

# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Artwork by:  
Trinity Ketchemonia  
2015

## **CLASSIC Inc.**

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COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR SASKATOON INNER CITY INC.

123 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0W7

Phone: 306-657-6100

Fax: 306-384-0520



**VISION:**

CLASSIC works toward a just society that is supported by a fair legal system

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

CLASSIC works toward social justice with low-income, marginalized Saskatchewan residents, with a commitment to Indigenous peoples, through a legal clinic that is guided by the needs of the community. This engages law and interdisciplinary students through experiential learning, providing insights into the cultural and social reality of law and fosters an ethic of social justice.

**VALUES:**

- Recognize the expertise and autonomy of our clients and community;
- Work from a client-centered perspective;
- Engage in a self-reflective practice and evaluation;
- Relate to others with mutuality, reciprocity and respect; and
- Inspire the social justice ethic in students



**Examples: Special Projects**

Project ID	Community Legal Education (CLE)	City Equity Lens Project
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**CLASSIC Board**

Executive Board	Directors	Cultural Advisor
<p><b>Chair</b> - Lynn Latta</p> <p><b>Vice Chair</b> - Julie Ann Wriston</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> - Rachel Kong* stepped down December 2018</p> <p><b>Interim Treasurer</b> - Connor Anear</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> - Connor Annear and Michael MacDonald* Connor Annear served as Secretary until Michael MacDonald took over the position in May 2019 as part of succession planning</p>	<p>Louise Oelke</p> <p>Christine Goodwin</p> <p>Aliya Jiwa</p> <p>Blaine Beaven</p> <p>Natasha Steinbeck</p> <p>Shawn Moen* stepped down August 2018</p>	<p>Maria Campbell</p>

## A Message from the Board Chair, Lynn Latta

This will be my final AGM as Chair of the CLASSIC Board as I now complete my term as a Board Director. I joined this organization inspired by the passion of an outgoing board member and the critical needs being addressed. When I think of those who came before, I am humbled and grateful. They had a vision of improving access to justice for those disenfranchised by the legal system. They coupled that with commitment and action and 12 years later – CLASSIC carries on this legacy. It has been my great honour to be a part of this exceptional organization.

From the first small group of founding students - to the volunteers, staff, funders, donors – all those who so willingly threw in their support over the past 12 years; who built such a solid foundation, then nourished and fought for it...we salute you and offer a sincere Thank You!

I've had the privilege of serving with CLASSIC for 7 years and it has been an amazing journey. I am in awe of the resiliency of the people we serve and of the passion, creativity and expertise of the staff, students and volunteers who strive to support them. Working with individuals experiencing legal issues...starting where they're at and then delivering legal services to meet their unique needs is what CLASSIC excels at. Training students to see the person behind the "client/legal issue" and to deliver competent legal services in real life situations is also a core strength of the organization.

As we look forward to the next 12, 20, 30+ years, the focus will continue to be on the people who turn to CLASSIC for support and service as they navigate their legal journeys. We will keep our eyes on the big picture...the need to make "access to justice" a reality for all...the need for systemic change. At the same time we will continuously zero in and focus on the individual and their needs in this moment.

The challenges are great, yes. Fortunately, you have 12+ years of success to guide you, to build upon. And build upon it you will! The board coming in for the 2019-2020 year is exceptionally strong. They will reach out and engage supporters who are keen to see the changes timely access to legal programs and services can offer. Together with staff and students, they will tap into new ideas and approaches. You will continue to learn and innovate. You will put forth strong cases for support and it will result in new funding and partnering opportunities.

While this report tells about what has been in the past year; I think it also speaks to what can be. We invite you to join us as we live our Mission and Values; as we put those we serve at the center of everything we do.

