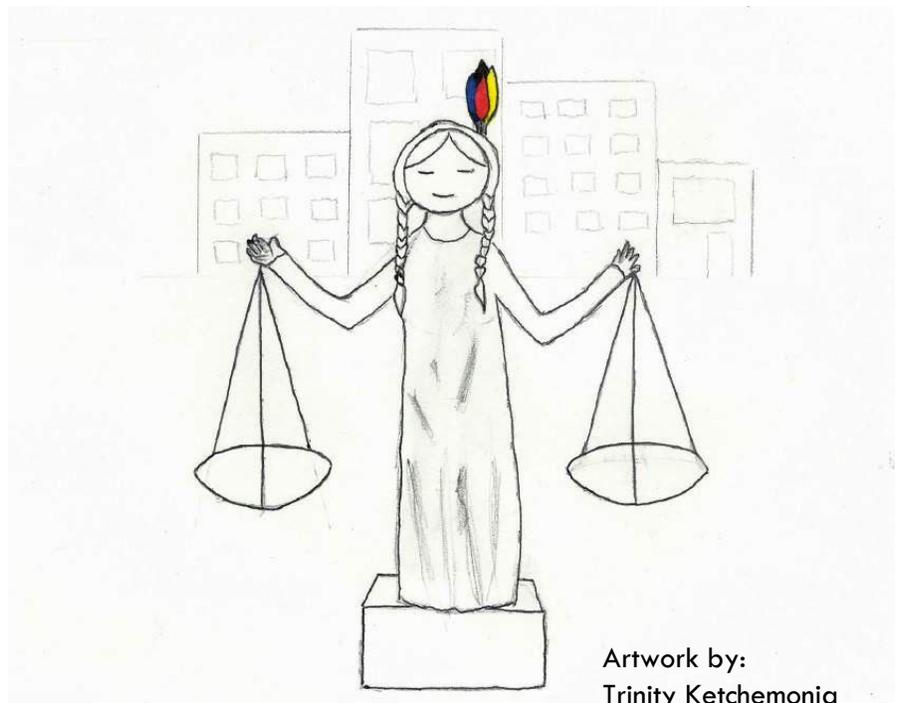




CLASSIC ANNUAL REPORT



Artwork by:
Trinity Ketchemonia
2015

2017-2018

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

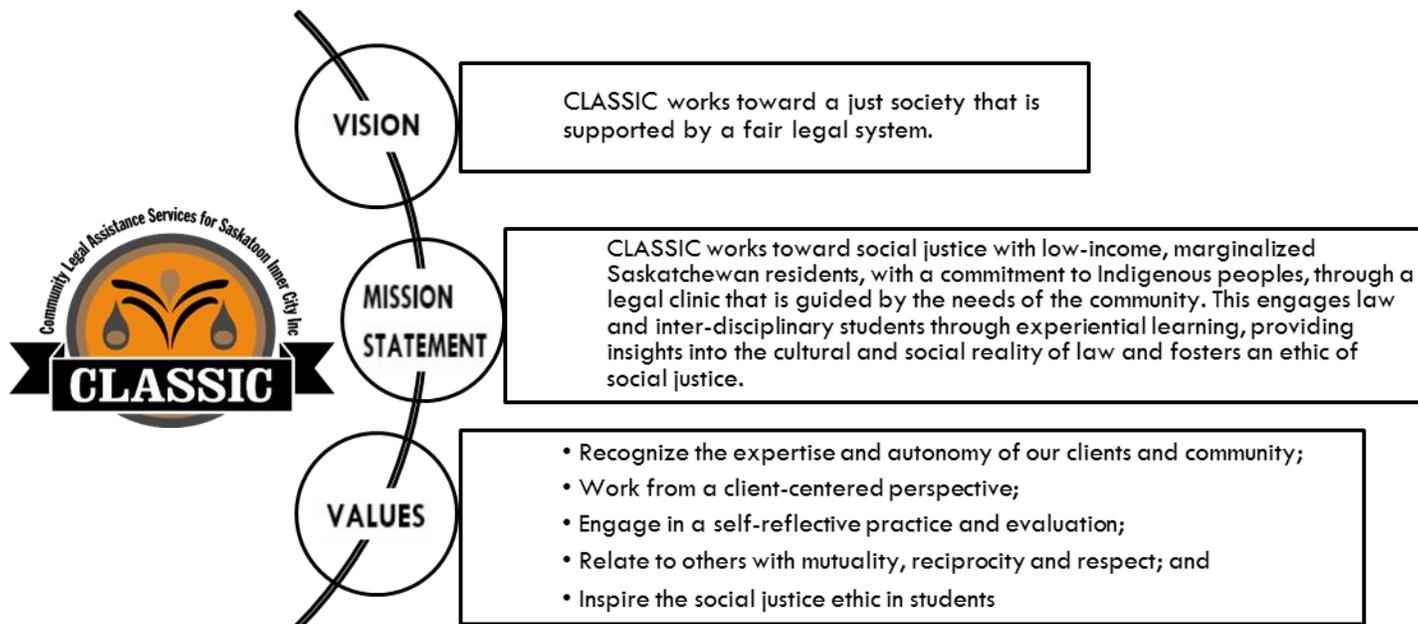
CLASSIC is Saskatchewan’s only community legal clinic. It is an essential service for vulnerable residents of Saskatoon and area.

