



# 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## **CLASSIC Inc.**

COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR SASKATOON INNER CITY INC.

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**VISION:**

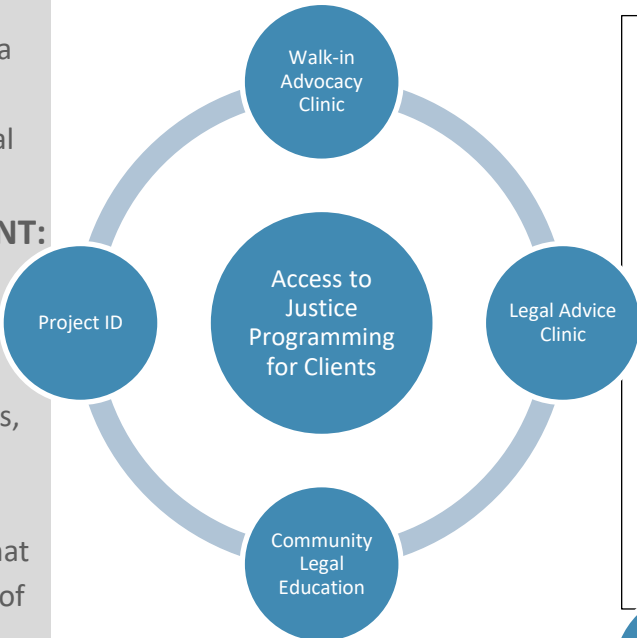
CLASSIC works toward a just society that is supported by a fair legal system

**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.

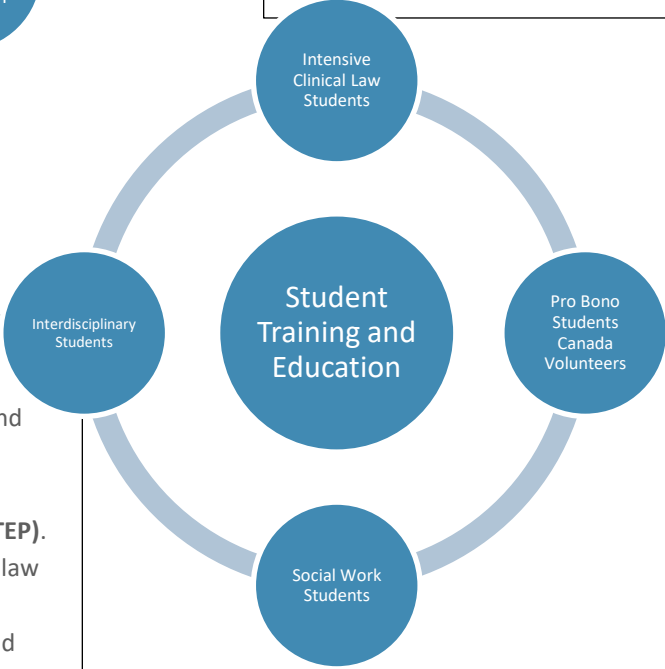
**VALUES:**

- 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



**For clients:**  
 CLASSIC provides access to justice programming for clients through two programs: **The Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC), and the Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)**  
 CLASSIC also provides services through special systemic projects: **Project ID, and Community Legal Education (CLE)**. These programs and special projects serve low-income, historically disadvantaged individuals with an emphasis on serving Indigenous people.

