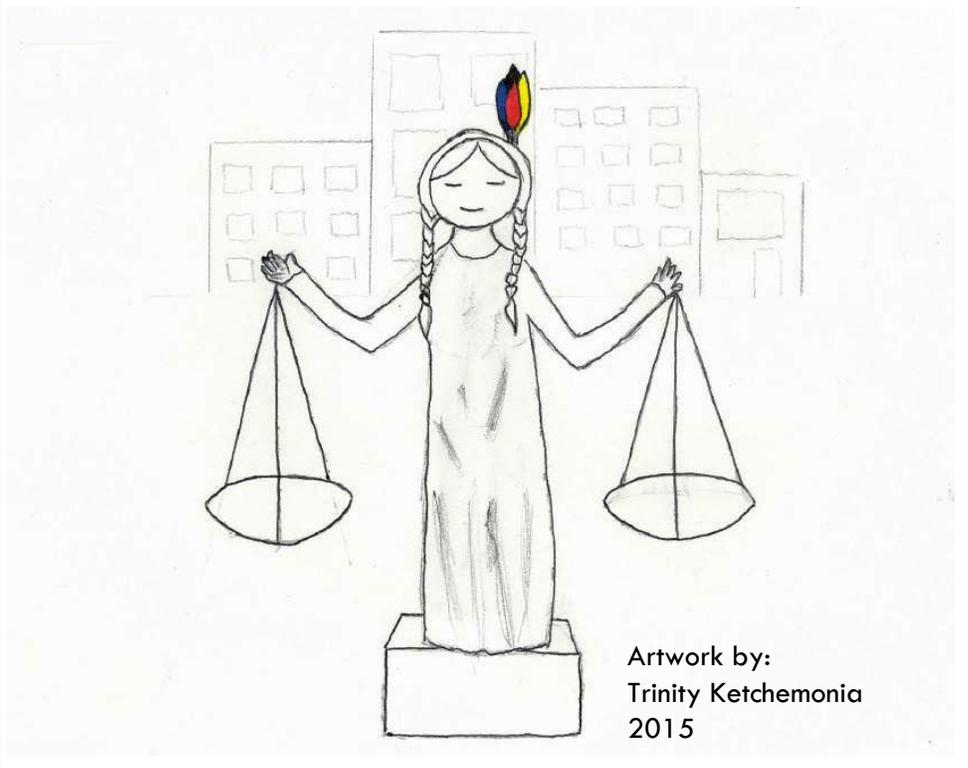




CLASSIC ANNUAL REPORT



Artwork by:
Trinity Ketchemonia
2015

2016-2017

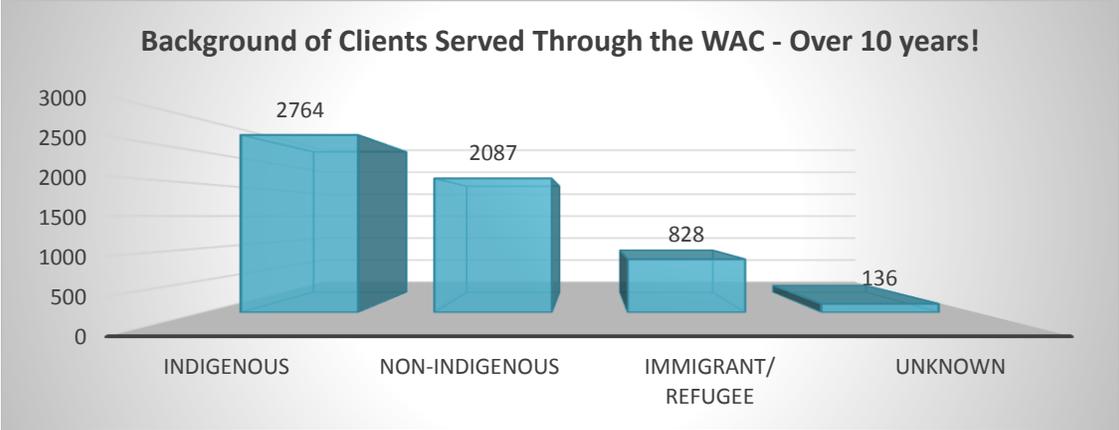
Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.
123 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0W7
Phone: 306-657-6100
Fax: 306-384-0520

INTRODUCTION – CLASSIC TURNS 10!

CLASSIC (Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.) was founded 10 years ago by three University of Saskatchewan College of Law students who identified a gap in legal services for individuals who did not qualify for legal aid but could not afford a private lawyer. Today, CLASSIC is Saskatchewan's only community legal clinic, and has become an essential service for vulnerable Saskatoon residents.

