



Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

ANNUAL REPORT

20²²₂₃

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Board of Directors meeting in Red Deer on September 17, 2022. Standing: Yveson Philogène, Louis Corriveau, Morgan McClelland, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal (Treasurer), Grâce-Chloé Mudiayi, Shannon James (Secretary). Seated: Maryse Trudel, Kim Arial (Vice-President), Elsy Gagné (President), and Chantal Larocque.

AJEFA STAFF

Staff on June 16, 2022: Terhass Berhane (Receptionist), Matthew Gray (Summer Student), Ida Ituze (Legal Information Officer – Edmonton), Florentine Ngarambe (on computer screen – Legal Information Officer in Calgary), Abigail Lara-Cordonero (Legal Project Coordinator) and Denise Lavallée (Executive Director). Maria Vigneault is once again part of the team since January 2023.



Kim Arial, Hon. Anna Loparco and Karen Restoule



Hon. Anne Brown



Hon. Jane Fagnan, Rénaud Rémillard, Maryse Ouellette, Elsy Gagné

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More than 80 people attended AJEFA's Annual General Meeting held on June 3, 2022 at La Cité francophone in Edmonton. Among the activities, there was a workshop on Indigenous realities with Rénaud Rémillard, a panel on restorative justice with the Honourable Justice Anna Loparco, and a presentation on Indigenous rights with Karen Restoule. The Jean-Louis-Lebel Award was presented to the Honourable Justice Anne Brown for her work in improving access to French-language services in the Provincial Court (now Alberta Court of Justice).

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AJEFA



On behalf of the *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta* (AJEFA), I am proud to present you this message in AJEFA's 2022-2023 Annual Report. You will find more information on our many projects, events, programming and services in the following pages.

As you may be aware, AJEFA has been working for over 30 years to facilitate access to legal services in French in Alberta. Today, there are 110 lawyers, mediators, arbitrators, etc. and 48 law students that make up our membership.

Due to a growing demand for access to justice from French-speaking litigants in 2022, AJEFA is very pleased that the following proceedings took place in French: 25 criminal proceedings in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, and eight trials and hearings in the Provincial Courts of Alberta. Additionally, in 2023, there were two appeals in the Alberta Court of Appeal, and 13 trials and hearings scheduled for the Alberta Court of Justice. Following this trend, the number is likely to increase in the near future due to the growing demand for legal services in French.

On July 28, 2022, I also had the privilege of representing AJEFA in Edmonton at the National Consultation on Official Languages with the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor. Her goal was to develop a new action plan for official languages. During this consultation, I presented a general picture of access to justice in French. On August 25, 2022, I also represented AJEFA at the Closing Summit of the National Consultations on Official Languages in Ottawa.

On February 23, 2023, AJEFA acquired political gains with the Law Society of Alberta as a result of its determined and persistent advocacy. These gains include amending the sections of the Code of Professional

Conduct requiring Alberta lawyers to inform their clients of their language rights.

At the same time, AJEFA continues to work with Alberta Justice through the Justice in French Advisory Committee, with representatives from the Government of Alberta, the Court of Appeal, the Court of King's Bench, the Alberta Court of Justice and the ACFA. On March 14, 2023, I had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta, as part of Alberta Francophonie Month.

AJEFA is also a member of a national federation, the *Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.* (FAJEF). As President of your board, I participated in all the national meetings. Recently, FAJEF applied for intervener status before the Supreme Court of Canada in a criminal case involving language rights.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Directors and the staff of the AJEFA office as well as all the volunteers for their work and commitment. Together, we still have a great deal of work to do in order to continue to advance the cause of accessing justice in French, which is our right as Francophones in a minority situation belonging to a linguistic, national and constitutional community.

Elsy Gagné
President of AJEFA



NEW LEGAL INFORMATION GUIDE FOR 2SLGBTQI+ YOUTH

The official launch of *Quels sont mes droits à l'école?* (What are my rights at school?) was held on May 6, 2022 in Edmonton. This project results from a collaboration with the Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest. The guide is an informational document that addresses many issues such as the creation of Gay-Straight Alliances. It also discusses privacy rights, anti-discrimination and reasonable accommodations in schools.