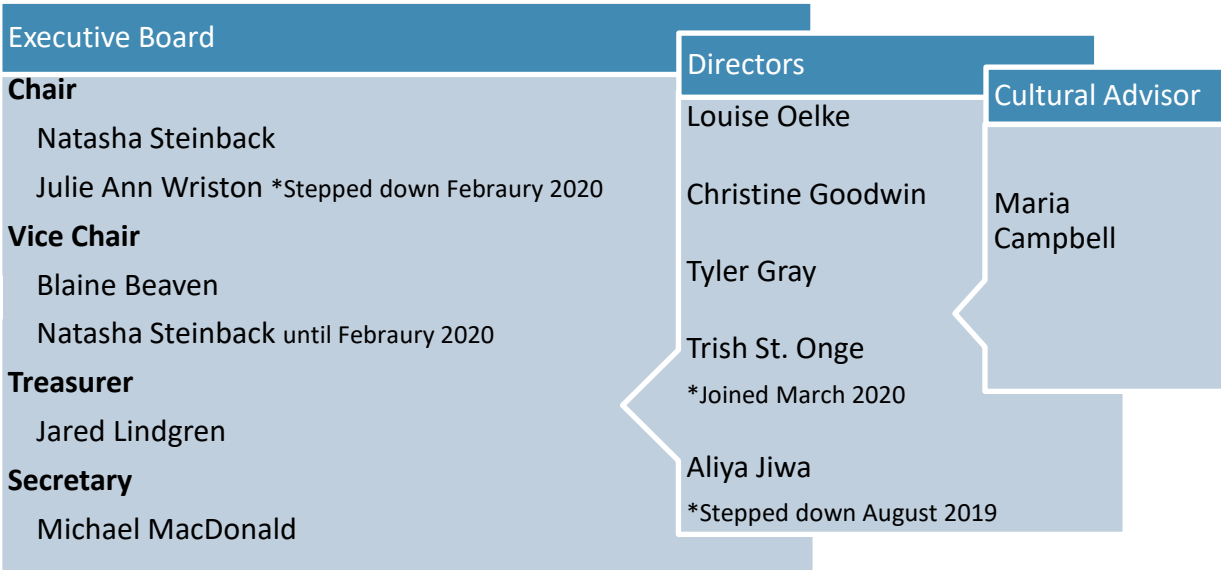
**For students:**  
 CLASSIC provides experiential learning and training through the **Student Training and Education Program (STEP)**. Training is provided to law students, social work practicum students, and interdisciplinary students.



Individuals Served through CLASSIC Access to Justice Programs



# CLASSIC Board



## A Message from the Board Chair, Natasha Steinback and Executive Director, Chantelle Johnson

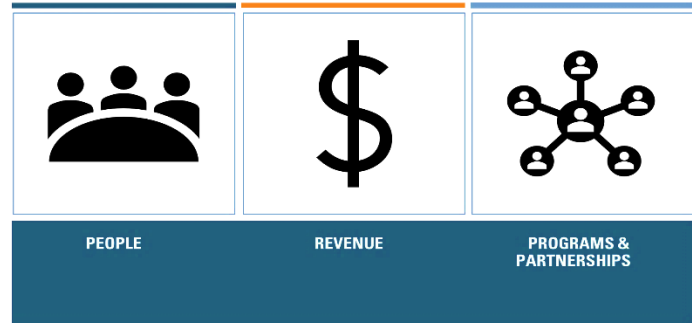
CLASSIC had nothing short of a phenomenal year. In 2019-20, CLASSIC served more clients than ever before through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic, serving a total of 881 clients. We continued to address the access to justice crisis in family and civil matters through our Legal Advice Clinic, and helped vulnerable individuals obtain personal identification to improve their access to resources and care in their communities through “Project ID”. We advocated for systemic change by pursuing appeals at various levels of courts and worked with and within community to better understand what “justice” should and could look like for the clients we work with. We continue to be committed to our journey of reconciliation and viewing our work through a lens of decolonization.

CLASSIC trained three groups of Intensive Clinical Law Students from the University of Saskatchewan, College of Law, investing in over 15 000 student hours of experiential clinical legal education. CLASSIC’s Intensive Clinical Program works to create reflective practitioners. Experiential clinical legal education gives law students the opportunity to work directly with clients, under direct supervision of staff lawyers, while encouraging reflection on their experience and melding practice with theory. CLASSIC provided these services in tandem with our pursuit of stability and sustainability as we grow and mature as an organization. This past year we continued to focus on the stability and sustainability of our: **people, revenue, programs, and partnerships.**

CLASSIC's **PEOPLE** are our strength. CLASSIC's people include our **Board, Staff/Volunteers and Clients**. CLASSIC's **Board** continued to strengthen our governance models and structures and committed to strategic planning to drive our agency into the future. CLASSIC's **staff** returned to a model of 3

Supervising Lawyers and we made some internal shifts to strengthen and streamline our processes. We recognize that staffing levels must be

adequate to provide CLASSIC's dual-pronged model. CLASSIC continued to thrive in our program areas because of the strength of our dedicated **volunteers**. CLASSIC's goal with respect to our **clients** is to continue to improve their "CLASSIC experience" while ensuring that CLASSIC is stable and sustainable for those clients. We are excited to arrange for stability and sustainability through our strategic planning process in 2020.