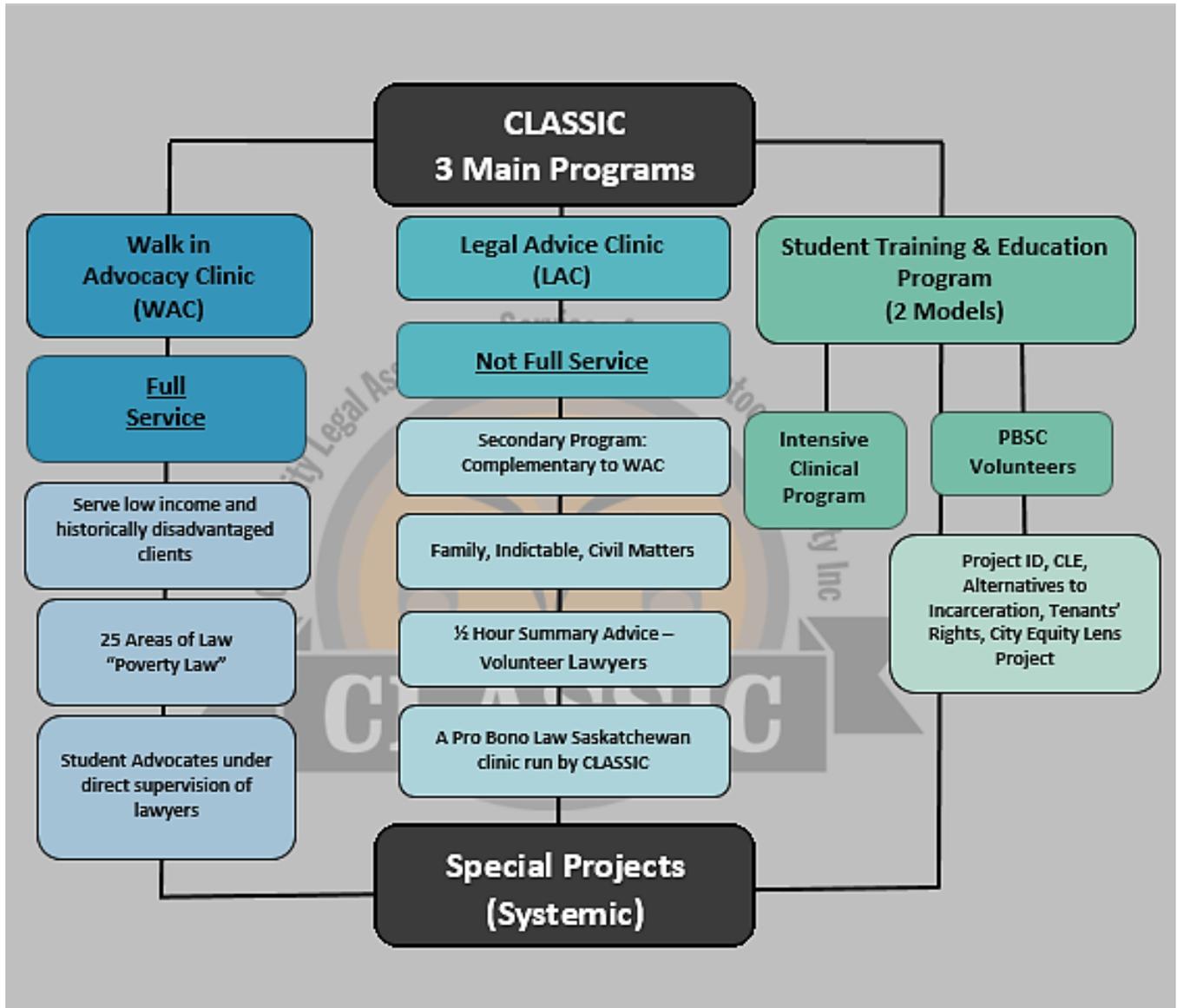


CLASSIC's Executive Director and Board members at governance training

L-R: Chantelle Johnson, Executive Director; Lynn Latta, Board Chair; Michael MacDonald, Secretary

## Programs

CLASSIC made some shifts to programming this year. Most notably, we dismantled the “Systemic Initiatives Program” in its old form and identified Student Training and Education (STEP) as a separate program area. Systemic projects now form part of all that we do. The STEP helps us to identify revenue for costs associated with training and separates that aspect of our work from client and project work. These changes will guide us sustainably into the future.



