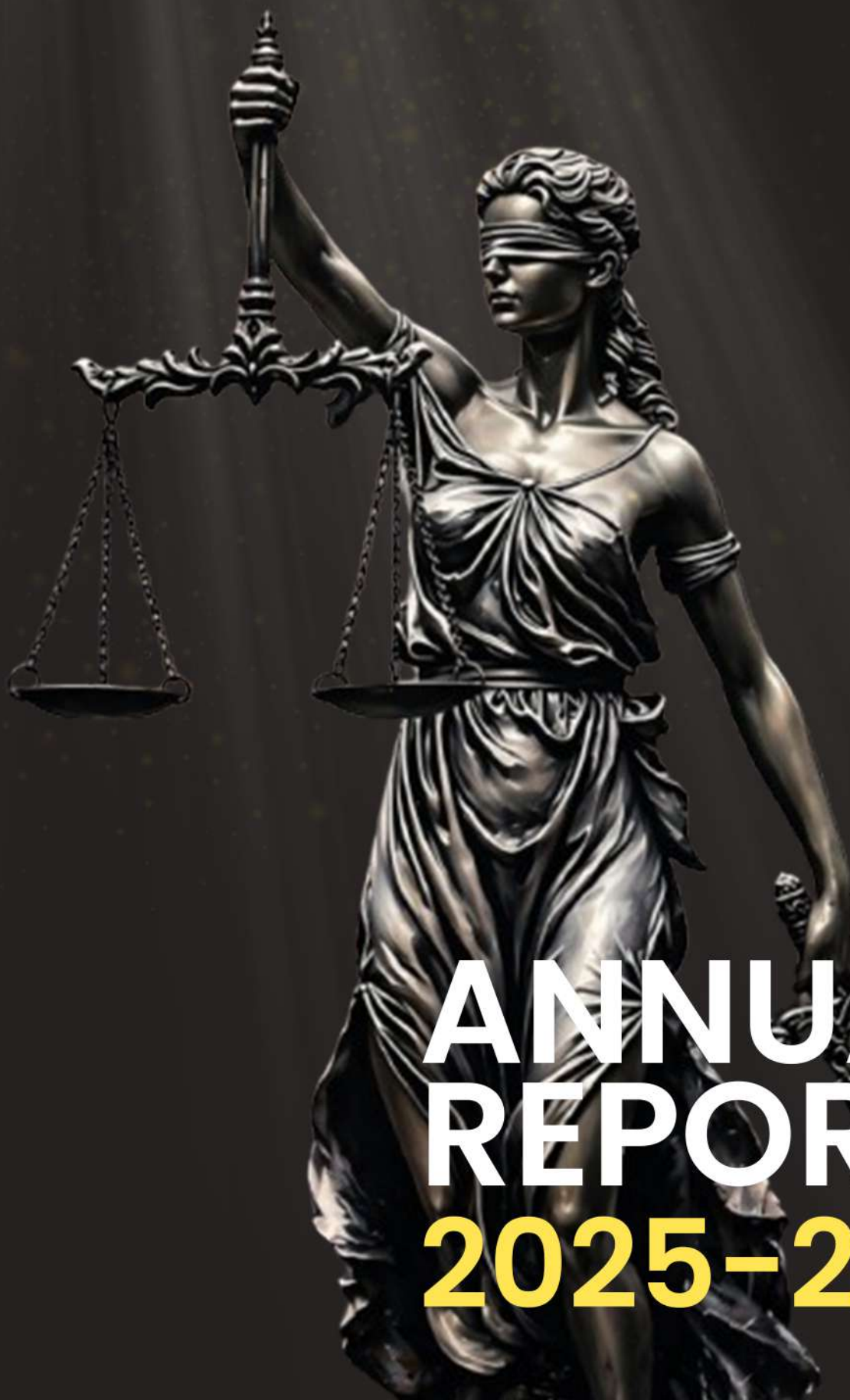




Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN
FRENCH IN ALBERTA



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

A LOOK BACK AT THE AGM 2024-2025

On May 31, 2025, 160 people gathered at the Macdonald Hotel in Edmonton to celebrate AJEFA's 35th anniversary as well as the 10th anniversary of the Alberta Legal Information Centre. AJEFA held its annual general meeting as part of a program featuring panels on language rights, labor and employment law, and the judiciary. AJEFA took the opportunity to honor past presidents of the organization, welcomed AJEFA co-founder the Honorable Mary Moreau as a speaker, and presented the Jean-Louis-Lebel Award to Shannon Gunn Emery, a lawyer who has made a remarkable contribution to advancing access to justice in French.