CLASSIC has served over 8180 clients since we opened in 2007!

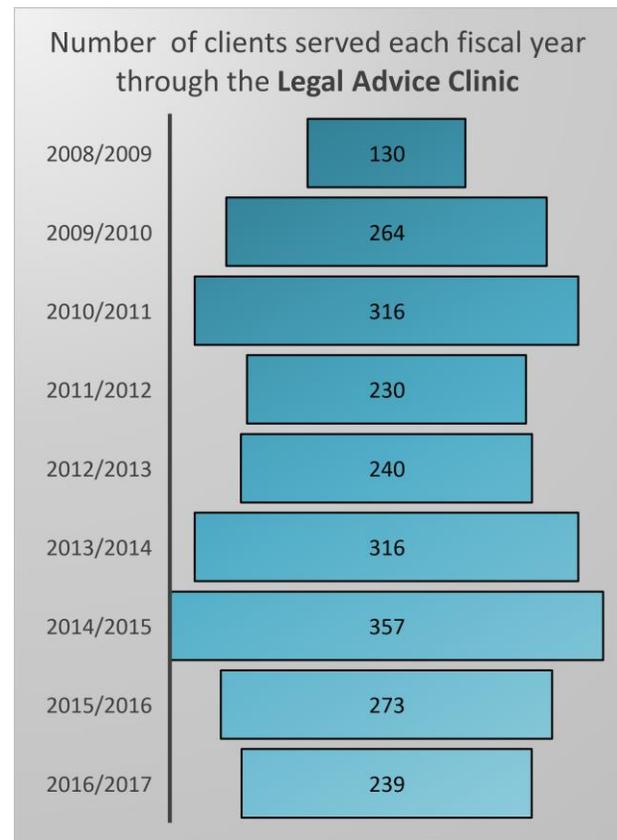
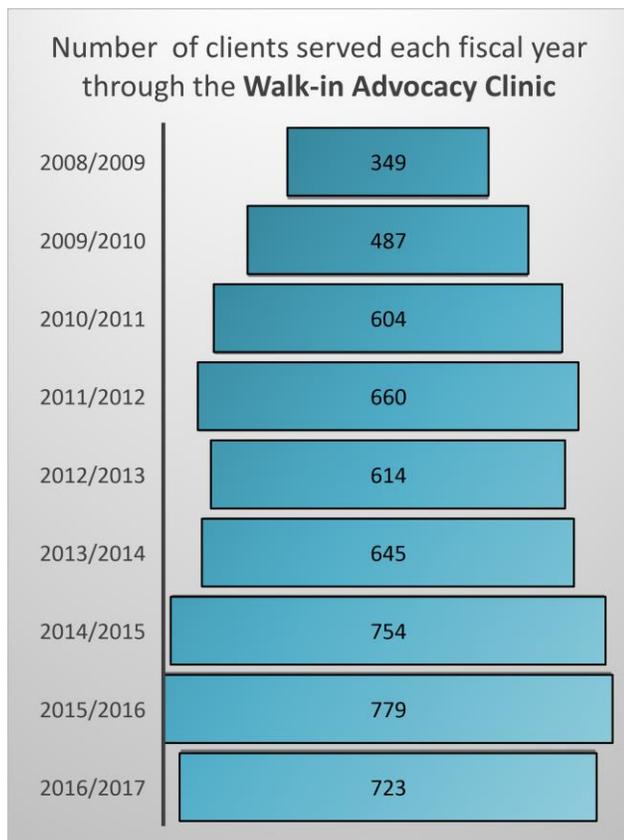
Since our earliest days, working out of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, CLASSIC has maintained a commitment to Indigenous people. In fact, it is a part of CLASSIC's mandate to prioritize Indigenous clients' needs.



Our front desk has received almost 46,000 phone calls over the years, of those, 15,093 were referrals. Additionally, we have responded to 1,256 general email inquiries in the last 5 years.

Our presence on Social Media has increased over the years. 1170 people are currently following our Facebook page, and 518 people are following our Twitter page. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, we've responded to 20 inquiries on social media and our page has been viewed by over 3000 people.





Over the last 10 years, we've helped clients retain over \$1.2 million in lost services, fines, damages, and fees through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHANTELLE JOHNSON

As I reflect on another year at CLASSIC, I cannot help but think “what a year it’s been!”. It’s as though we’ve been on a roller coaster ride with extreme highs and lows.