AJEFA would like to thank Pauline Blais, a lawyer in Edmonton, for all her volunteer work on the guide and for facilitating workshops for students and parents afterwards.

FRAUD PREVENTION FOR SENIORS

168 seniors from Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton and St. Isidore participated in face-to-face and online interactive workshops on fraud prevention thanks to the invaluable collaboration of the local circles of the Fédération des aînés franco-albertains. This project was funded by the Government of Canada through the New Horizons Program.

Thank you to lawyers Shannon James, Bertrand Malo and Jennifer Smith, articling student Mila Walliser, law student Isabelle Reynolds and police officer Laurier Amyotte.



RETURN OF THE DEBATE COMPETITION — FEBRUARY 3 AND 4 AT CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN (EDMONTON)

The *Sommet des débats* (debate competition) reached a record number of participants this year: 36 high school students from eight high schools in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Sherwood Park and St. Albert, including the winning team from Archbishop MacDonald (Edmonton). This event was funded by Canadian Heritage and the Government of Alberta.

Many thanks to our volunteer judges: Isabelle Bernard, Eric Boivin, Ashley Borowsky, Léa Caplan, Colin Champagne, Chiara Conchini, Abigail Conrad, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Joël F. Lavoie, Mathieu Lebon, Robert Lees-Miller, Renée Levesque-Gauvreau, Austin Redmond, Gisèle Rheault, and Quentin Starko.





NETWORKING

For the first time, AJEFA members were invited to year-end celebrations to meet and sing some Christmas carols. Twenty AJEFA members gathered at President Elsy Gagné's home on December 8th in Calgary and more than thirty members stopped by Executive Director Denise Lavallée's home on December 15th in Edmonton

On March 23, 2023, 12 law students in the French Common Law Certification Program at the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan joined a dozen lawyers in Calgary for a conference on language security and for networking. On March 24, 2023, 15 University of Alberta law students and 20 AJEFA lawyers participated in a networking event at Campus Saint-Jean in Edmonton.

OUR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

AJEFA has renewed its partnership with the Pro Bono Students Canada (PBCS) for the 2022-2023 academic year. Matthew Gray **1** and Tasia Ntwari **2** from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law led legal information workshops for AJEFA. In Edmonton, AJEFA had the support and help of law students Chiara Concini **3** and Jakarta Mackie **4**.

Thank you to our volunteer lawyers: Kim Arial and Maryse Trudel



LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

In 2014, AJEFA created an endowment fund with La Fondation franco-albertaine which has grown and generated enough interest to offer a \$2,000 scholarship annually since 2022. This year's recipient is Isabelle Reynolds, a 3rd year student at the University of Calgary in the French Common Law Certificate Program.

LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

1,042 people were reached through 45 workshops on new topics such as the *Freedom to Care Act*. Of these, 475 were students from Brooks, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and St. Albert who participated in workshops on 2SLGBTQIA+ youth rights, consent and careers in justice.

AJEFA also participated in two national projects, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Immigration Labour Law by organizing four workshops and developing a learning module. AJEFA hosted nine information booths, mostly in Calgary, including a career fair at École de la Rose sauvage.

Thank you to our lawyers and consultants: Deborah Bissou, Pauline Blais, Christian Cormier, Julie Gagnon, Shannon Gunn Emery, Marie-Audrey Girard, Shannon James, Dieudonné Kandolo, Justin Kingston, Anna Loparco, Bertrand Malo, Régnald Rémillard, Jennifer Smith, Maryse Trudel, Christina Wallace, articling student Mila Walliser, and Daniel Brière, immigration consultant

Thanks to the law students: Chiara Concini, Abigail Conrad, Matthew Gray, Jakarta Mackie, Tasia Ntwari and Quentin Starko

