ANNUAL REPORT

2023 24

AJEFA

Association des
juristes d'expression française
de l'Alberta

DROIT AU CŒUR DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

STANDING
Louis Corriveau, Mikel Gega, Bertrand Malo, Isabelle Reynolds, Dominique Mathurin

SEATED
Maryse Trudel (secretary), Elsy Gagné (president), Morgan McClelland (treasurer) and Grâce-Chloé Mudiayi

MISSING
Gabriel Joshee-Arnal (vice-president)



AJEFA STAFF 2023-2024

EDMONTON
Ida Ituze (legal information officer)
Terhass Berhane (receptionist)
Maria Vigneault (legal coordinator)
Denise Lavallée (executive director)

CALGARY
Florentine Ngarambe (legal information officer)





2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More than 85 people attended the annual general meeting which took place on June 9, 2023 at The Malcolm Hotel in Canmore. The Right Honourable Richard Wagner of the Supreme Court of Canada, professor Nathalie Cadieux, and the guest panelists all addressed the theme of mental health among legal practitioners. The Jean-Louis-Lebel award was presented to Pierre Lamoureux, one of the founders of AJEFA.

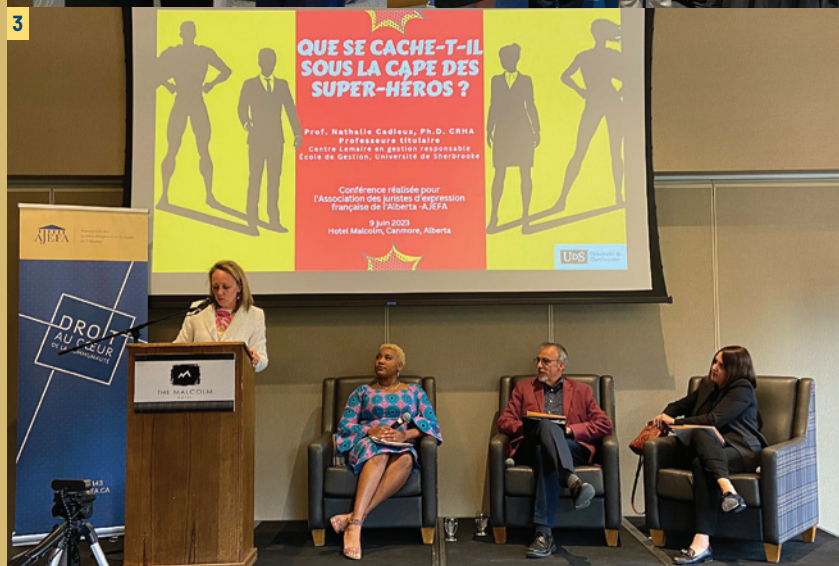
1 Elsy Gagné, Nathalie Cadieux and the right honourable Richard Wagner

2 Elsy Gagné, Pierre Lamoureux, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal and Shannon James

3 Maryse Trudel, Grâce-Chloé Mudiayi, Pierre Lamoureux and Marie-Audrey Girard







A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AJEFA

On behalf of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta (French-speaking Legal Professionals Association of Alberta – AJEFA), I am pleased to present the 2023-2024 annual report of our projects, events, programming and services between the period of April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

AJEFA, which was founded in 1990, is a non-profit organization made up of more than 140 legal professionals and 40 common law students committed to access to justice in French.

AJEFA is a member of the Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc (FAJEF) thus belonging to a large family of French-speaking legal professionals in Canada with the goal of improving access to justice in French.

Since 2015, AJEFA has operated the Alberta Legal Information Centre which last year provided 1,436 free and confidential consultations, 66% of which were in person in our offices in Calgary and Edmonton. 79% of these consultations were in French. As part of the Centre's activities, 26 volunteer lawyers led 50 workshops for 1,172 participants.

In recent years, we have observed in Alberta that the demand for legal services in French is growing. For example, the number of hearings before the Court of King's Bench of Alberta has increased significantly since 2021, going from 20 to 25 to 30 hearings per year.