The highs....

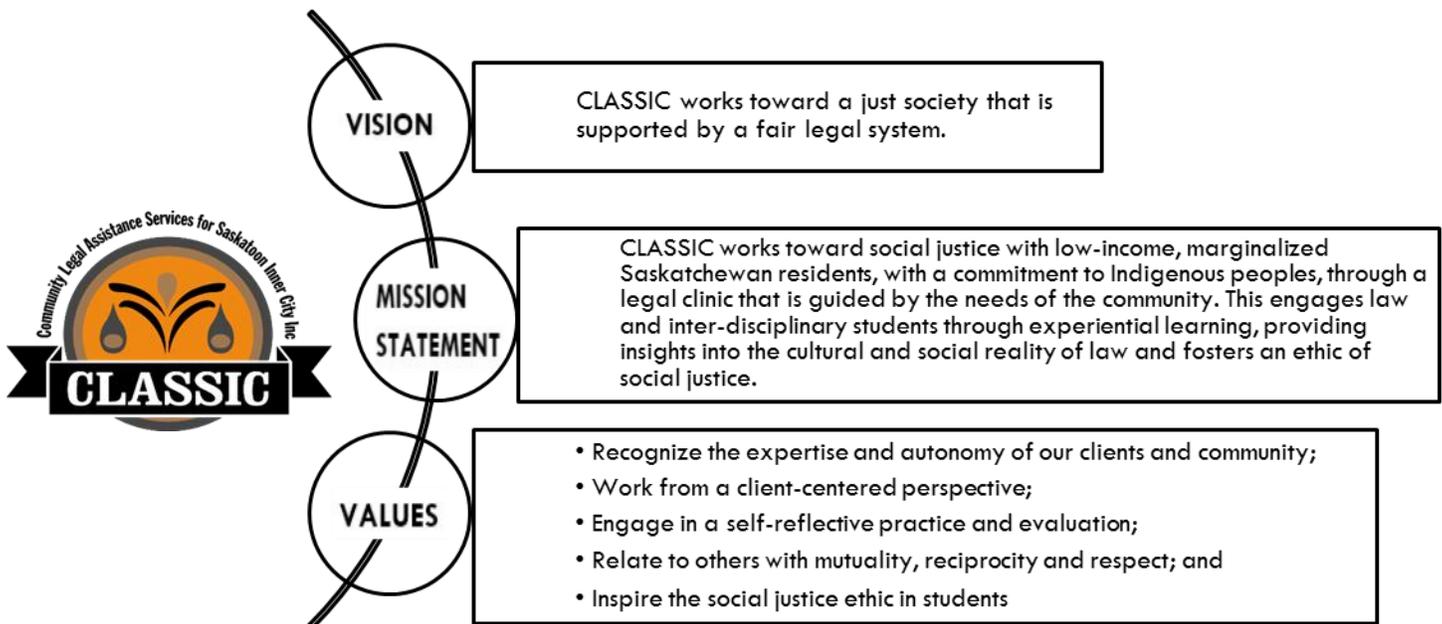
CLASSIC celebrated **10 years in our community** in February! During these 10 years CLASSIC has:

- Provided **experiential learning opportunities to over 700 students** – both law and inter-disciplinary students;
- Served over **8180 clients** through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC) and Legal Advice Clinic (LAC);
- Been labelled an “**essential service**” in Saskatoon, through an external program evaluation;
- Developed and implemented a Systemic Initiatives Program; and



- Moved from a small start-up, operating out of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge to our own storefront location at 123 20th Street West, with over 5000 square feet of space.

Highlights from this year include our continued work to strengthen CLASSIC's foundations. This work resulted in the following vision, mission and values to guide us into the future:



CLASSIC's vision, mission and values will help us move into the future knowing who we are and what we can do. This will help us avoid mission drift and to manage all the wishes of external stakeholders. This will hopefully help us build a sustainable organization that exists in Saskatoon for years to come.

The lows

Bad economic times disproportionately impact non-profit organizations and the people we serve. This past year was difficult for both CLASSIC and our clients. Ironically, during bad economic times the demand for our services increases by both clients and external stakeholders. Thankfully we made it through the year! In large part, this has to do with the community and everyone who rallied around CLASSIC to support us. We saw an increase in private donations – notably, most are from CLASSIC alumni and former clients. Further, a number of smaller fundraising events were planned by CLASSIC and concerned students – and this money saw us through! CLASSIC raised over \$30 000 at a Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle Fundraiser – where our goal was \$5 000. Additionally, the Just Rights student group coordinated a handful of events that generated over \$6 000 for CLASSIC. It was really heart-warming and inspiring to see our community rally around us.