# A Report from the Executive Director, Chantelle Johnson



CLASSIC is growing up! This year, while CLASSIC continued to provide programming to our clients and students, we also worked on our foundational structures. We onboarded new Board members through a formal process and established a Governance Charter. The role clarity flowing from the governance charter provides a beacon of guidance for CLASSIC's future. This is a great legacy for our outgoing Board Chair Lynn Latta to leave - thank you Lynn for helping us get to this point. Solid foundations provide for good programming.

Throughout my career I have worked in the private and public sectors, and now I find myself at the helm of a non-profit organization. I am so proud of what our small but mighty staff and volunteer team at CLASSIC accomplishes. I reached out to staff and students to provide me with their highlights from the 2018-19 year. I provide some of their highlights below – it's exciting to see what resonates with folks from the micro to the macro, the programming to the operational, and beyond.

*The small CLASSIC staff have been here forever. Even though there have been some staffing changes, the staff that remain here are dedicated to the mission of the organization. We live the mission no matter what internal changes are happening because clients are our priority.*

*The amazing work done towards an Memorandum of Understanding to formalize our partnership with the College of Law. A formal agreement will make CLASSIC more efficient, which means we can do more work with clients and students!*

*The Legal Follies fundraiser for CLASSIC and the Run for Justice events show the law student body's support for CLASSIC.*

*The Lip Sync and Karaoke Fundraiser - it's so much fun and shows all the support from the legal community, community-based organizations and beyond! And the funds raised – yay!*

*CLASSIC's refugee clients are now becoming citizens! The refugee to citizen process is a long one and it's very exciting for the staff, students and clients!*

*A prisoner we worked with for years who had serious mental health and self-harm issues was released successfully into community.*

*The opportunity and support provided to staff to: try new things, learn and develop professionally, and grow with the organization is awesome.*

*The office space has changed quite a bit and lot of computers have been upgraded. All the staff have laptops (this is a life changer for me! I am not in the office on weekends if I can just bring home the laptop!)*

*The accessibility project that we did this year! Thanks to Olivia Yurach for thinking of CLASSIC! The space is more physically accessible and way more welcoming overall.*

*New partnership with CFS for free drop in counselling two afternoons a week!*



# Staff

As our organization now serves over 1500 clients/year, CLASSIC worked with Design Thinking consultant, Marilyn Poitras, to assess our internal structure. Various internal shifts were created to prototype. The goal is to meet our growing needs. Starting January 2019 we prototyped these roles.

Received **5372** phone calls

Staff Member	Position
Chantelle Johnson	Executive Director
Nicholas Blenkinsop	Supervising Lawyer
Brenda Yuen	Supervising Lawyer until July 2018
Leif Jensen	Supervising Lawyer
Joilene Whitehead	Executive Assistant split role to Executive Assistant/Indigenous Community Coordinator in January 2019
Kim Pidskalny	Legal Assistant until December 2018 Clinic Coordinator starting January 2019
Lorraine Pura	Administrative Assistant Casual
Melanie Sunchild	Administrative Assistant Term Contract starting January 2019 until end of March 2019
Tyler Kalynchuk	Summer Student
Elise von Holwede	Summer Student

Made approximately **1200** referrals

Responded to over **500** emails/social media inquiries

Contributed to **7** News Articles

Janice Gingell	Volunteer Lawyer
Frank Quennell	Volunteer lawyer
Pat Tondevold	Volunteer lawyer started with CLASSIC November 2018

We are thankful to our retired, **volunteer lawyers** who put in over **70 hours** of work every week to advocate for our clients and train our students. This work is a bonus above

our program goals! What benefit for our clients and students.