Since 2021-2022, AJEFA has continued its close collaboration with Alberta Justice through the Justice in French Advisory Committee composed of representatives from all courts in Alberta as well as the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA).

On March 3, 2023, the *French Policy: enhancing services in French to support the vitality of Alberta's French-speaking communities* was revised and now includes court services in the statement of its scope.

On November 6, 2023, Chief Justice The Honourable Mary T. Moreau of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, one of the founders of AJEFA, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

On January 1, 2024, the Government of Alberta amended the Surrogate Rules to eliminate the translation of wills from French to English when applying for probate.

On March 18, 2024, the Court of King's Bench of Alberta issued a notice to the legal community and the public regarding the use of the English and French versions of bilingual legislation following our formal request to all courts of Alberta to recognize the equal value of the two official languages.

On March 20, 2024, we met Malcolm Lavoie, Alberta's Deputy Minister of Justice, as part of Alberta Francophonie Month.

I would like to thank all the board members, employees and executive director of the AJEFA. Without their help and support, I would not be able to represent you and move forward on many issues.

Finally, please know that I am fundamentally convinced that access to justice in French for Francophones in Alberta makes all the difference in the defense, application, and respect of language rights in Alberta. It is therefore upstream – and not in silos – that we have the power and capacity to improve and promote access to justice in French in Alberta.

Thank you!



Elsy Gagné











NETWORKING

For the first time, the annual banquet was held in Canmore and it was an extraordinary opportunity to welcome legal professionals from all corners of the province. Year-end celebrations in December are now a tradition for AJEFA with around 20 members in Calgary on December 1 and then in Edmonton on December 8. Also, a new networking activity, Jurimidi, was held on March 13 during lunchtime at a restaurant in downtown Calgary. It was such a success that similar events are now planned in Calgary and Edmonton.

















OUR STUDENTS

AJEFA hired University of Alberta law student, Alexander Akiki, as a summer employee in 2023. Through Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC), AJEFA benefited from the support of Adela Teoteoi-Pîrlică as a student volunteer for the 2023-2024 academic year. Thanks to Shannon James for being the project supervisor.

LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2022, AJEFA has offered a $2,000 bursary annually thanks to an endowment fund through La Fondation franco-albertaine. This year's recipient is Matthew Gray, a 3rd year student at the University of Calgary in the French Common Law Certificate Program.







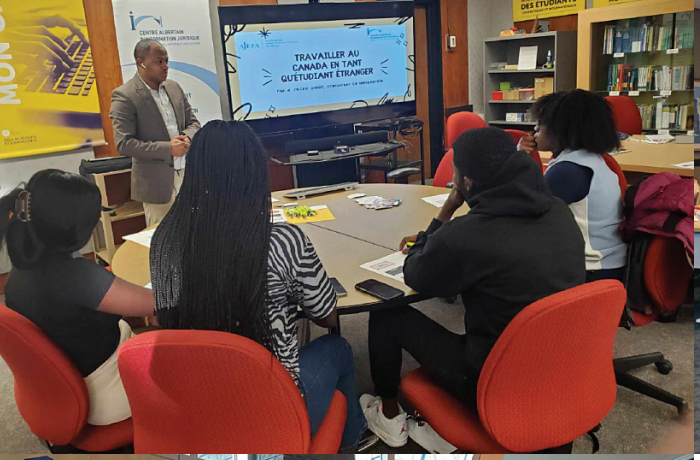


DEBATE COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 2 AND 3 AT CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN (EDMONTON)

The Alberta Debate and Speech Association celebrated its 50th anniversary this year by, among other activities, organizing a French debate competition in partnership with AJEFA. There were 36 students in grades 7 to 12 from four junior/senior high schools in Edmonton (Archbishop MacDonald, École Joseph-Moreau, École Maurice-Lavallée, École Michaëlle-Jean), Saskatoon (École canadienne-française, Pavillon Gustave-Dubois) and St. Albert (École Alexandre-Taché). Hope Anaky and Gloria Sanouvi-Awoga from Alexandre-Taché were the first prize winners.