End of an era

Long-time Supervising Lawyer Amanda Dodge is moving on from CLASSIC. Amanda has been an integral part of CLASSIC since its early years. She is known in the community and her commitment to social justice has made Saskatoon a better place. While we are sad to see Amanda go, we wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

Onward and upward

Non-profit existence is not for the faint of heart ... but it is certainly for people with heart. CLASSIC has amazing staff, students, volunteers and board members. As we end every staff meeting at CLASSIC, onward and upward ...

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board	Lynn Latta Chair Ron Cuming Vice-Chair Rachel Kong Treasurer Bonnie Reddekopp Secretary	Directors	Cathy Bohachik Heath Smith Lori Johnstone-Clarke Louise Olke Maria Campbell Leif Jensen	Advising Elder	Michael Maurice
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STAFF MEMBERS

Staff Member	Position	Years with CLASSIC
Chantelle Johnson	Executive Director	5 years
Amanda Dodge	Supervising Lawyer/ SIP Coordinator	9 years
Nicholas Blenkinsop	Supervising Lawyer	8 years
Brenda Yuen	Supervising Lawyer	2.5 years
Janice Gingell	Volunteer Lawyer Extraordinaire - Retired lawyer who donates over 20 hours a week	5 years
Joilene Whitehead	Executive Assistant	4 years
Kim Pidskalny	Legal Assistant	3.5 years

STUDENT MANAGERS



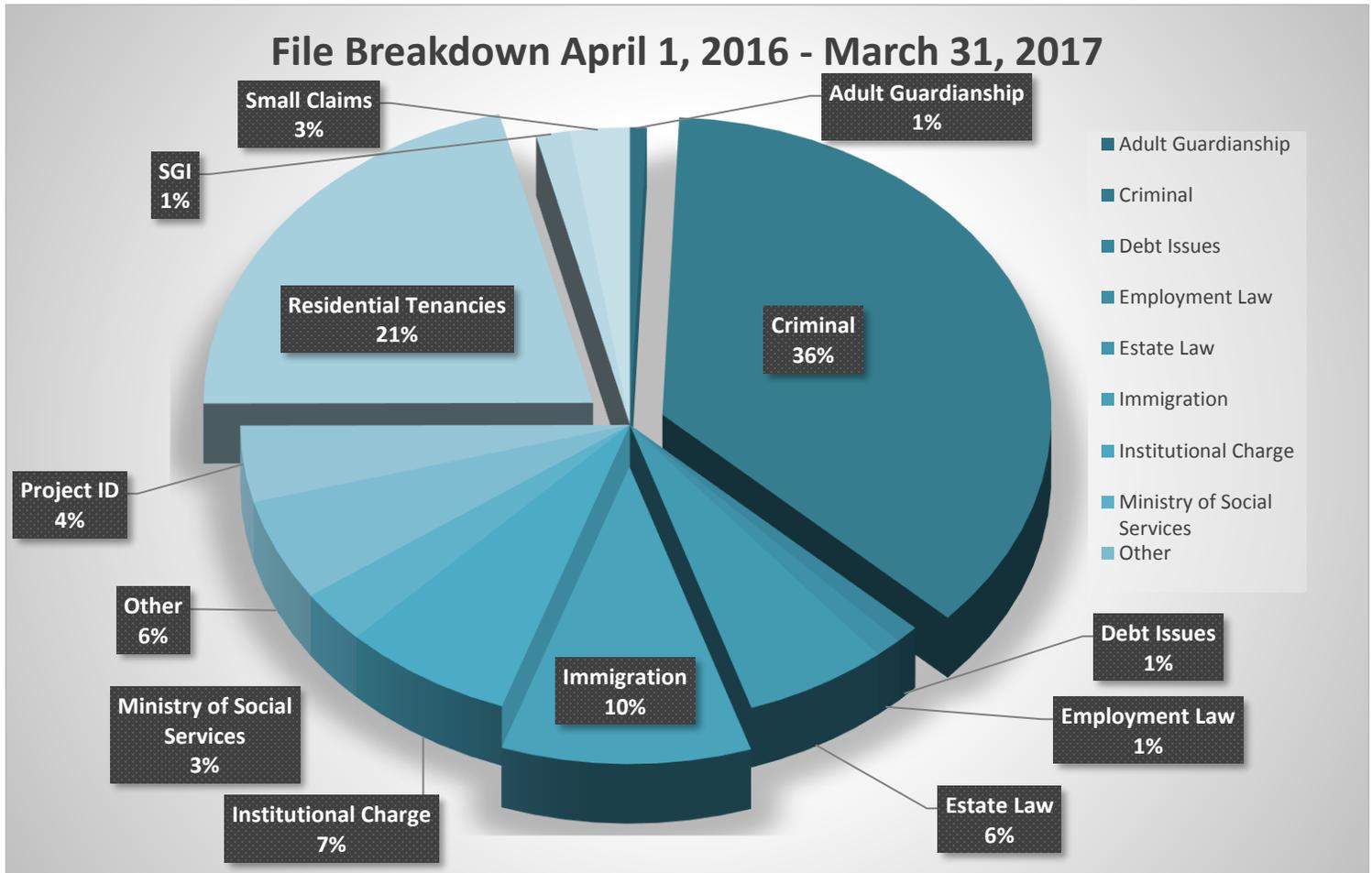
Student managers Lawren Trotchie, Tyler Evans, & Taylor-Anne Yee increased CLASSIC's presence at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law student campus during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