L-R: Claire Stempien, Cheryl Giesbrecht



Elise von Holwede

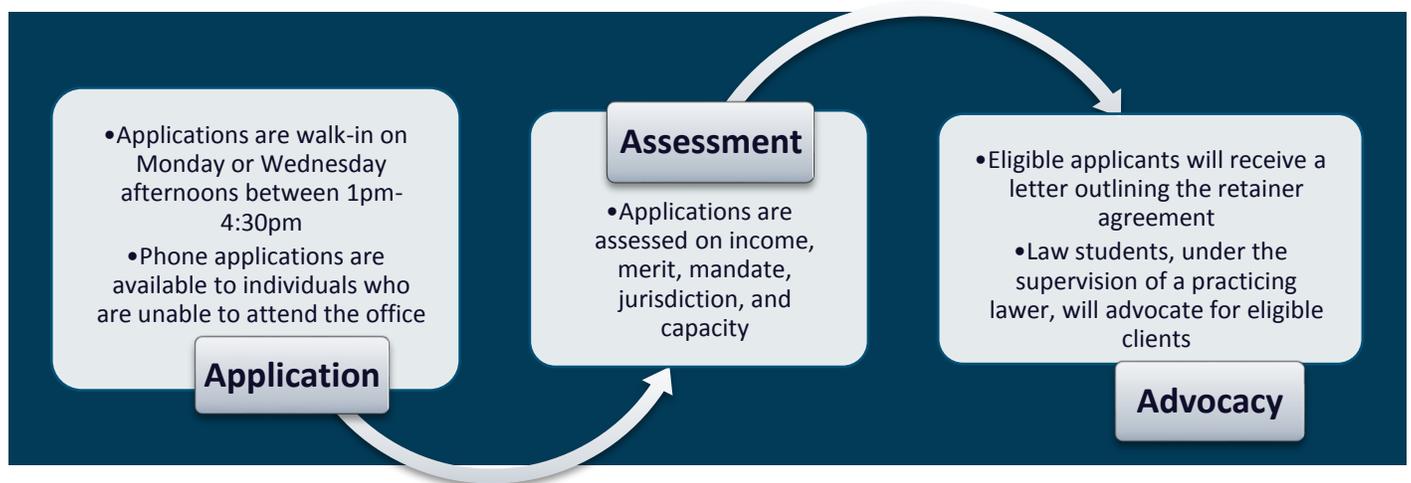
<b>Cheryl Giesbrecht</b>	<b>Student Manager</b> Fall Term
<b>Elise von Holwede</b>	<b>Student Manager</b> Fall and Winter Term
<b>Claire Stempien</b>	<b>Student Manager</b> Fall and Winter Term

# Walk-In Advocacy Clinic (WAC)

CLASSIC’s Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC) provides full legal representation to low-income clients in approximately 20 areas of law. This program works in tandem with the Student Training and Education Program (STEP), with students working on client files under the direct supervision of staff lawyers.

