

## Family Violence Prevention

The Premier's Action Committee has been re-established and CLIA's ED has been appointed for a 5 year term. CLIA continues to provide assistance, materials and support in the area of family violence through the Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee, Victim Services Advisory Committee, our inquiry line, Speaker's Bureau and Lawyer Referral Service and through development and distribution of materials in family violence. This year we distributed 908 pieces of information specifically in this area. Several of these publications are being revised and a workbook to help victims develop a safety plan is almost ready. Our New Horizons Project is developing new materials on elder abuse prevention.

## Victims of Crime

CLIA co-chairs the Victim Services Advisory Committee, is a Board Member of the NB-PEI Criminal Justice Association and serves on the Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee. We received funding from the Victims of Crime Fund of Justice Canada to revise several pamphlets to reflect recent amendments to the Criminal Code and develop new ones.

## Crime Prevention

CLIA is involved in crime prevention in many ways. Though much of what we do could be considered crime prevention, last year we specifically did the following:

- Promoted, received training and financially supported the workshop "Developing Local Leadership for Community Safety and Well-Being"
- Served on the executive of Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community safety
- Participated as a member of the Canadian Forum for Crime Prevention, a national organization on research in the area of crime prevention.
- Participated in the Local Organizing Committee of the 2009 Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference.

## Projects

### Court-Based Information Centre for Self-Represented Litigants

In November CLIA began a follow-up to the Self-Represented Litigants project. Regena Russell was hired to develop materials and put together a strategic plan for the implementation of a law courts information centre. This project, funded by the Law Foundation of PEI, was designed to move CLIA into the next phase of this multi-year effort to provide resources for people representing themselves in court. The outcomes of the project will be pamphlets, flow charts explaining the court process and a strategic plan that will set out the details for implementing and monitoring a pilot project family law information centre. Meetings have been held with key informants and a small advisory committee has been providing input and feedback to Regena. Based on this feedback, the decision has been made to focus on family law, specifically custody and access issues.

### Victims of Crime Publications Project

Recent amendments to the Criminal Code and new provincial legislation have rendered most of the CLIA publications containing information for victims of crime out of date and created the need for new publications. In an application to Justice Canada under the Victims of Crime Fund, CLIA proposed to create two new pamphlets and revise six existing publications for victims. The new and revised pamphlets, available in both official languages, include:

- The Age of Consent: Young People, Sex and the Law. (complete)
- Safety planning for victims of family violence
- Revised *Are You Old Enough?* (complete)
- Revised *Sexual Assault*
- Revised *A Guide for Witnesses*
- Revised *Women, Assault, and the Law*
- Revised *Court Orders for your Protection* (complete)
- Revised *Islanders Guide to the Victims of Family Violence Act*

## New Horizons Project on Elder Abuse Prevention

CLIA was one of 16 successful applicants across Canada for funding under the New Horizons for Seniors Program of HRSDC. CLIA partnered with the Prince Edward Island Centre on Health and Aging, the PEI Senior's Safety Program and the PEI Senior Citizens' Federation to develop the project, "The Abuse of Older Adults and the Law: What Islanders Need to Know". Anne Nicholson was hired as project coordinator and work began October 6, 2008.

This is a three year project that will be completed in the fall of 2011. The objectives of the project are: to develop a legal information strategy for older adults; to increase awareness/knowledge of legal responsibilities, obligations and resources, reducing vulnerability of seniors to abuse; and to develop multimedia resources for use in abuse prevention efforts.

In the final phase of the project a presentation team will take the new resources to seniors, their families and service providers across PEI in a 'travelling road show'.

## Publications Project

This project was funded by the Law Foundation several years ago - it has allowed us to translate most of our publications, put our publications in PDF so they can be sent electronically and revise outdated publications. We have rewritten the modules for the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada through this funding and we have revised the Divorce Kit. A new version of "Legal Information for Same Sex Relationships" has been written for publication after the items in the Domestic Relations Act have been inserted and proclaimed. This fund is now depleted.

## Charities Project

This project was funded by Canada Revenue Agency through the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia. This final year consisted of completing the evaluation by interviewing 20 people who attended last year's workshops and 20 people who did not attend.

## Financial Information

CLIA is funded by the federal Department of Justice Canada, the PEI Law Foundation, the Law Society of PEI and private donations. Project funding is also required to meet financial obligations.

The PEI Office of the Attorney General provides very generous in-kind support.

To obtain a copy of the audited financial statements, please call CLIA at 892-0853 or 1-800-240-9798.

# Community Legal Information Association of Prince Edward Island



[www.cliapei.ca](http://www.cliapei.ca)

## Annual Report 2008-2009



## Board of Directors

President:	Gordie McConnell		
Vice President:	Isabelle Dasylya-Gill		
Past President:	Beti Andric (resigned)		
Secretary:	Olive Bryanton		
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	Annie Boyle	Lori St. Onge	Cathy Chaisson
	Crystal Cobb	Jacqueline O’Keefe	Denis Morin
	Madelyn Driscoll	Dawn MacDonald	Ron Clarke

## CLIA Staff

Executive Director:	Donna Langille	Program Coordinator:	Kelly Robinson
Program Assistant:	Ann Sherman	Office Assistant:	Noreen MacInnis
Project Staff:	New Horizons - Anne Nicholson Victims of Crime - Jinny Greaves, Sandy Kowalik Info Centre for Self-Represented Litigants-Regena Russell		
Bookkeeper:	Velma Ryan, E Accounting Services		

## CLIA is funded by:

Department of Justice Canada  
Law Foundation of Prince Edward Island  
Law Society of Prince Edward Island

Generous in-kind support is received from the Government of Prince Edward Island through the Office of the Attorney General

## Project Funding was received from

Law Foundation of Prince Edward Island  
Department of Justice Canada, Victims of Crime Fund  
New Horizons for Seniors Program, Human Resources and Social Development Canada  
Canada Revenue Agency via Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

## President’s Report

As I finish up my two terms at CLIA, I can’t help but look back at the changes that have taken place over my 4 years with this organization. We saw Ann Sherman retire, Donna Langille took over as Executive Director in the summer of 2007 after some challenging times, Kelly Robinson came on as Program Coordinator, Anne Nicholson began a 3-year project after helping us out when we were short-staffed and Ann Sherman has returned to us 3 days per week. In addition, we have Regena Russell, Jinny Greaves and Sandy Kowalik working on projects and Noreen McLinnis still slaving away as Office Assistant.