Founded in 2007 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, CLASSIC now serves around 1100 individuals a year through our 3 programs.

Our front desk has received almost 48,000 phone calls over the years, of those, over 17,000 were referrals.

Our staff responds to over 500 general email and social media inquiries every year.

CLASSIC maintains a commitment to Indigenous people. In fact, it is a part of CLASSIC’s mandate to prioritize Indigenous clients’ needs.



CLASSIC has served over 9355 clients since we opened





**CHANTELLE JOHNSON -
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHANTELLE JOHNSON

CLASSIC's founders were intentional – to create a community legal clinic that does not perpetuate harmful systems, but also meets individuals where they are at within those systems. CLASSIC's founders wished to provide a decolonizing lens to the clinic's work. CLASSIC recognizes that we work within the justice system, but also acknowledges that for many of our clients, this system has worked to further marginalize them.

CLASSIC turned 11 years old in February 2018. We continue to work to strengthen our foundations, and to evaluate our operations, efficiencies and effectiveness. This work requires us to review:

- our financial effectiveness and responsibility,
- our internal systems and operations,
- our governance model,
- our overall sustainability,
- our commitment to providing quality experiential learning opportunities, and
- continuing to evaluate ourselves from a decolonizing lens. This is particularly poignant given the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and CLASSIC's foundational intent to act to empower clients, decolonize our practice and value Indigenous laws and traditions.

Injustice is pervasive. There is always more demand than can be served, and there is always pressure to help as many people as possible. We run the risk of becoming too over-systemized and therefore perpetuating colonial systems ourselves. CLASSIC has a few initiatives underway to help us move positively into the future:

- We are undergoing an organizational review to help us assess whether our current structure could be changed to improve our overall operations and effectiveness; and
- We have a "Decolonization and Reconciliation" project (ongoing). We currently have a student conducting outreach to other community legal clinics to see what their decolonization and reconciliation programs look like. We also aim to conduct community check-ins to help us moving forward on these objectives.

CLASSIC is committed to the on-going journey of decolonization and reconciliation. If you have any good ideas to help us achieve this commitment, please let us know!

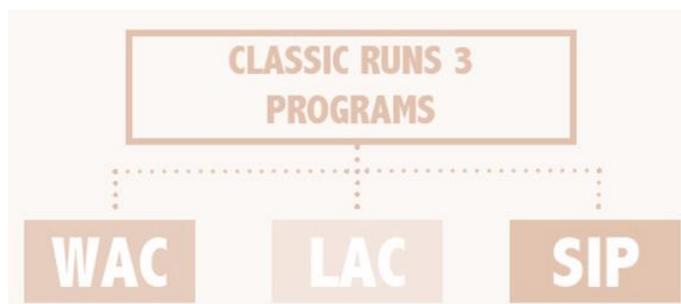
"It was a priority in setting up CLASSIC to build alliances with Indigenous community organizations, and we spent a great deal of time listening and learning about what we needed to do to support our Indigenous clients. It was a top priority to keep the conversation going. Personally, I learned how little I understood of our wounded relationship, and came to understand that the first step of what we now call reconciliation was for me to listen – to really listen, without any answers. As part of this process, the Urban Aboriginal Strategy ("UAS") at the time was our first institutional funder. Indigenous community leaders who made up the UAS board gave us the funding allowed us to open our doors and start serving the community. We could not have done it without the Indigenous support we received."