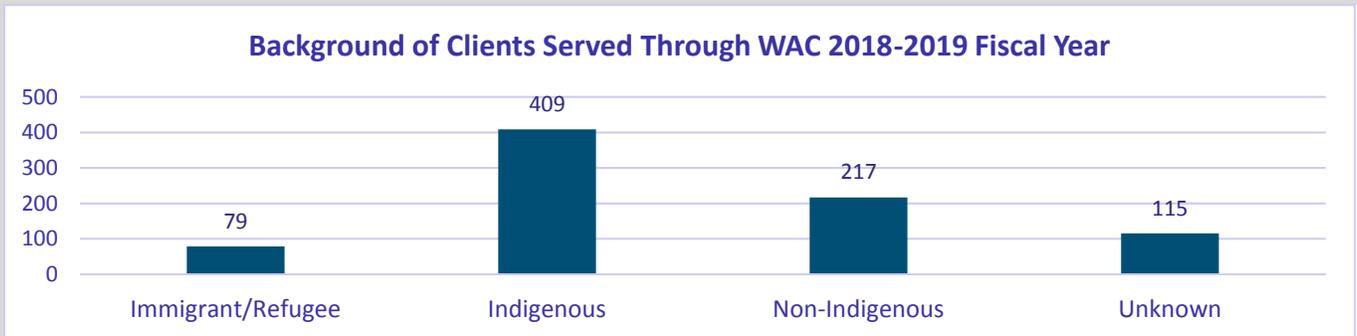
<b>820</b> Clients were served through the WAC	We received <b>678</b> applications	<b>474</b> Files were opened	<b>346</b> Files carried over from last fiscal year	<b>332</b> Applications were denied	<b>49%</b> of applications were denied due to capacity
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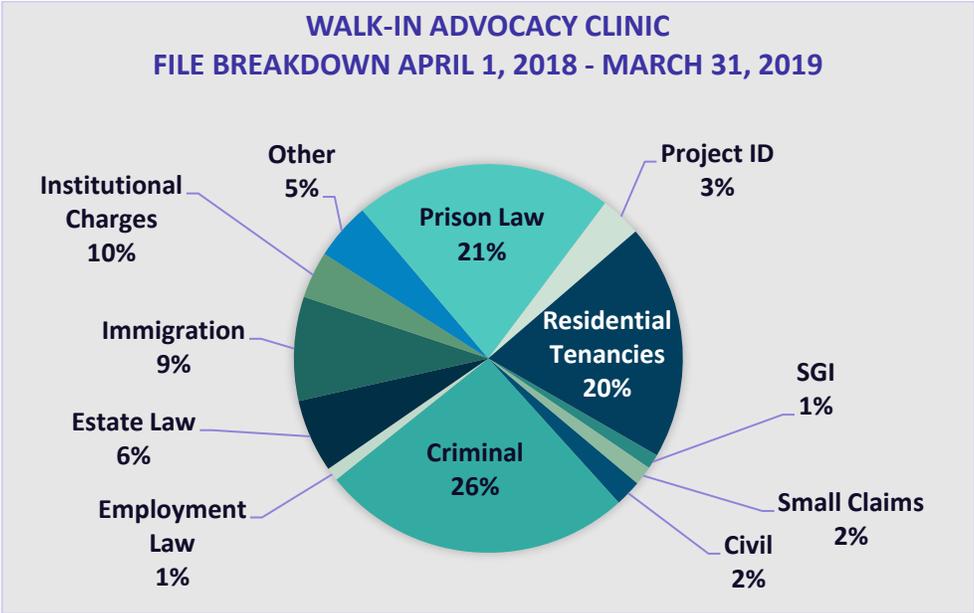
Clients deemed ineligible for services through the WAC receive a “Denial Letter” – CLASSIC is unable to help everyone due to capacity. These clients may be referred to other resources, including our Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)



*“Thank you (Luke) for everything you’ve done, you killed it out there! Feels good to finally have the weight off my shoulders and to finally go out past 11! Thank you for getting my life back! Means the world to me and my family and friends to hear those words the judge said! I couldn’t have been any more happier in my life! Things are going good so far :)! Just wanted to thank and appreciate for the time and effort you put into my case! I also really hope it helped a lot with your schooling and you gained some experience with this! You’d be a good future lawyer! Thank you so much!*

Anonymous WAC client





Since we opened in 2007, CLASSIC has served over 7433 individuals through the WAC.

Our 3 main practice areas in the 2018-2019 fiscal year are: Criminal Law, Prison Law, and Residential Tenancies

50% of our clients identify as Indigenous

\$127,186.96 is the amount of money CLASSIC services obtained/retained for clients

62% of our clients are under 40 years of age

51% of our clients identified as male  
48% of our clients identified as female  
1% is unknown or do not identify as male or female

## Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)

CLASSIC’s Legal Advice Clinic (LAC) works in partnership with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs) to provide individuals with free legal advice from practicing lawyers in the areas of criminal, family and civil law. This clinic is for low-income individuals who do not qualify for our services through the WAC, do not qualify for Legal Aid services, and cannot afford to retain a private lawyer. The LAC does not provide full representation. LAC clients are generally representing themselves in their legal matters and they receive advice through this clinic.