A big thank you to our volunteer judges and timekeepers: Jillian Aisenstat, Adèle Amyotte, Marie-Christine Bérubé-Lajoie, Colin Champagne, Anabelle Cloutier, Sirine Ellaham, Rania Eshak, Marie-Audrey Girard, Bertrand Giroux, Taylor Good, Gabriel Joshee-Arnal , Guillaume Laroche, Joël F. Lavoie, Léa Lavoie, Renée Levesque-Gauvreau, Camille Morin, Bryan Mouangassa, Theoxene Patipe Nawe, Mary-Noah Ndateramye, Yaël Orsot, Marielle Perich, Louis Prince, Christine Ramsay, Austin Redmond, Gisèle Rheault, Quentin Starko, Nalanda Thondrayen and Rosalie Vigneault.













LEGAL INFORMATION BOOTHS AND WORKSHOPS

1,172 people were informed through 50 workshops on new topics such as overcoming barriers in the legal profession. Of these, 621 were students from Calgary, Edmonton and St. Albert who participated in workshops on cyberbullying, consent, debate, and careers in justice.

AJEFA also participated in two national projects. The first addressed sexual harassment in the workplace, whereby AJEFA organized hybrid cultural competency training for 59 participants. The second was in the area of immigration and resulted in three webinars on tenant rights which attracted 112 participants. The services of the Alberta Legal Information Centre and AJEFA were promoted through 13 information kiosks at events (e.g. teachers' conferences) in Calgary, Edmonton and Cochrane.

Thank you to our lawyers, law students and consultants: Kim Arial, Christian Cormier, Michael Custer, Kathy Drouin-Carey, Paul Foisy, Marie-Audrey Girard, Shannon James, Justin Kingston, Bianca Kratt, Pierre Lamoureux, Justine Mageau, Bertrand Malo, Chrystelle Malongue, Dominique Mathurin, Grâce-Chloé Mudiayi, Owen Nicholson, Adela Teoteoi-Pîrlică, Maryse Trudel, Natalie Tymchuk, Pascal Visentin, Mila Walisser, Christina Wallace, law students Chiara Concini and Matthew Gray, and immigration consultants, Daniel Brière and Chérif Diallo.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

4,615 AJEFA website visits
1,041 X (Twitter) subscribers
1,740 Facebook subscribers
385 Instagram subscribers
283 LinkedIn subscribers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPONSORS OF THE AJEFO (ONTARIO) / AJEFA CONFERENCE HELD MAY 31 AND JUNE 1, 2024 IN CANMORE!

EXPERIENCE

BLG

KORTOJURA

McLENNAN ROSS

SUPPORT

McCUAIG DESROCHERS LLP
BARRISTERS SOLICITORS AVOCATS

EMOND HARNDEN
LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
DROIT DU TRAVAIL ET DE L'EMPLOI

CONNECTED

Centre juridique pour femmes en Ontario

FIELD LAW

Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario

CALGARY FAMILY LAW ASSOCIATES
CFLA

PROGRAMME DE PRATIQUE EN DROIT
UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA

WarrenSinclair LLP
LAWYERS

JURISTES POWER LAW

JuriGo.ca

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Justice Canada, Alberta Lottery Fund, City of Edmonton, Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