*Victoria E. Coffin,
One of CLASSIC's 3 founders*

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. We Also have social work and other inter-disciplinary students.

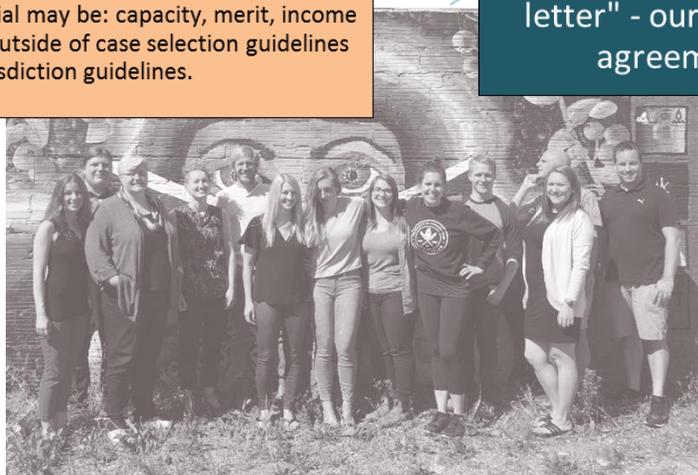
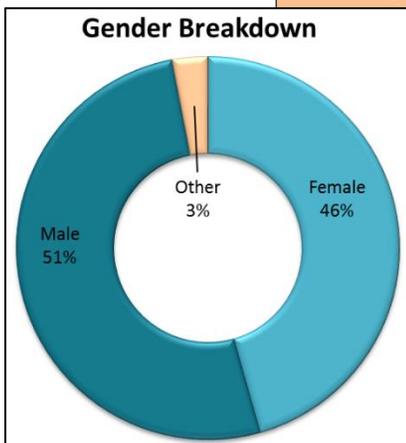
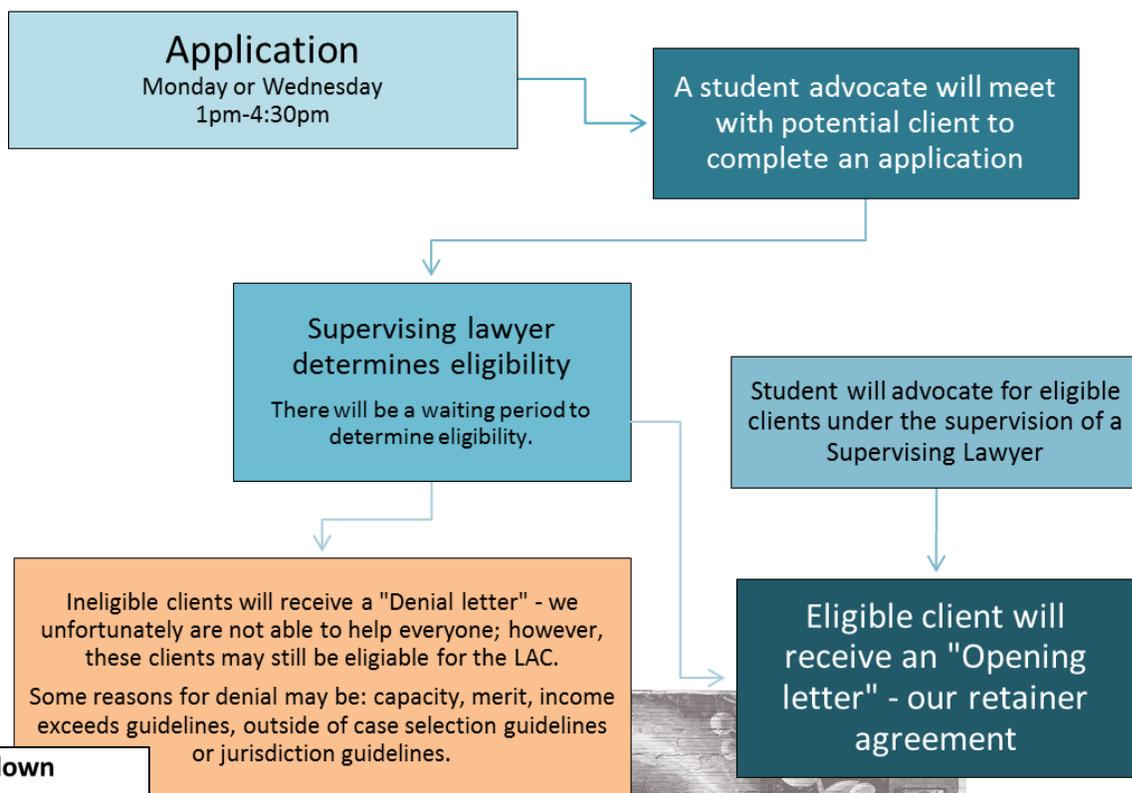