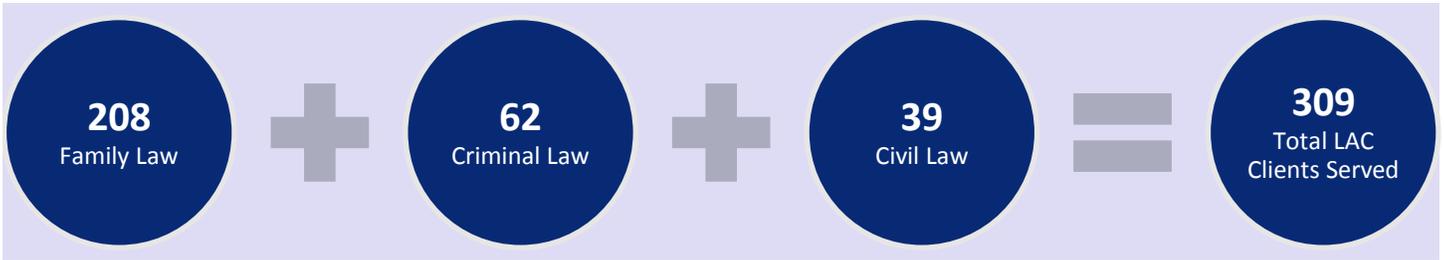
Advice by appointment only

For self-represented, low-income, individuals who need legal advice

2928 clients served since 2008

Family Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law

*“I am very grateful for such professional and thorough help at my appointment. Thank you so much.”*  
Anonymous LAC client



Thanks to the following lawyers for volunteering for the Legal Advice Clinic (LAC):

Alana Wakula, Anna Singer, Beau Atkins, Brad Mitchell, Brooke Sittler, Candace Guist, Connie den Hollander, Doc Crooks, Don McIver, Elke Churchman, Jonathan Adams, Karina Jackson, Léa Lapointe, Lorne Fagnan, Mark Galambos, Mark Vanstone, Michael MacDonald, Neil McPhee, Terry Zakreski, and Tom Baldry.

## Student Training and Education Program (STEP)

1. In partnership with the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law, CLASSIC trains law students through the **Intensive Clinical Law Program** which is offered in 3 terms. These students advocate for clients through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic.

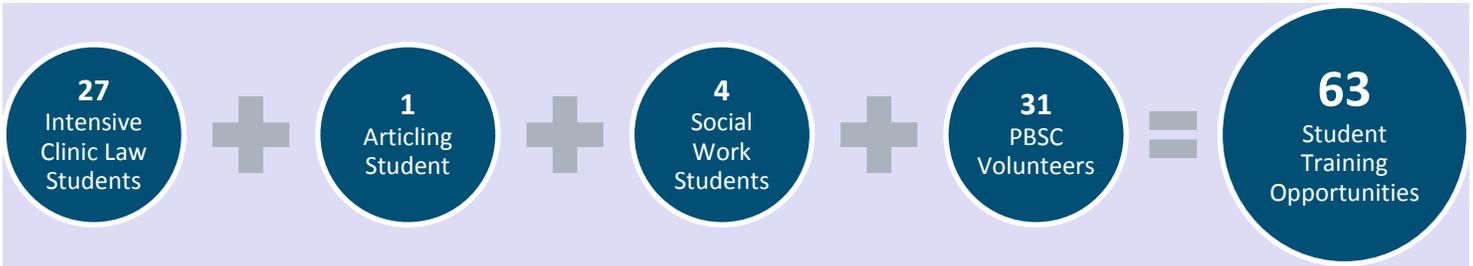


L-R: Brandon Prevost, Connor Prevost, Erin Maerz, Janelle White, Anne Marie Lowther, Joshwa Howie, Kimball MacMillan, Claire Stempien, Antonella Cicko, Tyler Kalynchuk, Elise von Holwede



Social work students  
Brittany Laughren, Raelee Middlebrook

2. CLASSIC trains **social work and interdisciplinary students**. These students have the unique opportunity to work on projects, as well as work with clients and law students to provide non-legal supports.
3. CLASSIC partners with **Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC)** to offer volunteer students the opportunity to volunteer for various programs/projects including: Community Legal Education, Project ID, the Legal Advice Clinic, and the Walk-in Advocacy Clinic