- 9 kiosks
- 45 legal workshops
- 1,042 participants
- 23 legal professionals
- 3 police officers



CASINO

For the first time, AJEFA recruited 36 volunteers on December 19 and 20, 2022 for a casino to raise funds for its Legal Information Centre services. A big thank you to all the dedicated volunteers below who were so generous with their time:

Fernande Bergeron

Ghislain Bergeron

Carmen Boucher

Christian Cormier

Isabelle Déchène Guay

Jean-Pierre Desrochers

Hervé Durocher

Shannon Gunn Emery

Teresa Haykowsky

Gabriel Joshee-Arnal

Danielle LaBrie

Suzanne Lamy Thibaudeau

Chantal Larocque

Denise Lavallée

Marcel Lavallée

Joël F. Lavoie

Léa Lavoie

Zoé Lavoie

Henri Lemire

Donald Michaud

Joël Michaud

Dominic Mudiayi

Owen Nicholson

Denis Noël

Carine Ouedraogo

Maryse Ouellette

Vital Ouellette

Yveson Philogène

Mireille Rijavec

Gisèle Rheault

Brendan Thompson

Ronald Tremblay

Moira Váně

Maria Vigneault

Michèle Vincent

Andrea Zielinski

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPONSORS OF THE 2023 BANQUET



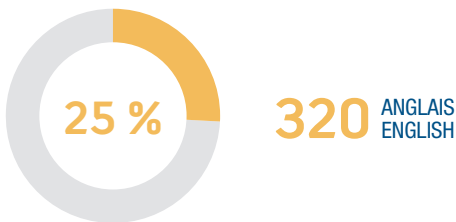
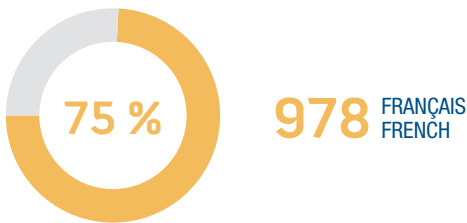
THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

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

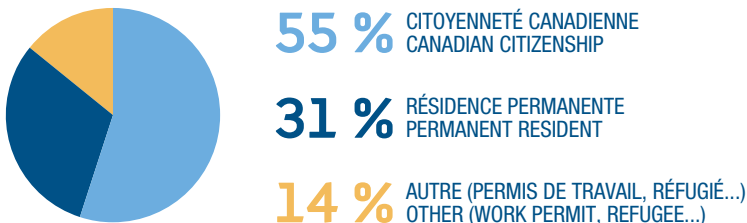
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Accès Emploi
- Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
- Association canadienne-française d'Alberta (ACFA) and its 13 regional offices
- Association des étudiants en droit francophone de l'Université de l'Alberta
- Association francophone de Brooks
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Centre d'accueil francophone de la Cité des Rocheuses
- Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones
- Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta
- Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Conseil scolaire Franco-Sud
- Conseil scolaire Nord-Ouest
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.
- Francophonie albertaine plurielle
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- Journal Le Franco
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Pro Bono Students Canada
- Radio Cité 97,9 FM
- Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta (RIFA)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton
- The Workers' Resource Centre