Former AJEFA summer students : Justin Kingston, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Justine



Elsy Gagné and the Honorable Mary Moreau



Panel on Language Rights: Dominique Mathurin, Guy Jourdain, Réjean Aucoin (Senator), Jean-Benoit Deschamps, Isabelle Cadotte.



Elsy Gagné and Shannon



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Standing: Morgan McClelland, Maryse Trudel, Dominique Mathurin, Aurélie Béland, Isabelle Reynolds, and Louis Corriveau
Seated: Mikel Gega, Elsy Gagné, and Pascal Visentin
Online: Francesca Ghossein



AJEFA STAFF 2025-2026

Standing: Mene Orsot (Business Development Manager), Amna El Jadie (Legal Coordinator), Ida Ituze (Legal Operations Coordinator in Edmonton)
Seated: Terhass Berhane (Receptionist), Maria Vigneault (Executive Director), Florentine Ngarambe (Legal Officer in Calgary).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AJEFA 2025–2026

The 2025–2026 year was a landmark period for AJEFA, marked by significant progress in access to justice in French.

Among the year's major achievements, AJEFA secured funding to develop a restorative justice service. The Association is now the only organization in Alberta to offer this service in French. As part of this initiative, 12 volunteers were trained as restorative justice facilitators through a specialized training program offered by the Quebec-based organization Équijustice.

At the end of August, Denise Lavallée stepped down from her role as Executive Director to pursue new personal projects. In line with this, Maria Vigneault, who had served as legal coordinator since 2017, was appointed executive director. This transition ensured organizational continuity, providing stability and the continuation of the Association's strategic priorities.

As part of the 10th anniversary of the Caron case, a landmark case for language rights in Alberta, a symposium was held in Edmonton on November 19 and 20, 2025, to reflect on the evolution of language rights over the past decade. On this occasion, I had the honor of speaking alongside Mr. Guy Jourdain, former Executive Director of the Association of French-Speaking Lawyers of Manitoba (AFLM).

On December 13, the provincial Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA) celebrated its 100th anniversary at a commemorative banquet. This event also highlighted the context surrounding the year 2026, which has been proclaimed the Year of the Francophonie in Alberta.

AJEFA also continued its collaboration with the Alberta Ministry of Justice through a permanent joint committee. This committee brings together representatives from courts across the province as well as the ACFA. It serves as a key forum for consultation and dialogue on issues related to access to justice in French.

As part of Alberta Francophone Month, on March 30, AJEFA met with Alberta's Deputy Minister of Justice, Malcolm Lavoie. Discussions focused in particular on the Community Pathways for Justice project, for which AJEFA's funding application had not been approved. AJEFA nevertheless welcomed the Deputy Minister's commitment to follow up on the matter, a commitment that has since been fulfilled.

AJEFA now has 174 legal professionals and 80 law students as members, all committed to promoting and supporting access to justice. In this context, the Alberta Legal Information Centre had an exceptional year, reaching a record number of 1,824 legal consultations. The Association also offered 52 legal workshops, reaching 1,668 participants—the highest numbers ever recorded. These results reflect a steady growth in demand for French-language legal services, particularly due to the increasing arrival of French-speaking newcomers in Alberta.

As President, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all AJEFA staff for their commitment, professionalism, and unwavering dedication. I would also like to highlight the essential contribution of each member of the Board of Directors. It has been an immense privilege and honor for me to work alongside them.

After nine years of service on the Board of Directors, I am stepping down today and wish AJEFA continuity, prosperity, and success in its commitment to improving access to justice in French in Alberta for the Francophone community.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Elsy Gagné', written in a cursive style.