CLASSIC'S 3 PROGRAMS: THE WAC, THE LAC, & THE SIP

1. The Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC)

The Walk-In Advocacy Clinic (WAC) is CLASSIC's largest program area, and one of the ways we work toward fulfilling our mission statement. Under the supervision of practicing lawyers, students from the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law assist low-income clients with legal matters.

CLASSIC provides advocacy in various areas of law through the WAC (See chart below).



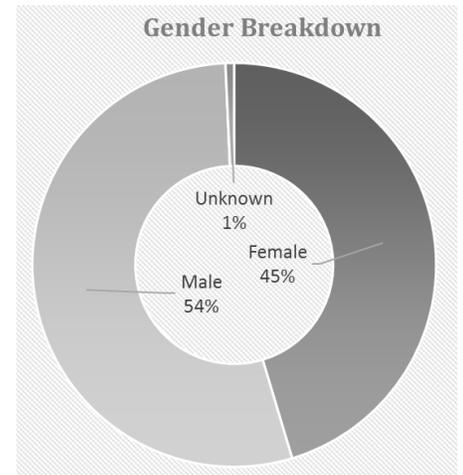
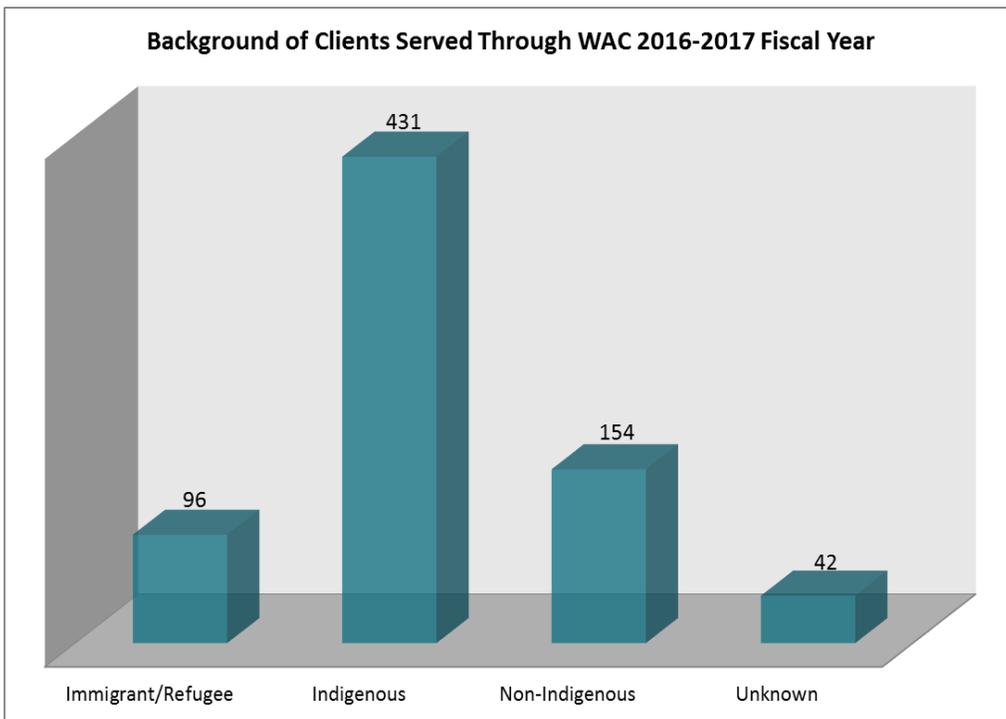
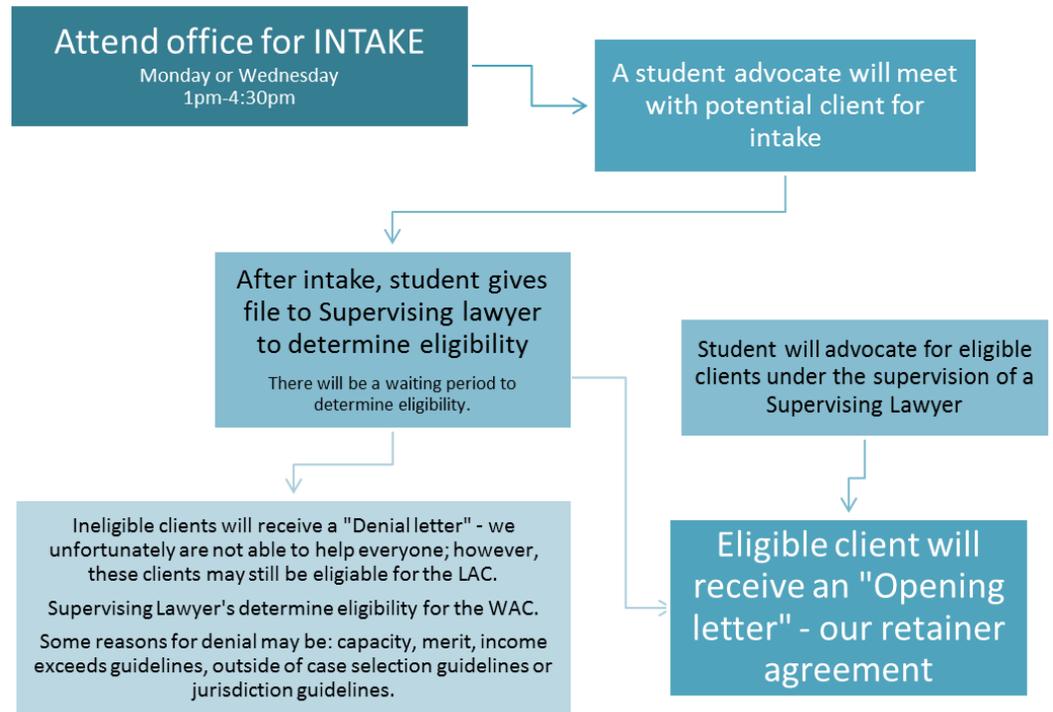
The WAC served 723 clients in over 15 areas of law during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. WAC student advocates and supervising lawyers made 829 appearances in Provincial Court, and 139 appearances at tribunals which is a slight increase from last fiscal year.