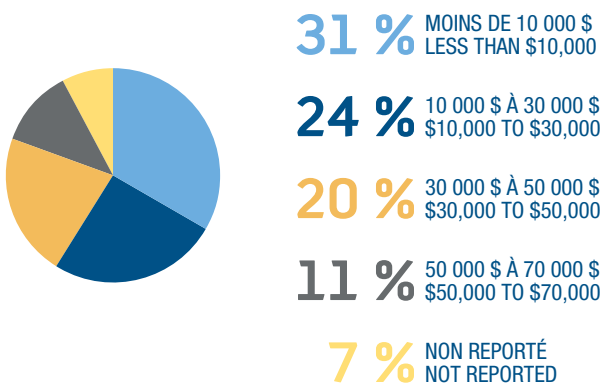
LANGUES UTILISÉES / LANGUAGES USED



STATUT / STATUS

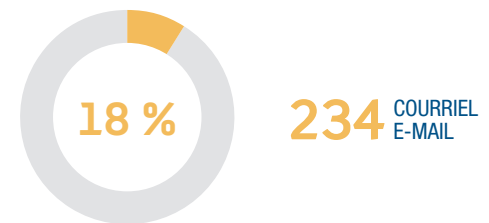
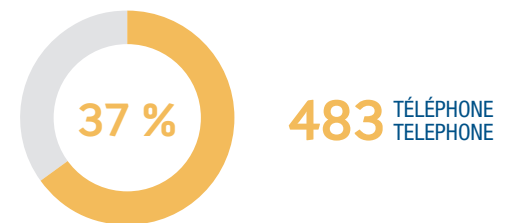
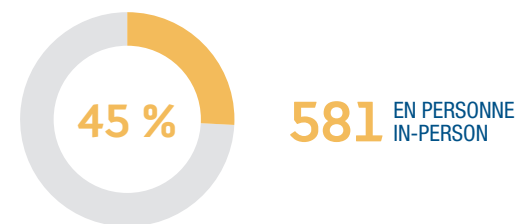


REVENUS / REVENUES



MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS



SITES WEB ET MÉDIAS SOCIAUX WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

8 538 UTILISATEURS SUR LES SITES WEB
WEBSITE VISITS

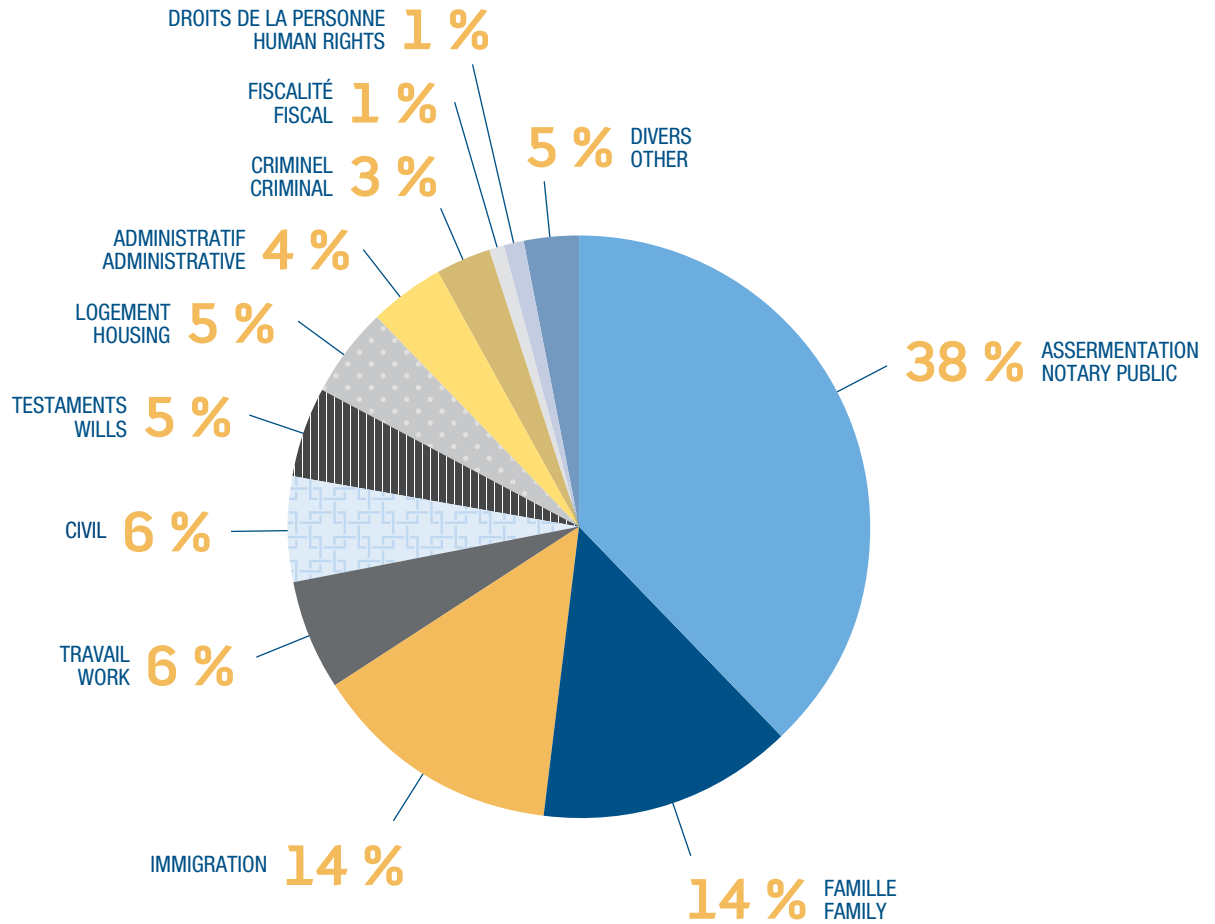
1 665 ABONNÉS SUR FACEBOOK
FACEBOOK SUBSCRIBERS 