*“CLASSIC has been the single most effective learning experience of my time in law school. After two years of classroom study, I saw the concepts I had learned about come to life. Abstract principles from classes such as administrative law, evidence and ethics became the real tools of my daily work. I developed my knowledge of substantive law in a variety of areas. I built a host of practical skills, especially in oral advocacy, client counselling, negotiation and time management. I believe I learned better in the supportive, collaborative environment at CLASSIC than in the sometimes competitive, recruitment-focused environment of other parts of law school. I recommend CLASSIC to every U of S law student.”*

*Katherine Starks, former Intensive Clinical Law Student*

## Special Systemic Projects

This section outlines summaries of a couple of CLASSIC’s special systemic projects.



### Project ID

Identification (or lack of) creates huge barriers for many of our clients and community members. CLASSIC is funded by the Law Society of Ontario, Affinity Credit Union, and New Community Credit Union to coordinate ID Clinics throughout the year. We Assist individuals to obtain Birth Certificates, SGI photo ID, and Saskatchewan Health Cards. We worked in partnership with READ Saskatoon, Station 20 West, and White Buffalo Youth Lodge. CLASSIC also had the opportunity to work in partnership with Affinity Credit Union to train their staff to coordinate ID Clinics throughout Saskatchewan. Affinity Credit Union held their first ID Clinic in Regina in April of 2019. They plan to provide ID clinics to 9 Indigenous communities throughout Saskatchewan.

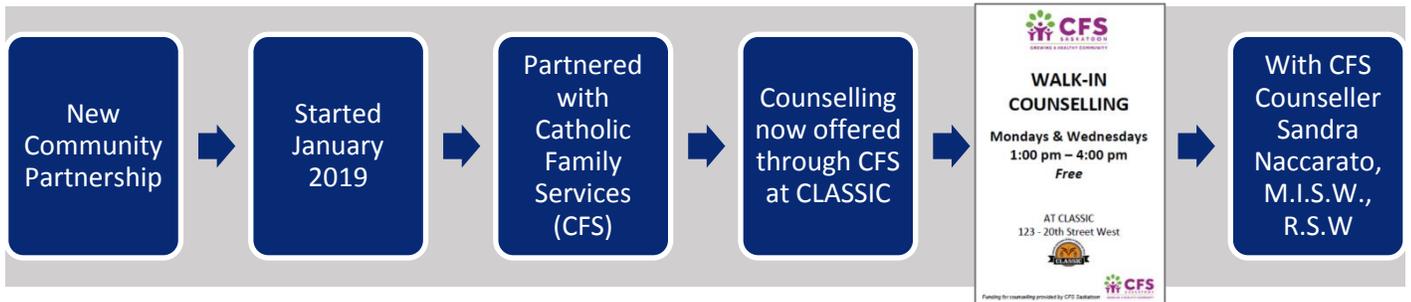
Provided Community Legal Education (CLE) at 19 events to 686 Community Members

### Community Legal Education Program (CLE)

The CLE works with community groups and organizations to provide legal education in various areas of law including: Tenant Rights, Newcomer Rights, Employment Law, Rights vis-à-vis the Police, HIV and the Law, and Estates. In 2018/2019 we provided presentations to: Saskatoon YWCA, Community Plunge, 100 Partners, Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH), Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI), City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Council on Aging (SCOA), and Saskatoon Open Door Society.

## New Partnership

In January of 2019, CLASSIC partnered up with Catholic Family Services to offer walk-in counselling at CLASSIC's office two afternoons a week. This is an incredible opportunity and helps us to meet the needs of the community.



## Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle 2019

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, CLASSIC held our second biennial Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle Fundraiser. The sold-out event was open to the public and was a huge success. Thanks to our supportive community, our Karaoke Fundraising Committee and the team at **SPARK** for making the event a success!