#### **Revenue – improved financial controls, reserve funds, predictable revenue**

CLASSIC's **REVENUE** and its management continued to be a focus over the past year. CLASSIC hired a Chief Financial Officer to enhance our financial systems, improve our forecasting and work toward better overall financial health. Part of CLASSIC's drive toward stability continues to be the enhancement of our reserve funds, helping to improve our ability to weather financial uncertainties. Finally, we continue to work towards securing more predictable revenue sources and streamlining our budgeting processes.

#### **Programs & Partnerships – building strong and balanced programs, leveraging value**

CLASSIC knows that formalizing our **PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS** is necessary and critical for us to map-out and develop our future as Saskatchewan's only community legal clinic and experiential education clinical site. This year, CLASSIC and the University of Saskatchewan, College of Law continued to work together on the common goal of advancing CLASSIC's clinical legal education program sustainably into the future. The University of Saskatchewan, College of Law and CLASSIC won an international award for community-university partnerships this year. Martin Phillipson, Dean of Law, and Associate Professor Sarah Buhler proudly accepted the Sir David Watson Award for Community University Partnerships during the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement's (NCCPE) Engage Conference in Bristol, UK, on Dec. 4, 2019.



# CLASSIC Staff

Staff Member	Position
Chantelle Johnson	Executive Director
Nicholas Blenkinsop	Supervising Lawyer
Leif Jensen	Supervising Lawyer until August 2019
Tom Baldry	Supervising Lawyer started August 2019
Cara Merasty	Supervising Lawyer started September 2019
Joilene Whitehead	Executive Assistant/Indigenous Community Coordinator
Kim Pidskalny	Clinic Coordinator
Lorraine Pura	Administrative Assistant Casual
Wendy Paddy	Front End Worker August 2019 – March 2020
Tyler Kalynchuk	Student Manager
Shane Morrison	Student Manager started January 2020
Elise von Holwede	Student Manager until December 2019

We are thankful to our retired, **volunteer lawyers** who put in over **70 hours** of work for the Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC) every week to advocate for our clients and train our students. This in-kind donation of support helps to bolster CLASSIC's ability to achieve greater progress above and beyond our daily work.



Contributed to **8**  
News Articles

Over **2000**  
Followers on Social  
Media

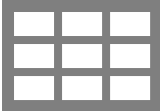
Made **156** Posts on  
Social Media with  
over **46,000** views

Received **5224**  
Phone Calls

Responded to over  
**450** inquiries

Made over **1200**  
referrals

CLASSIC staff work to meet the rising demand for Access to Justice services as evidenced by our many points of contact



# Programs

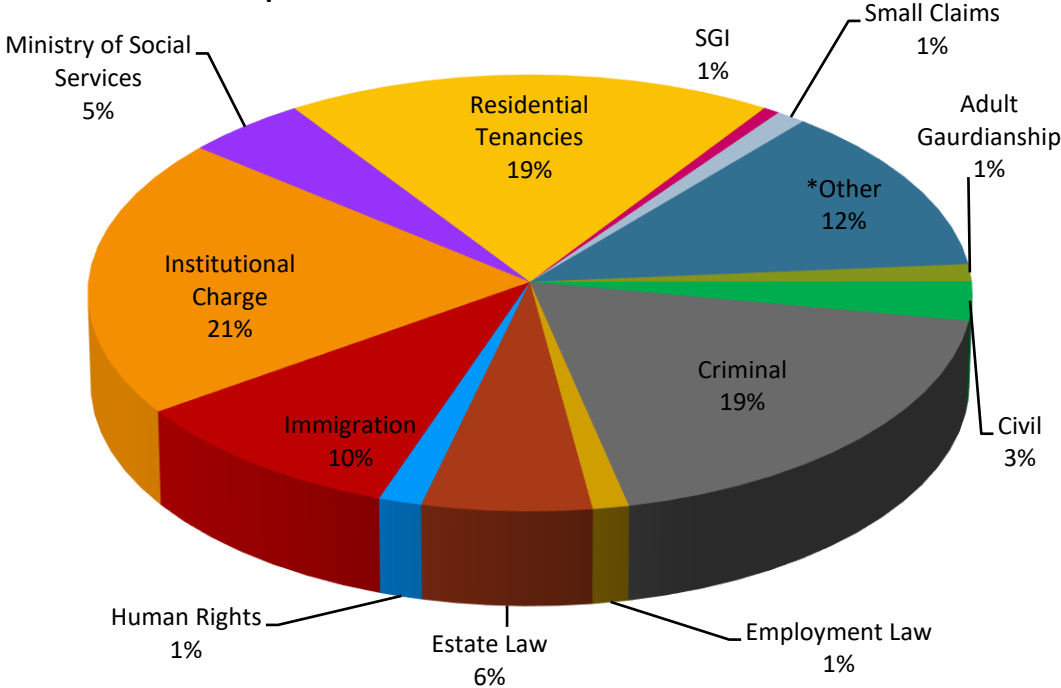
## Walk-In Advocacy Clinic (WAC)