Elsy Gagné

NETWORKING

The Jurimidis are monthly networking events held in Calgary, aimed at fostering exchanges and connections within the Francophone legal community.

Students in the French-language common law program at the University of Calgary also benefited from the presence of AJEFA members during their classes and activities, which helped enrich their academic experience and strengthen ties with the professional community.

Finally, the end-of-year gatherings, held in Calgary and Edmonton, were a great success, bringing together a total of more than thirty participants.



Congratulations to Bianca Kratt, our legal member who won the Women's Rights Promotion Award presented by Maria Vigneault (AJEFA) at the Célébr'ELLES gala organized by the Portail de l'Immigrant Association.



OUR STUDENTS

AJEFA hired a law student from the University of Ottawa, Catherine Roy, as a summer intern in 2025. Through a partnership with the Pro Bono Student Network of Canada (PBCS), AJEFA benefited from the support of Alisa Anderson and John Beck Slatter as student volunteers for the 2025-2026 academic year. Thank you to Shannon James for serving as the project supervisor. AJEFA would like to thank Lumiere Aurelie Din for completing a 6-week internship.



LAW SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2022, AJEFA has supported legal education in French through the annual awarding of scholarships funded by its endowment fund, administered by the Franco-Albertan Foundation. Thanks to the growth of this fund, a total of \$4,000 was awarded this year to two students at the University of Calgary, Zoé Clin and Maddie Kahlon, as well as to a student at the University of Alberta, Rowan Lee. These scholarships recognize their commitment to access to justice in French.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

For the first time, AJEFA received funding from the Government of Alberta to establish a restorative justice service. Thanks to this support, 12 volunteers were trained from February 17 to 20, 2026, to become restorative justice facilitators, as part of a training program offered by the Quebec-based organization Équijustice. AJEFA would like to thank the Honorable Anna Loparco, who came to present an overview of restorative justice in Alberta to the volunteers and the Équijustice trainers.



The Association also wishes to express its gratitude to its partners, the Alliance Jeunesse Famille de l'Alberta Society (AJFAS) and Edmonton Youth Justice, whose collaboration was essential to the implementation of the project. AJEFA also thanks Unithéâtre, which generously provided actors to facilitate role-playing exercises reflecting real-life situations, thereby enriching and enhancing the volunteers' training.



The Government of Alberta has also committed to providing additional funding for 2026, enabling AJEFA to continue developing this service as the only organization offering restorative justice in French in Alberta.



DEBATE SUMMITS

January 30 and 31 at Campus Saint-Jean (Edmonton)

The Alberta Debate and Speech Association and AJEFA organized the French Debate Summit, which brought together 32 teams from Alberta and Saskatchewan, confirming its status as a national-scale Francophone tournament. The event allowed students in grades 8 through 12 to debate current events, demonstrating intellectual rigor, eloquence, and critical thinking in a dynamic and educational setting. The teams led by Sophie Charest and Taisia Ceban (École La Vérendrye) took first place, followed by Alexandre Charrois and Cléo Jones (École Maurice-Lavallée) in second place.

A big thank you to our volunteer judges and timekeepers: *Ryan Abar, Jillian Aisenstat, Adèle Amyotte, Hope Anaky, Marie-Christine Bérubé-Lajoie, Dena Boucher-Moon, Michaël Casajus, Samuel Chambers-Dumont, Maud Comtois, Christian Cormier, Iphigénie de Poncheville, Isabelle Déchène Guay, Rafaël Dion, Véra Dubé, Agathe Dupont, Eliane Dupont, Charbelle Giovanna Kengne Djoko, Amna El Jadie, Halima Ellaham, Sirine Ellaham, Rania Eshak, Justine Fallu, Florkencia Florvil, Bertrand Giroux, Brielle Huang, Samuel Inglis, Pascale Jakobsson, Pax-Elisabeth Mputu Kahuongo, Daryna Kostyuk, Nathan Kouadio, Renee Levesque-Gauvreau, Yan Liu, Paige Muta, Laurence Nalwango, Iyanna Nyangezi, Joseph Onguene, Yael Orsot, Ilyas Ouajdouni, Nadia Pelchat, Germina Platel, Aliénor Puthod, Christine Ramsay, Austin Redmond, Gisèle Rheault, Maya Risbud, Karima Salem, Anabelle Selway, Quinten Starko, Simone Thérien, Cléa Thibeault, Neilla Uwera, Renée Veraart, Rosalie Vigneault, and Jenny Wang.*