CLIA’s new website has proven to be very popular and informative. This year, getting two videos on the website makes our information available and accessible to more people.

The new Divorce Kit was launched in December 2008. The Board agreed that a \$20 fee be charged for the Kit and a new revenue stream has resulted.

This year, PEI hosted the Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference and Kelly Robinson was on the Local Organizing Committee for that conference.

Times are busy and lots of challenges remain, but I am confident that CLIA will continue to be useful and relevant to those in need of legal information.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President - I have enjoyed it and learned a lot. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sgt. Gordon McConnell  
President

## Executive Director’s Report

This has been a busy and challenging year for CLIA - but then, aren’t they all? We had 3 big projects underway this past year, and each of them involved a lot of work to get the proposals ready and even more to do the work. All 3 projects are still ongoing, though two will be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. In addition, our core services of inquiry line, Lawyer Referral Service and Speaker’s Bureau continue daily.

We hired a university student, Jeremy Oakes, through the EDA Summer Jobs for Students program to prepare our revised Divorce Kit in PDF on CD’s. The Kit went on sale in December and it is a huge success - so far, there have been no objections to the \$20 charge.

I went on medical leave for 3 months from January to the end of March so many of the previous weeks were spent preparing for this change. Kelly was named Acting Executive Director during that period and all of the staff stepped up and helped us get through it. I want to extend a HUGE thank you to Kelly, to all of the staff and to the Board for their support and for providing the leadership that CLIA needed during my absence. I also want to thank everybody for the help and support still being provided as I ease back at 3 days per week.

CLIA is very lucky to have Kelly, Anne, Ann, Noreen, Regena, Sandy, Jinny, Velma and a dedicated Board of Directors helping to steer us forward.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,  
Donna Langille

## Core Programs

### Toll-free Legal Information Line

Last year we received over 2,000 inquiries from people via the telephone lines, walk-ins and other methods. A further 165 inquiries were received via email and website contacts.

- 1,030 callers were women
- 837 were from Queens County, 282 from Prince, 154 from Kings County, 89 out-of-province and 197 were unknown
- 1,211 questions were about family issues
- 163 were about wills and Power of Attorney
- 168 dealt with criminal law

## Lawyer Referral Service

There were 1,245 calls for lawyer referrals last year and 467 inquiry line callers were given a lawyer referral.

- 617 referrals were in family law
- 73 were criminal
- 109 were civil litigation
- 750 requests for referrals were from women and 495 were from men

## Website / Resource Centre

Our new website is now one year old. We were visited by 16,260 unique individuals for a total of 26,326 visits. This means many people came back again for second visits. The number of hits the website received was 699,654. We received 165 emails for legal information as a result. We recently put 2 videos on our website - one about child support and the other about custody and access. Child and Family Services have asked our permission to get a copy and use it for staff training.

## Publications

It has been an exciting year in this area. Our revised Divorce Kit is now available on CD and the paper copy is at the printers.

We have a new pamphlet on “The Age of Consent - Young People, Sex and the Law” and have received lots of orders and good feedback. Ontario asked permission to put the publication on their website - we agreed.

A workbook to develop a safety plan for people in violent situations is almost ready. We are also revising several other pamphlets as a result of recent Criminal Code amendments.

Seven additional pamphlets have been translated into French and are ready or will be ready soon.

We printed over 25,000 pieces of information in 2008-09.

Over 28,500 pieces of information were distributed, which includes CLIA publications and publications we distribute from other organizations and government departments. We know that a lot of people who call have already printed or will print publications from our website. We can only guess at these numbers but know they are significant now that our publications are up to date and available in PDF.

## Acting as a Resource to the Community/Speakers Bureau

CLIA provides legal information and education through group and public presentations to organizations, project advisory committees, classrooms and others. We provide speakers on request and put together staffed displays for workshops, conferences and expos. We received thirty three requests for presentations or displays this year.

Some of the presentations we did were with targeted groups such as high school law students, the Aboriginal community, Women and Addictions Rehab Program, Association for Newcomers to Canada, seniors groups, pregnant and parenting teens and high-risk youth in alternative education programs. Others were to community schools on varying topics.

## Community Partnerships

CLIA is a member of and/or contributes to the following partnerships and networks in the community:

- Victim Services Advisory Committee (Co-Chair)
- PEI Advisory Committee on Child Sexual Abuse
- Literacy Alliance of PEI
- NB-PEI Criminal Justice Association (Board Member)
- Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety (Executive)
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada (Board member)
- Pro Bono Students Canada
- Law Foundation of PEI
- Law Society of PEI
- Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce
- PEI Women’s Business Association
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI’s Aboriginal Justice Program
- PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada
- Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention
- PEI Human Rights Commission
- Native Council of PEI
- PEI Senior Citizen’s Federation
- PEI Seniors’ Secretariat
- PEI Women’s Secretariat
- People First and Citizen Advocacy

Clearly, community development is a big part of the work we do.