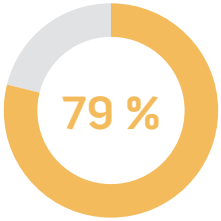
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Accès Emploi
- Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Restorative Justice Association
- Alberta Debate and Speech Association
- Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society
- Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
- Association canadienne-française d'Alberta (ACFA) and its 13 regional offices
- Association des étudiants en droit francophone de l'Université de l'Alberta
- Association francophone de Brooks
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Campus Saint-Jean
- Centre d'accueil francophone de la Cité des Rocheuses
- Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones
- Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta
- Club de l'Amitié
- Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
- Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest
- Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Est
- Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
- Conseil scolaire Franco-Sud
- Conseil scolaire Nord-Ouest
- Edmonton Community Legal Centre
- Edmonton Police Service
- Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
- Fédération des aînés franco-albertains
- Fédération des associations de juristes d'expression française de common law inc.
- Francophonie albertaine plurielle
- Gendarmerie Royale du Canada
- Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers
- Journal Le Franco
- La Fondation franco-albertaine
- Legal Aid Alberta
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Radio Cité 97,9 FM
- Réseau en immigration francophone de l'Alberta (RIFA)
- Réseau national des étudiant(e)s pro bono du Canada (Calgary)
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton
- The Workers' Resource Centre

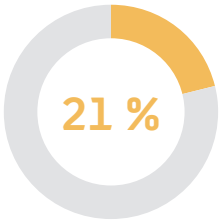
CENTRE ALBERTAIN D'INFORMATION JURIDIQUE
ALBERTA LEGAL INFORMATION CENTRE

1 436 CONSULTATIONS

LANGUES UTILISÉES / LANGUAGES USED

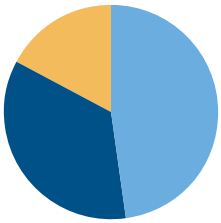


1 141 FRANÇAIS
FRENCH



320 ANGLAIS
ENGLISH

STATUT / STATUS

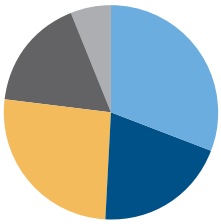


48 % CITOYENNETÉ CANADIENNE
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

35 % RÉSIDENCE PERMANENTE
PERMANENT RESIDENT

17 % AUTRE (PERMIS DE TRAVAIL, RÉFUGIÉ...)
OTHER (WORK PERMIT, REFUGEE...)

REVENUS / REVENUES



31 % MOINS DE 10 000 $
LESS THAN $10,000

20 % 10 000 $ À 30 000 $
$10,000 TO $30,000

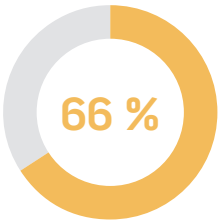
26 % 30 000 $ À 50 000 $
$30,000 TO $50,000

17 % 50 000 $ À 70 000 $
$50,000 TO $70,000

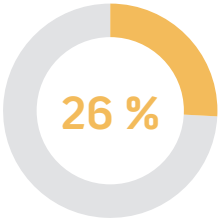
6 % NON REPORTÉ
NOT REPORTED

MOYENS UTILISÉS POUR LES CONSULTATIONS

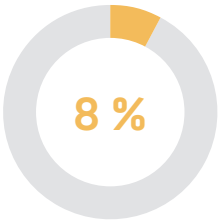
MEANS USED FOR CONSULTATIONS



956 EN PERSONNE
IN-PERSON



370 PAR TÉLÉPHONE
TELEPHONE



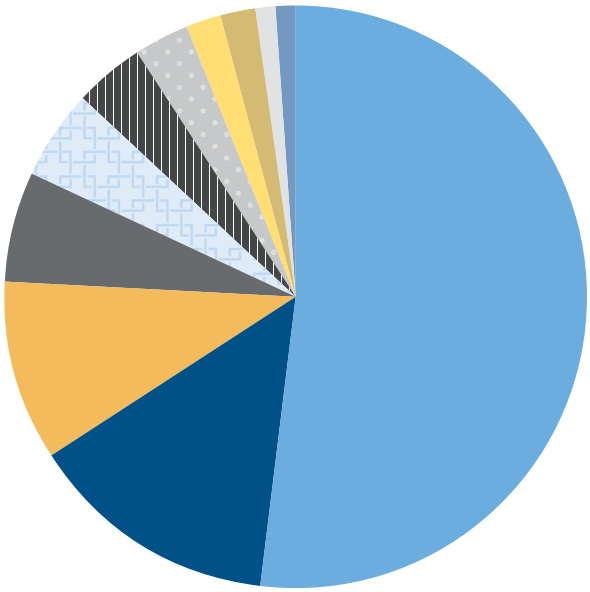
113 PAR COURRIEL
E-MAIL

« Merci beaucoup d'avoir aidé la communauté haïtienne en offrant le service de notaire public. Le service était impeccable et cela a fait une grande différence auprès de cette communauté. »