17 booths
 52 legal workshops
 1,668 participants
 1 mock trial
 28 legal professionals
 6 speakers



LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

AJEFA reached 1,668 people through 52 workshops covering various topics such as domestic violence, immigration and citizenship, business law, labor law, and issues affecting women.

The Association also continues its commitment to youth in schools. Workshops were offered in French-language and French immersion schools across Alberta on topics such as cyberbullying, consent, youth rights and justice, as well as debates. In total, 19 workshops were held, reaching 679 students.

As part of a national project launched in 2024, AJEFA also offered three specialized training sessions for legal officers and practitioners on cultural competence, addressing concerns related to these competencies in a legal context, and issues related to racism.

Finally, the visibility of the services offered by the Alberta Legal Information Centre and AJEFA was enhanced through the operation of 17 information booths at events in Calgary and Edmonton, particularly during orientation days for newcomers.

Thank you to the volunteers: Pilar Alvarado, Kim Ariel, Réjean Aucoin, Anna Loparco, Pauline Blais, Carmen Boucher, Maryse Bermingham, Banyk Chia, Saran Cissé, Christian Cormier, Jordan Cowan, Jean-Benoit Deschamps, Cherif Diallo, Philippe Dieudonné, Andréanne Dubé, Elsy Gagné, Teresa Haykowsky, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal, Guy Jourdain, Justin Kingston, Catherine Lapierre, Justine Mageau, Dominique Mathurin, Ryan Morstad, Yveson Philogène, Josée Racine, Robert Schuett, Kelly Elizabeth Smith, Quinten Starko, Olivia Stroz-Breton, Victor Tousignant, Maryse Trudel, Natalie Tymchuk

CASINO

The next AJEFA casino event will be held on **August 19 and 20** at Pure Casino in Edmonton.

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

10,271 users on our websites
 1,196 followers on X (Twitter)
 2,000 followers on Facebook
 463 followers on Instagram
 563 followers on LinkedIn

2026 YEAR OF THE FRANCOPHONIE IN ALBERTA

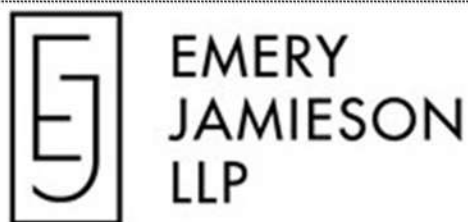
On December 13, 2025, the provincial ACFA celebrated its 100th anniversary at a commemorative banquet. This event highlighted the context leading up to 2026, proclaimed the Year of Francophonie in Alberta.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all the sponsors and partners of the 2026 AJEFA Congress

GOLD



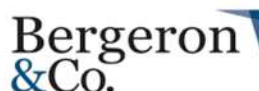
SILVER



BRONZE



REFRESHMENTS PARTNER



LEGAL PANEL PARTNERS



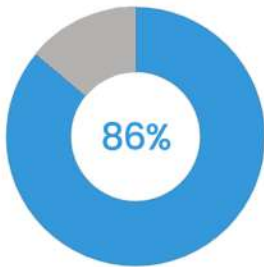
Thank you to our funders

Justice Canada, Alberta Lottery Fund, City of Edmonton, Government of Alberta

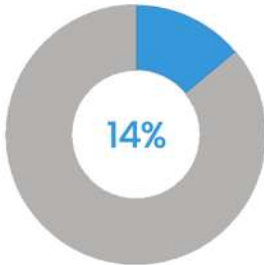
Thank you to all our Francophone and Anglophone partners and collaborators

- Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Law Libraries
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alberta Debate and Speech Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- Article 16 : Club français de droit de l'Université de Calgary
- Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
- Association canadienne-française d'Alberta et ses 13 régionales
- 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
- Club de l'Amitié
- Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Conseil scolaire Franco-Sud
- Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Edmonton Police Service
- Edmonton Youth Justice
- Équijustice
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Français pour l'avenir/French for the future
- Fédération des aînés franco-albertains
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.
- Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle
- Gendarmerie royale du Canada
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- Le Franco (journal)
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Parallèle Alberta
- Portail de l'Immigrant Association
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Programme de Certification de common law en français
- Boréal 92,1 FM
- Radio Cité 97,9 FM
- Nord-Ouest FM (CKRP 95,7)
- Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta
- Réseau national des étudiant(e)s pro bono du Canada (Calgary)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton
- The Workers' Resource Centre

LANGUES UTILISÉES / LANGUAGES USED

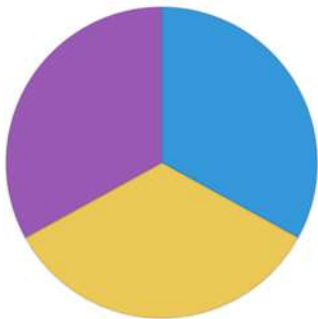


1 574 FRANÇAIS
FRENCH



250 ANGLAIS
ENGLISH

STATUT / STATUS

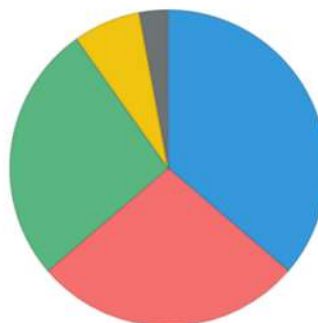


33% CITOYENNETÉ CANADIENNE
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

34% RÉSIDENT PERMANENT
PERMANENT RESIDENT

33% AUTRE
OTHER

REVENUS / REVENUES



35% MOINS DE 10 000\$
LESS THAN \$10 000

28% 10 000\$ À 30 000\$
\$10 000 TO \$30 000

27% 30 000\$ À 50 000\$
\$30 000 TO \$50 000

7% 50 000\$ À 70 000\$
\$50 000 TO \$70 000

3% NON REPORTÉ
NOT REPORTED

ATELIERS / WORKSHOPS

52 NOMBRE D'ATELIERS
NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS

28 NOMBRE DE BÉNÉVOLES JURISTES
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

1 668 NOMBRE DE PARTICIPANTS
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