CLASSIC served **798 clients** in over 15 areas of law through the WAC during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Unfortunately, 378 individuals were denied services through the WAC, 53 percent of which were due to capacity.

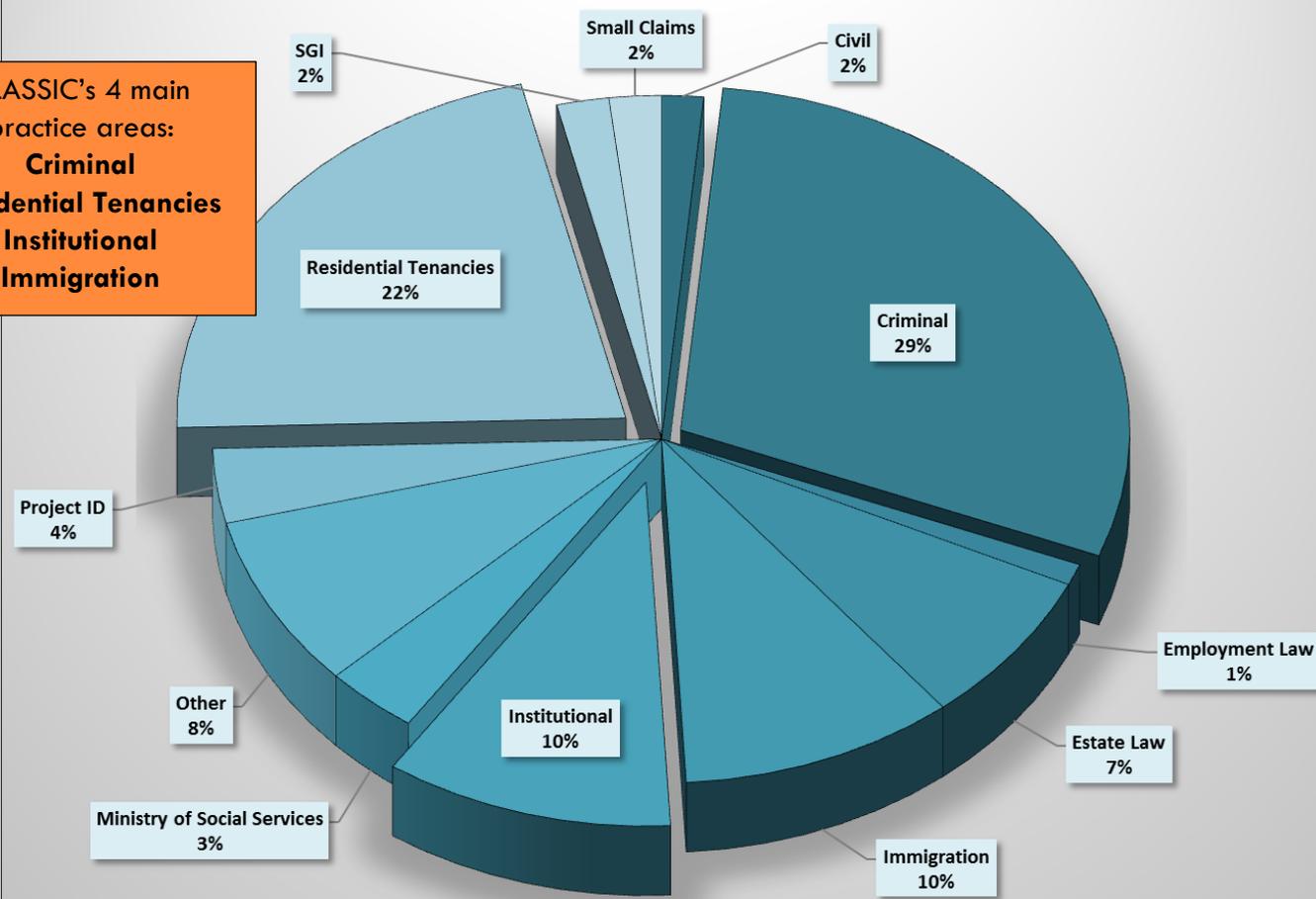
The flow chart below outlines the WAC application process.