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.



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)

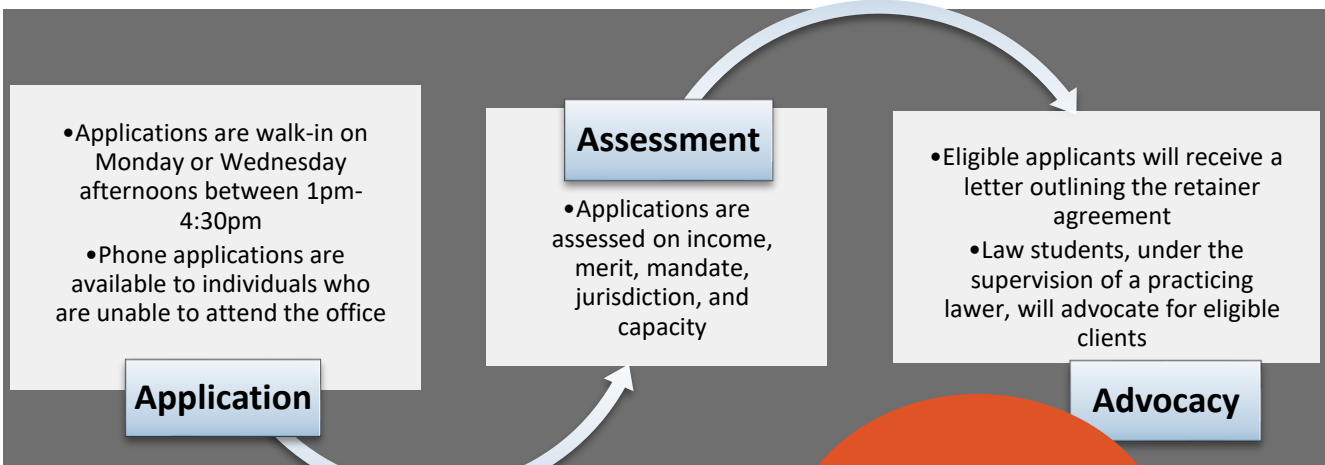
April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020



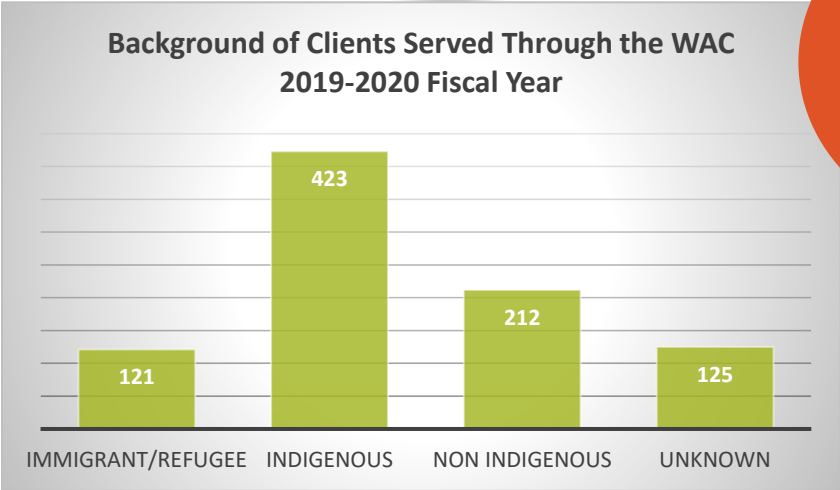
**Our 3 main practice areas in the 2019-2020 fiscal year are:**