Unfortunately, 490 individuals were denied services through the WAC, 58 percent of which were due to capacity.

CLASSIC has served 5815 individuals through the WAC since 2007.

The flow chart on the right outlines how an individual can apply for the WAC. Individuals who are in prison may obtain services through the WAC by phoning our office at any time we are open to do an intake over the phone.

The charts below outline our client demographics. In keeping with our commitment to Indigenous people, 60% of the clients we served during the 2016-2017 fiscal year identified as Indigenous.



2. The Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)

The Legal Advice Clinic (LAC) provides low-income clients with free legal advice from practicing lawyers in the areas of criminal, family, and civil law. CLASSIC works in partnership with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs) to provide this program. The LAC provides vital support to low-income individuals who are self-represented in

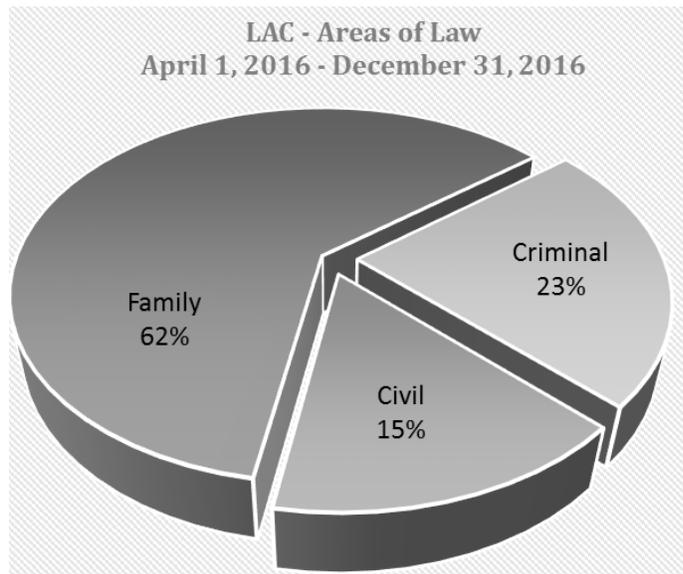
their legal matters. This clinic is complementary to the WAC, where if we cannot assist a person in their matter we can book them an appointment for legal advice to be self-represented. The wait list for the appointments vary, but the longest wait is generally four-weeks.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the LAC served 239 clients, 62 percent of which were in the area of Family Law.