"Thank you very much for helping the Haitian community by offering the notary public service. The service was impeccable and it made a big difference to this community. »

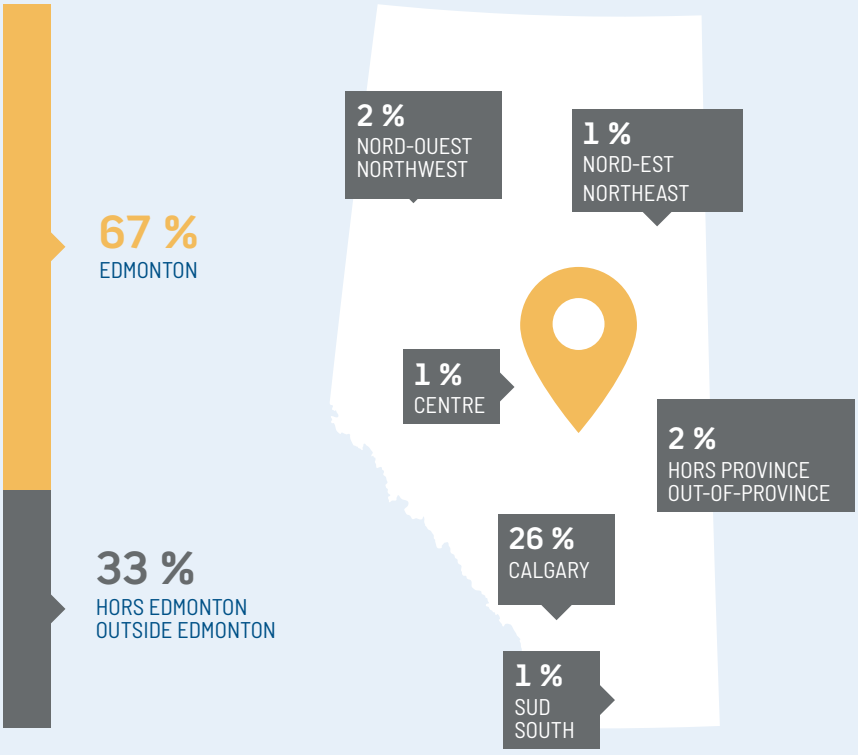
Dr. Alice Prophète, Organisation Haïtienne d'Edmonton (OHE)

DOMAINES DE DROIT TRAITÉS / AREAS OF LAW



- 52 % ASSERMENTATION NOTARY PUBLIC
- 14 % IMMIGRATION
- 10 % FAMILLE FAMILY
- 6 % LOGEMENT HOUSING
- 5 % TESTAMENTS WILLS
- 4 % CIVIL
- 3 % TRAVAIL WORK
- 2 % ADMINISTRATIF ADMINISTRATIVE
- 2 % FISCALITÉ FISCAL
- 1 % CRIMINEL CRIMINAL
- 1 % DIVERS OTHER

LIEU DE RÉSIDENCE / PLACE OF RESIDENCE



NOTES

Comparé à 2022-2023, le nombre de consultations est passé de 1 298 à 1 436 et les clients qui ont demandé un service en présentiel a augmenté de 45 % à 66 %. Le nombre de services de notaire public ne cesse d'augmenter depuis trois ans, passant de 22 % à 38 % et ensuite à 52 % dans la dernière année.

—

Compared to 2022-2023, the number of consultations rose from 1,298 to 1,436 with more clients accessing services in person (from 45% to 66%). Public Notary services have risen steadily over the past three years, going from 22% to 38% and 52% in the last year.