- Prison Law
- Criminal Law
- Residential Tenancies (Housing)

\*Other areas of law include: Day School Applications, 60’s Scoop Applications, Debt Issues,



Since we opened in 2007, CLASSIC has served over 8314 individuals through the WAC.



**48%** of our clients identify as Indigenous

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

**58%** of our clients are under 40 years of age

**60%** of our clients identified as male  
**38%** of our clients identified as female  
**2%** is unknown or do not identify as male or female

*"I am really grateful for CLASSIC legal assistance. Great people, very helpful, and determined to help others when in need."*

Anonymous WAC Client

# Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)

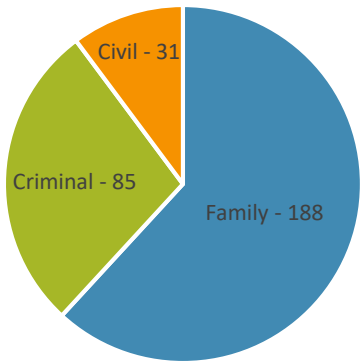
Advice by appointment only

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

Family Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law

304 individuals served in 2019-20 with over 150 hours of volunteer lawyers time

LAC April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020



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. Without the

LAC, these individuals are completely on their own through their legal matter. This is particularly important with respect to family law, which represents a major portion of our LAC appointments.

**Thanks to the lawyers who volunteer for the Legal Advice Clinic:**

Alana Wakula, Andrew Bitz, Beau Atkins, Brad Mitchell, Brooke Johnson, Brooke Sittler, Connie den Hollander, Denim Martyn, Desirée Steele, Doc Crooks, Don McIver, Elke Churchman, Jonathan Adams, Karina Jackson, Léa Lapointe, Lorne Fagnan, Mark Galambos, Mark Vanstone, Neil McPhee, Rochelle Wempe, Terry Zakreski

*“Thank you, I really appreciate your assistance and help. Don’t know who I would have received this information from otherwise.”*

Anonymous LAC Client



# Student Training and Education Program (STEP)

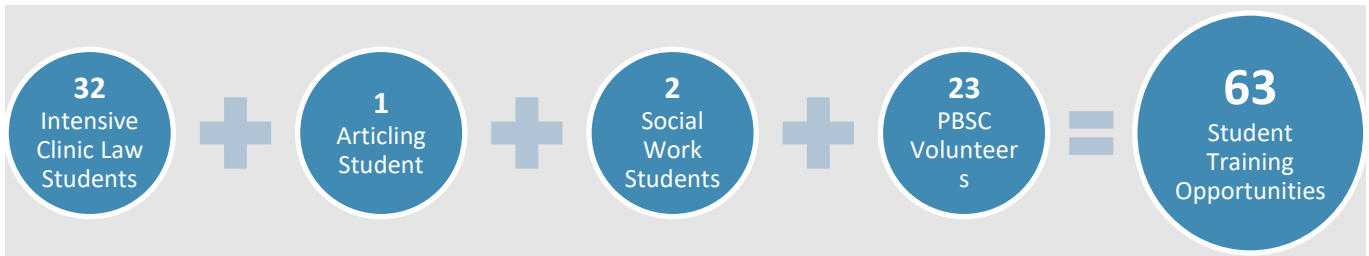
1. CLASSIC, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Law, offersthe **Clinical Law Program**. This is a credit-hour course that is provided in 3 terms throughout the academic year. These students advocate for clients through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic. The students are directly supervised and provided with experiential clinical legal education by CLASSIC’s staff.

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.