Since 2008, CLASSIC has served 2342 individuals through the LAC.

Thanks to the following lawyers for volunteering for the LAC:

- Alana Wakula
- Ann Jinnouchi
- Beau Atkins
- Brad Mitchell
- Brooke Sittler
- Candace Guist
- Connie den Hollander
- Deb Hopkins
- Don McIver
- Elke Churchman
- Karina Jackson
- Kiera Neufeld-Heinrichs
- Kim Visram
- Lea Lapointe
- Leif Jensen
- Mark Galambos
- Mark Vanstone
- Terry Zakreski
- Tom Baldry



3. The Systemic Initiatives Program (SIP)

The Systemic Initiative Program (SIP) works in partnership with community organizations to tackle the systemic inequities that create legal problems. SIP projects empower marginalized community members, address barriers to accessing justice, and seek policy reform.

SIP projects include:

- Responds to widespread need of marginalized people for identification
- Hold full-scale ID clinics & information sessions in the community
- Worked with INAC to co-host first Status Card clinic
- Helped a total of 512 community member in the 2016-2017 fiscal year!



Project I.D.

- Widespread community consensus around the over-policing of Indigenous peoples and the prevalence of street checks
- Conducted legal and sociological research regarding validity and social impact
- Partnered with Professor Glen Luther, Q.C., to prepare substantive submission recommending abolition of street checks
- Secured 50 signatories from academia, legal professionals, & community agencies - submitted to Saskatoon Board of Police

Racial Profiling in Policing

- Works to address barriers within telephone and visitor access policy and protocol in provincial correctional centres
- Formed coalition with U of S, Elizabeth Fry Society, AIDS Saskatoon, STR8 UP, Mennonite Central Committee, & Micah Mission
- Met with Minister of Justice in March 2017
- The Minister announced this spring that the province will reduce the calling fees (to \$2.50 per call) and ensure a free daily call for every prisoner. We are hopeful about forthcoming law, policy and protocol changes.

Project Access



Members of Project Access who met with the Minister of Justice in March 2017: Amanda Dodge (CLASSIC), Sarah Buhler (U of S), Sue Delaney (Elizabeth Fry), & Jason Mercredi (AIDS Saskatoon)

- Working in a consultative capacity to assist with discrimination against prospective tenants on grounds or receipt of social assistance

Discrimination in Rental Housing

- Works to address Indigenous overrepresentation in the criminal justice system
- Partnership with the Native Law Centre: Cultural Advisor Maria Campbell and then Acting Director Chris Lafleur
- Prepared community resource directory identifying mental health and addictions programming, counselling and other supports in communities across the province
- Working to educate judges about the realities of Indigenous peoples
- Long term goal: To promote education about restorative justice and policy change within the criminal justice system.

- Presentations on legal rights and responsibilities at community-based organizations; complements PLEA's Speakers Bureau
- Our volunteers gave 20 presentations to 300 people during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- CBO's we provide CLE's to include: the Food Bank, Aids Saskatoon, ROSA, the Open Door Society, and more

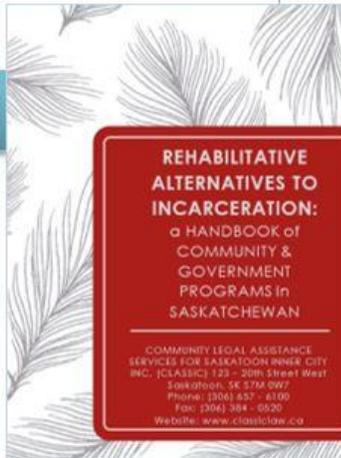
Community Legal Education (CLE)

- CLASSIC supported the development of this tenants' rights organization over its first two years
- during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the group grew in stability so we've reduced our infrastructural support
- CLASSIC continues to provide Community Legal Education to this organization