1 037 ABONNÉS SUR TWITTER
TWITTER SUBSCRIBERS 

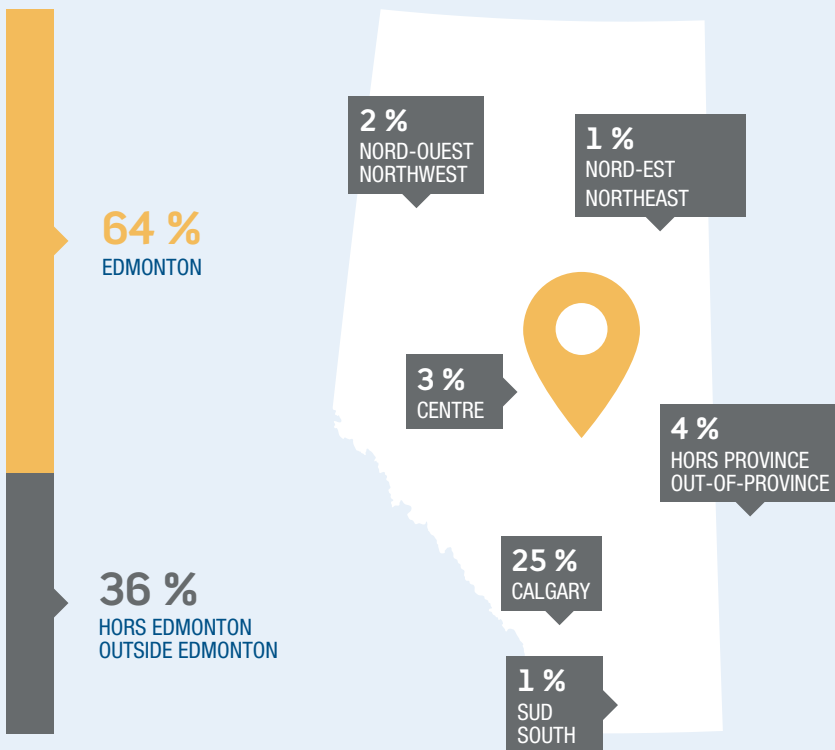
351 ABONNÉS SUR INSTAGRAM
INSTAGRAM SUBSCRIBERS 

229 ABONNÉS SUR LINKEDIN
LINKEDIN SUBSCRIBERS 

DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITÉS / AREAS OF LAW



LIEU DE RÉSIDENCE / PLACE OF RESIDENCE



ACTIVITÉS D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE

LEGAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

 **45** ATELIERS / WORKSHOPS

 **1 042** PARTICIPANTS

 **23** JURISTES BÉNÉVOLES / VOLUNTEER LAWYERS