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.

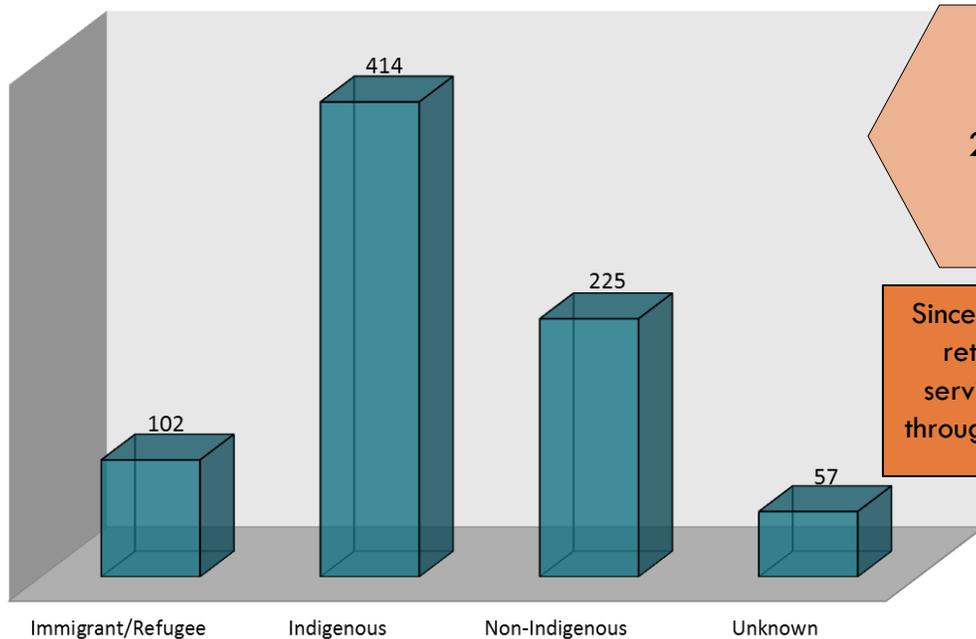


File Breakdown April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

CLASSIC's 4 main practice areas:
Criminal
Residential Tenancies
Institutional
Immigration



Background of Clients Served Through WAC 2017-2018 Fiscal Year



52% of the clients we served during the 2017-2018 fiscal year identified as **Indigenous**.

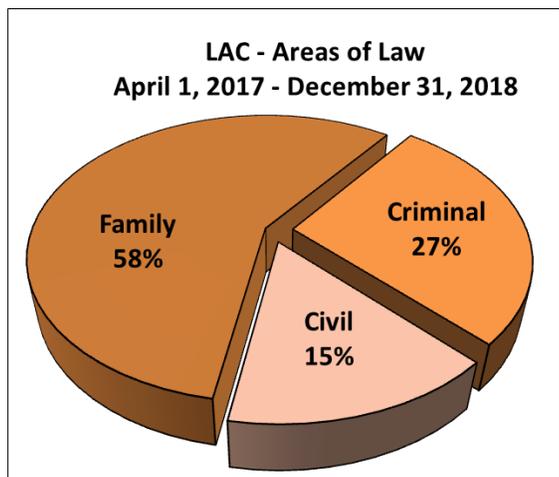
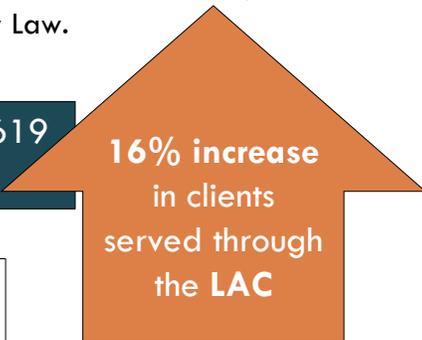
Since inception, we've helped clients retain over \$1.25 million in lost services, fines, damages, and fees through our Walk-in Advocacy Clinic.