R.O.S.A.
Renters of Saskatoon and Area



Gladue Project



- Partnership with Cultural Diversity, Race Relations office, and Johnson Shoyama Business School to review existing bylaws and policies with an equity lens through which the bylaws will be assessed

City of Saskatoon Bylaw & Policy Review

- Submissions to the federal government:
 - to make changes to policies around record suspensions, especially reduction/elimination of fees
 - to change limitations upon engagement in political activities by charities
 - In May 2017 the federal government announced they will remove the limitation upon charities with respect to political activities
- Submissions to the provincial government:
 - seeking changes to the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement Regulations
 - seeking changes to laws that govern "payday loan" companies

Legislative Advocacy

FUNDING

Over the 2016-2017 fiscal year, CLASSIC was able to provide services thanks, in part, to the following funding partners:

- Law Foundation of Saskatchewan
- University of Saskatchewan, College of Law
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice
- Community Initiatives Fund
- United Way of Saskatoon and Area
- City of Saskatoon
- Merlis Belsher Fund
- Saskatoon Community Foundation
- Potash Corp of Saskatchewan
- Affinity Credit Union
- Student Summer Works
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Individual donors

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Introducing Terri Sewell- Best Event Planner Ever!

CLASSIC teamed up with Terri Sewell of Thirty6 Events in 2015 to help with planning the semiannual gown to gown gala. Since then, she has helped us organize many other fundraising events including CLASSIC's 50/50 and CLASSIC's first ever Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle. We are continuing to work with Terri on several events in the future.



Thanks to Terri, our fund development committee, our volunteers, and all our local sponsors, we raised **\$54,434.74!**

50/50 - various law firms and the Saskatchewan CBA participated

Shopping Fundraiser at Frakas

First Ever CLASSIC Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle at The Capitol

Just Rights Art Auction

Rundraiser at The Running Room

Beer Fundraiser at Odd Couple

Online Funding Drives



VIP VISITORS

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada,
The Honourable Beverly McLachlin

University of Saskatchewan
President, **Peter Stoicheff**

University of Saskatchewan
Dean of the College of Law,
Martin Phillipson

Saskatoon Chief of Police,
Chief Clive Weighill



Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, **The Honourable Beverly McLachlin** with Dean of the College of Law, **Martin Phillipson**, and CLASSIC staff and students.

CLASSIC IN THE MEDIA

- **November 16, 2016, CBC News Saskatoon** published an **article by Alicia Bridges** covering the ID clinic that CLASSIC held at White Buffalo Youth Lodge to help individuals obtain ID
- **November 23, 2016, the Star Phoenix** published an **article by Alex Macpherson** recognizing the growing demand for CLASSIC's services and the difficulty around sustainable funding



Legal services non-profit mulls cutbacks
in face of massive deficit

ALEX MACPHERSON, SASKATOON STARPHOENIX
More from Alex Macpherson, Saskatoon StarPhoenix

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Charisla Johnson, CLASSIC Executive Director, discusses their upcoming fundraiser with Taylor Anna Lee, one of CLASSIC's student volunteers at their office on 20th Street in Saskatoon. (Michelle Berg / The StarPhoenix) MICHELLE BERG / SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

A massive budget shortfall could lead to significant cuts, including the loss of a law student volunteer program, for a non-profit that provides basic legal services to Saskatoon's poorest residents.

This article can be found here:

<http://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/legal-services-non-profit-mulls-cutbacks-in-face-of-massive-deficit>

- **Tiffany Paulsen** mentioned CLASSIC in an article Titled: Normalize Public Legal Assistance, published on **December 8, 2016 in the Star Phoenix**
- **Girard Hengen** wrote an article published in **Bridges** on **December 30, 2016** featuring an interview with Merlis Belsher who mentions his ongoing support for CLASSIC
- Executive Director, Chantelle Johnson, and student Julia Quigley appeared **on CTV News at Noon** on **January 9, 2017** to speak about CLASSIC generally and to promote our Karaoke Fundraiser held on February 9, 2017
- Supervising Lawyer Nicholas Blenkinsop was interviewed for several news articles in relation to institutional matters, and in relation to Saskatoon becoming a sanctuary city

Below is a link to the article in relation to institutional matters that Nicholas Blenkinsop was interviewed for: <http://thestarphoenix.com/news/crime/breached-how-saskatchewans-obsession-with-breach-offences-is-keeping-young-people-in-jail>

CLOSING

CLASSIC’s Board and staff are very thankful for the many individuals and organizations that have supported CLASSIC and enabled us to meet the needs of our community. We especially thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteers who are the hands and hearts of our service to the community.