Intensive Students from Winter 2019 Term in front of CLASSIC  
L-R Gregory Lee, Gurpreet Gill, Michael Albert, Josée Berthelet, Jodi Karasiuk, Candace Almightyvoice, Luke Brisebois, Christine Miller

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



## Social Work at CLASSIC

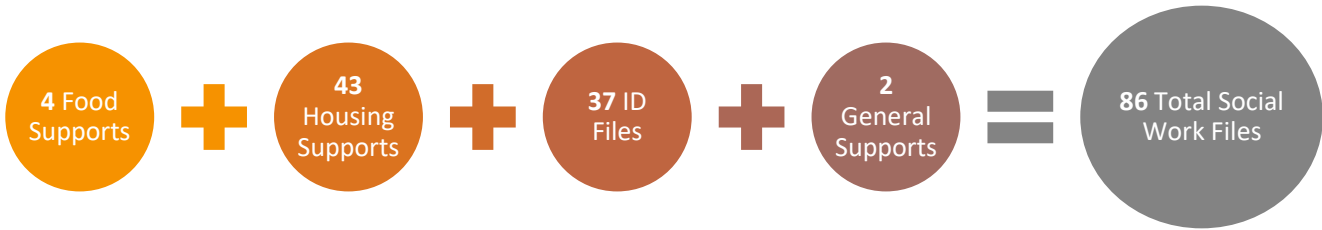
CLASSIC works in partnership with Catholic Family Services (CFS) to offer Walk-in Counselling. Sandra Naccarato, M.I.S.W., R.S.W, with CFS, offers on-site counselling services to CLASSIC clients on a walk-in basis every Monday afternoon during CLASSIC’s Walk-in Advocacy Clinic hours. Sandra has been with us since January 2019!

CLASSIC also works with social work practicum students to provide support services. This fiscal year, CLASSIC provided practicum



CLASSIC student manager Tyler Kalynchuk and Social Work Practicum student Emily Cook visiting a client at the Irene & Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health

placements for 2 full time students. One from the University of Regina and one from Memorial University in Newfoundland. These students provided support services to 86 clients.



## Systemic Work

### Special Systemic Projects

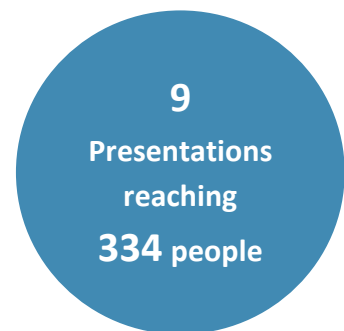
#### Project ID

Identification (or lack of) creates huge barriers for many of our clients and community members. CLASSIC is funded by Affinity 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, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, and the Lighthouse.

2019-2020 ID Clinics		
Clinic Date	Number of Individuals Served	Location
November 4, 2019	57	Station 20 West
February 13, 2020	10	Lighthouse
February 24, 2020	43	White Buffalo Youth Lodge
March 14, 2020	ID Clinic Cancelled due to COVID-19	SWITCH

#### 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 2019-20, we provided presentations to 334 people. Unfortunately, presentations scheduled in March 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19.



## Alternatives to Incarceration Handbook

**REHABILITATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION:**  
 a HANDBOOK of COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS in SASKATCHEWAN

CLASSIC made updates to the **Alternatives to Incarceration Handbook** which was created and released in 2016 through CLASSIC’s former Systemic Initiatives Program. The purpose of the Handbook is to increase awareness about community and government resources that provide alternatives to custodial sentences, particularly for Indigenous peoples. CLASSIC partnered with the Indigenous Law Centre on this project for editing, formatting and web accessibility. The roll-out has been delayed by COVID-19, but is coming soon

## Response to COVID-19

In March 2020, due to the precautionary measures recommended by health officials in regard to COVID-19, CLASSIC made the difficult decision to cancel all in- office appointments, and suspend all Community Legal Education sessions, ID clinics and Legal Advice Clinics until further notice.

Public access to CLASSIC’s office was closed, with access made by appointment only. CLASSIC’s Walk-in Advocacy Clinic continued to operate in a modified capacity, with staff working from home. Applications for urgent Prison, Residential Tenancies, and Immigration matters continued to be accepted via phone, email, or message in CLASSIC’s mailbox. During this time, CLASSIC’s Winter Intensive students worked from home to wrap-up and transfer their files to their Supervising Lawyers.