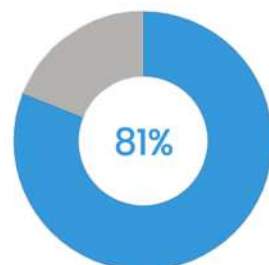
1 PROCÈS SIMULÉ
MOCK TRIAL

1 824
CONSULTATIONS

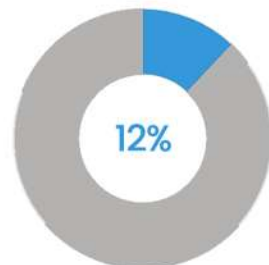


MOYENS UTILISÉS
POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

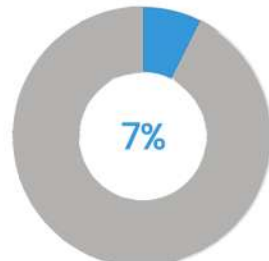
MEANS USED
FOR CONSULTATIONS



1470 EN PERSONNE
IN PERSON

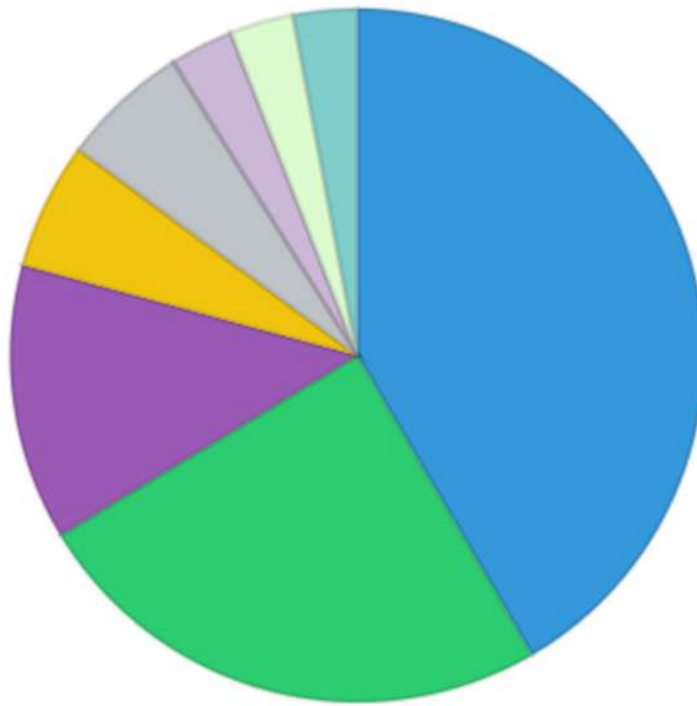


221 PAR TÉLÉPHONE
TELEPHONE

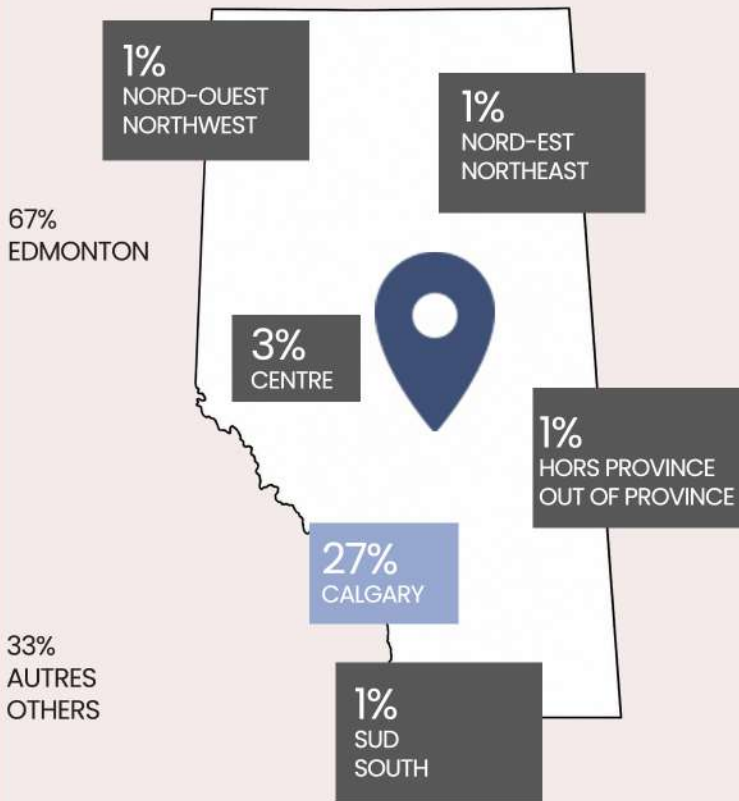


133 PAR COURRIEL
E-MAIL

DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITES / AREAS OF LAW



- 42% Immigration
- 25% Assermentation / Notary public
- 13% Famille / Family
- 6% Emploi / Work
- 6% Logement / Housing
- 3% Testament / Wills
- 3% Criminel / Criminal
- 3% Divers / Others



NOTES

Comparé à 2024-2025, le nombre de consultations (rendez-vous) est passé de 1647 à 1824, soit une hausse de 10,75 %. Le nombre de clients a augmenté de 1,84 %, soit de 1089 à 1109.

Compared to 2024-2025, the number of appointments increased by 10.75% from 1,647 to 1,824. The number of individual clients increased by 1.84% from 1,089 to 1,109.

Les services de notaire public sont offerts une fois par mois à la communauté francophone de Red Deer, en collaboration avec l'ACFA de Red Deer.

Depuis avril 2026, une agente juridique est également disponible à temps partiel à Lethbridge.

Notary public services are offered once a month to Red Deer's Francophone community, in collaboration with the Red Deer ACFA.

Since April 2026, a legal officer has also been available on a part-time basis in Lethbridge.