**KARAOKE LIP SYNC BATTLE RAISED \$40,916!**



L-R: Chantelle Johnson, Leif Jensen, Joilene Whitehead, Nicholas Blenkinsop, Melanie Sunchild, Kim Pidskalny



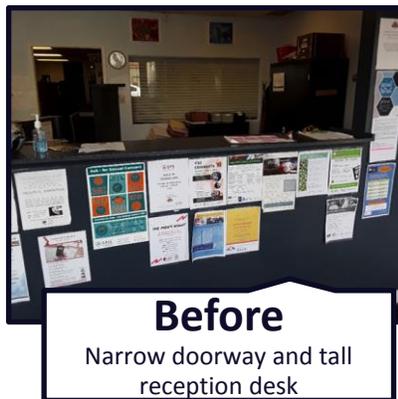
Prof. Glen Luther, QC – received the award for most funds raised

# Office Changes for Accessibility

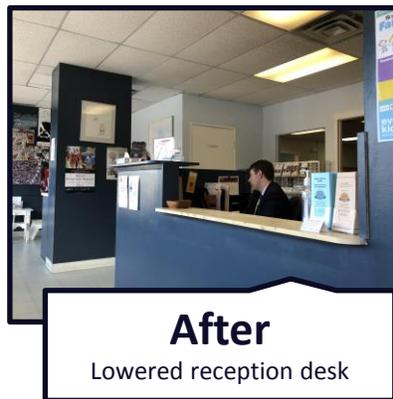


**Olivia Yurach**  
Aden Bowmen Collegiate High School

Olivia Yurach, as part of her high school “Youth Accessibility Leader” project, approached our office in the fall of 2018 with a proposal to assist our office make physical changes to improve accessibility. Olivia worked with us to secure funding and found a contractor to work with us who had experience with office accessibility. Physical changes include: a widened doorway, a lowered reception desk, a taller toilet, and accessible door handles. The overall project was completed by spring 2019. Thanks Olivia!



**Before**  
Narrow doorway and tall reception desk



**After**  
Lowered reception desk



**After**  
Widened doorway

# What else have we been busy with?



**CLASSIC at Rock Your Roots – Walk for Reconciliation**  
L-R: Frank Quennell, Chantelle Johnson, Leif Jensen, Erin Maerz, Janelle White, Tyler Kalynchuk, Claire Stempien, Janice Gingell, Anne Marie Lowther, Edward Pidskalny, Kim Pidskalny, Elise von Holwede

- ✓ YXE Connects
- ✓ Rock Your Roots – Walk for Reconciliation
- ✓ Welcome to the Gayborhood
- ✓ Community Plunge
- ✓ Wícihitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference
- ✓ Access to Justice Week: Run for Justice
- ✓ Legal Resources Fair
- ✓ CBASK Law Firm Showcase
- ✓ Renters of Saskatoon and Area (ROSA) Meetings
- ✓ Community Cares Meetings
- ✓ Reconciliation Saskatoon Member
- ✓ Social Determinants of Health Community Meeting
- ✓ CBA Firm Showcase
- ✓ SWITCH Women’s Pamper Night
- ✓ Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership Member
- ✓ ACCLE (Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education) Member
- ✓ And more. Community matters!

# Thanks for a great year

CLASSIC is very thankful for everyone who has supported CLASSIC and enabled us to meet the needs of the community. We especially thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteers who are the hands and hearts of our service to the community.



L-R Back Row: Connor Aneary, Leif Jensen, Elise von Holwede, prof. Sarah Buhler, The former Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould, Daniel Zeljic, Tonja Lambert, Ayendriela Sharma, Jesse Hayward, Sunam Jassar, MP Marc Miller, Joilene Whitehead,  
L-R Front Row: Kim Pidskalny, Claire Stempien, Katherine Starks, Janice Gingell, Chantelle Johnson, Robin Schmidt, Cheryl Giesbrecht

*CLASSIC was able to provide services thanks, in part, to the following funding partners:*

- Affinity Credit Union
- City of Saskatoon
- Community Initiatives Fund
- Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation
- Individual donors
- Law Foundation of Ontario
- Law Foundation of Saskatchewan
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Merlis Belsher Fund
- New Community Credit Union
- Nutrien
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice
- Saskatoon Community Foundation
- United Way of Saskatoon & Area
- University of Saskatchewan - College of Law

**Thank You**