaire de Mtl  
MS Society  
N  
N'Amerind Friendship Center  
NAN Legal  
National Association Active in Criminal Justice

National Self-Represented Litigants Project West  
Nature Trust of New Brunswick  
Neighborhood Legal Services London Middlesex  
Nelligan O'Brien Payne  
New Brunswick Coalition for Persons with Disabilities  
New Brunswick Coalition for Tenant's Rights  
New Brunswick Legal Aid  
New Directions  
Newcomer Centre of Peel  
Newcomer Legal Clinic  
North Shore Restorative Justice  
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre  
NWT Human Rights Commission

**O**

Observatoire internationale des droits de la nature (OIDN)  
ŒIL  
Office of Indigenous Initiatives  
Office of the Seniors Advocate  
Olthius Kleer Townshend LLP  
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)  
Ontario Deputy Judges' Association  
Ontario Justice Education Network  
Ontario Native Women's Association  
Open Door Society  
Ottawa Mission

**P**

PACE Society  
Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation  
PHSS Community  
PINAY  
Prairie Harm Reduction  
Prince Edward Island Fisherman's Association  
Pro Bono Law Alberta (PBLA)  
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan

Project Genesis  
Projet d'Accueil et d'Intégration Solidaire (PAIS)  
Public Legal Education and Information Services of New Brunswick

**Q**

Qathet Community Justice  
QMUNITY

**R**

Radio Western  
Radius  
Rainbow Railroad  
Rainbow Refugee  
Rainbow Resource Centre  
Rapha Youth Outreach Services  
RAVEN Trust  
RCMP Veterans  
REACH Canada  
Refugee Law Office (RLO)  
Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership  
Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec (RCLALQ)  
Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale  
Réseau ontarien d'éducation juridique (ROEJ)  
Resource Assistance for Youth  
Restorative Justice Association of BC  
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic  
Romero House

**S**

Saanich Volunteer Services Society  
Saskatchewan Association of Environmental Law  
SASKSPCA  
Saskatoon Council on Aging  
Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre  
Scarborough Community Legal Services (SCLS)  
Scocco Law Professional Corporation  
Seeds of Hope

Service d'aide aux néos-canadiens  
Service public d'éducation et d'information juridique du Nouveau-Brunswick (SPEIJ-NB)  
Services juridiques communautaires de Pointe-Saint-Charles  
Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice: Family Services Branch  
Skipping Stones  
Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick (SANB)  
Société John Howard du Québec  
Société pour la nature et les parcs du Canada (SNAP)  
Society for Children and Youth (SCY)  
Sources Vives  
South Asian Legal Clinic of BC  
St. Leonard's Society of Canada  
Starlings  
Stewart McKelvey  
Synapse C

**T**

The 519 Community Centre  
The Legal Clinic  
The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM)  
The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA)  
Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services  
Thunder Bay District Injured Workers Support Group  
Together Against Poverty Society  
Trans Wellness Ontario  
Trellis

**U**

United Nations Human Rights Council  
Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society

**V**

Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition

Victoria Sexual Assault Centre  
Victoria Women's Transition House  
Voix et solidarité des aidants naturels de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

**W**

WellFort Community Health Services  
West Coast Environmental Law  
West Coast Family Centres  
Western Anthropology Graduate Society  
Willowdale Community Legal Services  
Windsor Youth Centre  
Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution  
Winnipeg Food Council  
WomenatthecentrE  
Womens Law Association of Ontario (WLAO)  
Women's Multicultural Resource & Counselling Centre (WMRCC)  
Worker Solidarity Network

**Y**

Y des femmes  
York Centre for Public Policy and Law (YCPPL)  
Youth Imprint Association  
Youth Opportunities Unlimited  
Yukon Right to Learn  
YWCA Saskatoon  
YWCA Moncton



# OUR FUNDERS

PBSC'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE WORK IN ITS 2022-2023 PROGRAM YEAR WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

## National Funders



## Chapter Funders



## Program Funders



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