**FAQ COVID-19 & Family Law Issues in Saskatchewan**

**"I have a child protection trial and/or pre-trial. What should I do?"**

All child protection trials and pre-trials currently scheduled to May 31, 2020 are adjourned until further notice. New trial and pre-trial dates will be set once the Court operations are in regular operation. You should stay in contact with the court and regularly check the updates on <https://sasklawcourts.ca/>

**FAQ COVID-19 & Family Law Issues in Saskatchewan**

**"I have a court date, what should I do?"**

Check to see whether your matter is still going forward in court. Due to COVID-19, the family law court is only hearing urgent and emergency family law matters. Most family law matters are not considered urgent or emergency matters.

To read more about what the court means by "urgent and emergency", visit: <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.cfm/home/court-of-queens-bench/senior-19-update>

**FAQ COVID-19 & Family Law Issues in Saskatchewan**

**"Should I go to the courthouse?"**

Do NOT go to the courthouse if you have symptoms of COVID-19, have traveled within 14 days, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or who has traveled within 14 days, or have been asked to self-isolate.

If you have an upcoming court date and fall into any of the above categories, contact the Local Registrar at: <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.cfm/home/court-of-queens-bench/court-locations-and-sitting-times>.

Most court appearances will be held by telephone.

**FAQ COVID-19 & Family Law Issues in Saskatchewan**

**"I just separated from my partner/spouse. What do I do?"**

The most important thing is that you are safe and can take care of yourself and your children

If you need help with basic needs, call 2-1-1 or visit <https://wk.211.ca>. 2-1-1 is a free, confidential information and referral system for thousands of community and social services available across Saskatchewan.

For information regarding divorce and property division visit The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan's website at [familylaw.alea.org](http://familylaw.alea.org)

During this time, CLASSIC continued to support systemic advocacy work with a major focus on Residential Tenancies and Tenant Rights during COVID-19, as well as Prison Advocacy matters.

In partnership with READ Saskatoon and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, CLASSIC released informational guides for tenants in Saskatchewan about their rights during the pandemic, and individuals dealing with Family Law matters in Saskatchewan during the pandemic. These informational guides were published online as well as printed and distributed to local agencies supporting low-income members of the community.

# Fundraising

## Fall Giving Campaign

CLASSIC held its first Fall Funding Campaign which ran from October 2019 – December 2019 with a goal of **\$10,000**. Thanks to all the generous donors who supported this campaign, and **thanks to Deb Hopkins and Tim Quigley for matching the campaign donations!**

**\$20,000  
Raised!**

## Cirque de CLASSIC presented by *Nutrien*<sup>™</sup>



On January 24, 2020, CLASSIC held its second biennial fundraiser, Cirque de CLASSIC, presented by Nutrien. The family friendly, carnival themed event was fun for all ages and raised **\$36,163** for CLASSIC! Thanks to our donors, the supportive community, our fundraising team, and SPARK Creations & Bookings for making the event a success. CLASSIC walks in many worlds and it was so fun having members of all our worlds under one circus tent!

**Over  
\$36,000  
Raised!**

A very special portion of the evening included presentation of the Victor P. Dietz, Q.C.

Pro Bono Service Award. This award is presented annually by the Law Society of Saskatchewan and Pro Bono Law

Saskatchewan in recognition of lawyers who provide outstanding pro bono legal services to those in need. This year's recipient was Pat Tondevold, making it an extra special evening as she was presented with the award for her exceptional work at CLASSIC and in the LGBTQ2S community.



Fred Nicholas, former Cirque de Soleil performer, showing off his acrobatic skills



# International Award

## Sir David Watson Award

The University of Saskatchewan College of Law and CLASSIC won an international award for community-university partnerships. The Professor Sir David Watson Award, created in memory of the former University of Brighton Vice-Chancellor, recognizes the combined efforts of community and university partners towards making a difference to the shared lives of people in their shared community. Dean Martin Phillipson and Professor Sarah Buhler attended at the NCCPE Engage conference in Bristol in December 2019 to receive the award.



## 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.

CLASSIC was able to provide services thanks to the following service contract partners:

- Affinity Credit Union
- Anonymous Donor
- B'nai Brith
- 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