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 **2017-2018 fiscal year, the LAC served 277 clients, 58 percent of which were in the area of Family Law.**

Since 2008, CLASSIC has served 2619 individuals through the LAC



18 Volunteer Lawyers from the Saskatoon Area

Thanks to the following lawyers for volunteering for the LAC

- Alana Wakula
- Anna Singer
- Beau Atkins
- Brad Mitchell
- Brooke Sittler
- Candace Guist
- Connie den Hollander
- Deb Hopkins
- Doc Crooks
- Don McIver
- Elke Churchman
- Karina Jackson
- Lea Lapointe
- Mark Galambos
- Mark Vanstone
- Neil McPhee
- Terry Zakreski
- Tom Baldry

16 Volunteer Students from Pro Bono Students Canada

Bonus advantage for students:
 Experience different areas of law,
 How to apply law to facts,
 Notetaking,
 Identifying legal issues,
 Networking with lawyers, and more!

Student volunteers greet clients at the door and take notes during their meetings

3. The Systemic Initiatives Program (SIP)

The Systemic Initiative Program (SIP) works to address systemic inequities that create legal problems. We cannot serve every individual client, so we try to address systemic issues to help a number of people at once.

SIP projects include:

CLASSIC held **3 large scale ID clinics** in 2017/2018. Clinics were held at Station 20 West.

CLASSIC assisted **276** individuals apply for birth certificates and/or government issued photo ID. We provided an additional **224** individuals with information to obtain their identification

455 individuals attended community legal education presentations

64 individuals attended our self-advocacy and/or tenant advocacy workshops



LEIF JENSEN - SIP COORDINATOR

City of Saskatoon Bylaw and Policy Review

- Began first pilot project with the Partnership with the Cultural Diversity & Race Relations Office to review existing bylaws and policies through an equity lens

Project ID:

- Responds to the widespread needs of marginalized people for identification
- Held large-scale ID clinics in the community
- Worked with other community based organizations
- Assisted over 500 community members in 2016-2017

Advocacy and Consultation:

- Made submissions and provided feedback to governments and government agencies regarding policies, legislation, and proposed legislation.

Workshops and Legal Education:

- Presented at dozens of community legal education workshops for hundreds of community members
- Organized Self-Advocacy Workshops to empower community members to advocate for themselves
- Organized Tenant's Advocacy Workshops to give community members tools to advocate for themselves in rental housing situations

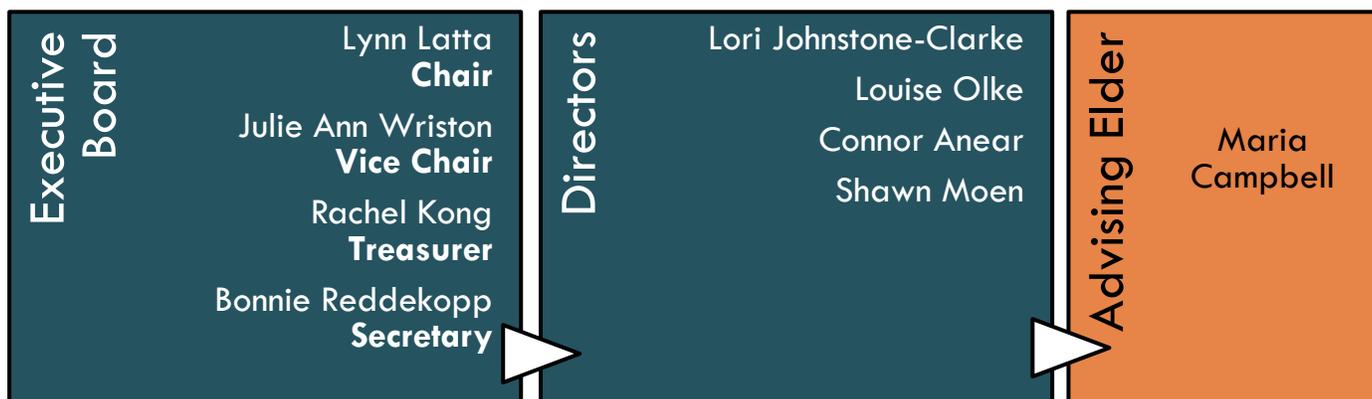
Prison Advocacy:

- Advocated for increased rights in disciplinary matters;
- Made submissions regarding improving policies and increased compliance with legislation
- Organized two Prison Lawyers' conferences to build community around advocating for prisoner rights.



CLASSIC provided presentations in various areas of law including: Newcomers' Rights, Police Powers, Tenants' Rights, Employment law, Family law, Discrimination, and Criminal law

BOARD MEMBERS



STAFF MEMBERS

Staff Member	Position
Chantelle Johnson	Executive Director
Nicholas Blenkinsop	Supervising Lawyer
Brenda Yuen	Supervising Lawyer
Leif Jensen	Supervising Lawyer & SIP Coordinator
Janice Gingell	Volunteer Lawyer - Retired lawyer who donates over 20 hours a week
Frank Quennell	Volunteer lawyer
Joilene Whitehead	Executive Assistant
Kim Pidskalny	Legal Assistant
Lorraine Pura	Administrative Assistant – Casual

STUDENT MANAGERS

(L-R) Catriona Kaiser Derrick, Alyssa Phen, Cheryl Giesbrecht



CLASSIC is immensely proud of our student managers who have worked hard to share our Vision, Mission, and Values in the office and on Campus.

FUNDING

Over the 2017-2018 fiscal year, 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
- 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
- Individual donors

FUNDRAISING

We couldn't do it without Terri Sewell



SPARK
creations & bookings

CLASSIC teamed up with Terri Sewell in 2015. Since then, Terri and CLASSIC's team have put on many fundraising events to benefit CLASSIC. In February of 2018, CLASSIC hosted its first ever Cirque de CLASSIC in place of the semi-annual Gown to Gown Lawyers' Charity Gala and it was a smashing success! For the first time ever, this event was not exclusive to lawyers and we were happy to see our CBO and community friends join us in support of CLASSIC.



Thanks to our community and sponsors,
our inaugural **Cirque de CLASSIC**,
presented by **Nutrien**™ was a success.

We made just over **\$41 000** for **CLASSIC!**

CLASSIC IN THE MEDIA

Chantelle Johnson: Striving tirelessly for equity



Chantelle Johnson has spent the past year working to provide emergency housing for hundreds of people who've found themselves on the street in Saskatoon. But when asked why she keeps doing it, her answer is almost comical.

- <http://thestarphoenix.com/life/bridges/chantelle-johnson-striving-tirelessly-for-equity>
- <http://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/this-is-a-reality-for-so-many-people-in-saskatoon-housing-problems-common-among-working-poor-those-on-social-assistance-experts-say>

'This is a reality for so many people in Saskatoon': Housing problems common among working poor, those on social assistance, experts say

ALEX MACPHERSON, SASKATOON STARPHOENIX. Updated: October 4, 2017

- <http://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-march-2-2018>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-lawyer-makes-case-for-storing-jail-footage-for-longer-than-30-days-1.4639049>

Saskatoon lawyer makes case for storing jail footage for longer than 30 days

Nicholas Blenkinsop says saving footage could help resolve allegations



Dan Zakreski · CBC News · Posted: Apr 27, 2018 2:23 PM CT | Last Updated: April 27



CLASIC has over 1900 followers on Facebook and Twitter.

Follow us on facebook/twitter:

www.facebook.com/CLASSICSaskatoon/

www.twitter.com/classic_yxe

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.



Reconciliation matters to CLASSIC. We take seriously the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We encourage everyone to walk in the reconciliation journey.