



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**Legal Archives Society
of Alberta**

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To understand the evolution of law and society in Alberta is to understand our past...
The Legal Archives Society of Alberta is your link to this understanding.

Society Profile

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta (LASA) is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and understanding the evolution of law and society in Alberta by establishing and preserving a complete and accurate historical record of the legal profession in Alberta. Incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta in 1990, LASA is governed by an independent Board of Directors.

In fulfillment of its mission, LASA operates a legal heritage program and facility for the private legal community. LASA's principal objectives are to:

- preserve the documentary heritage of lawyers, judges, and legal organizations in Alberta;
- provide services for the legal community to identify, retain, and use their archival records;
- provide source material for legal and public research on the history of law and society in Alberta;
- enhance awareness of and celebrate the role of law in Alberta's history.

LASA's seven program areas are:

- Archives
- Oral History
- Exhibits and Interpretation
- Publications
- Legal History Library
- Research Services
- Records and Archives Consulting

Message from the Chair and Vice Chair



2020 was unlike any challenge we could have anticipated. While facing a global pandemic and lockdown, the Legal Archives, as an information provider, was considered essential. Though not business as usual, the Society remained open and available to researchers with safety protocols in place.

Prior to the lockdown, LASA hosted a successful Annual Historical Dinner in Calgary in January featuring the Honourable Jean Côté who spoke about an historical confrontation between politicians and the courts in 1937 known as 'Bankers' Toadies'.

Because of the generosity of our donors, LASA was able to maintain our level of service and programming. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

The Law Society of Alberta provided our core funding for which we are grateful.

We are pleased that the legal profession continues to choose LASA as its repository for preserving its history. LASA's staff works diligently to provide archival and research services, and promote Alberta's legal history through LASA's various programs.



Shaun T. Maclsaac, Q.C.
Chair

Wayne Malcolm Schafer, Q.C.
Vice Chair

Message from the Executive Director



I'm wary to use the term "unprecedented" to describe this point in history. History has shown that there is plenty of precedent for this, whether it's the Black Death in the 14th Century or the H2N2 virus in 1957/58. It was LASA Archivist, Brenda McCafferty's interesting article on Alberta lawyers during the **Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918/19** that reminded me of a quote attributed to Mark Twain: "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes."

When I reflect back on what 2020 should have been for the Legal Archives I feel a momentary hint of sadness. I say momentary because that's just what it was...momentary. Despite all of the unanticipated challenges associated with the global pandemic, I have also found it inspiring to hear encouraging accounts of what seems to be our new reality.

LASA had to adapt to a new way of conducting business and it was far from normal. Working remotely from home, embracing technology (something this troglodyte reluctantly accepted), as well as cancelling or postponing fundraising events. And, while the commute was shorter working from home, the great ideas that develop from spontaneous conversations with coworkers suffered.

The profession stepped up through our Annual Campaign, and we are grateful for their continued support. In 2020, prior to the major outbreak in North America, LASA was able to host a Historical Dinner in Calgary featuring the Honourable Jean Côté. LASA also completed the arrangement and description of records from the Honourable Roger Kerans, participated in a number of online conferences and workshops, completed Oral History interviews via ZOOM, and updated content on our website.

We are looking forward to new programming in 2021 and 2022 that will continue to promote and preserve Alberta's legal history.

Stacy F. Kaufeld, M.A.
Executive Director

Annual Highlights

Administration and Finances

- \$205,000 from the Law Society of Alberta in operating grants
- \$34,613 in COVID-19 support from the Federal and Provincial governments
- \$52,305 raised through our Annual Campaign
- \$375 in publication sales
- \$13,114 in Endowment Fund income
- \$56,300 from casino proceeds (pro-rated over 2 years from the 2020 casino)

Archives

- Acquired 13 accessions amounting to approximately 3 metres of textual records
- Holdings consist of over 850 metres of records at the end of 2020

Exhibits and Interpretation

- LASA's website (legalarchives.ca) was regularly updated with information about upcoming events and news, as well as with several virtual exhibits covering topics in Alberta's legal history
- LASA joined social media with LinkedIn and Facebook accounts
- LASA developed several exhibits for special events celebrating Alberta's legal heritage

Research Services

- 59 requests for research were completed

Oral History

- LASA received funding from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and completed 7 Oral History interviews in Calgary in 2020.
- Blake, Cassels, Graydon LLP transcribed the following interviews in 2020: Hon. John D. Reilly, Ernest Shymka, Susan Robinson Burns, Q.C., Hon. Barbara E.C. Romaine, John Hope, Q.C., Hon. Ernest Marshall, Q.C., Hon. Terry Matchett, Chief Justice of the Provincial Court of Alberta, Hon. Robert A. Philp, Q.C., Marie L. Gordon, Q.C, Hon. Mr. Justice Jack Watson, and Dennis Edney, Q.C.

Legal History Library

- In 2019, LASA received \$15,000 from the Highbury Foundation (headed by Peter Allard) to expand and fine tune our legal history library to include books from countries other than Canada, with a particular focus on Commonwealth nations. Graham Price and Louis Knafla both donated books from their personal libraries.
- LASA hopes to continue this project in 2021.

Facilities and Conservation

LASA operates a province-wide archives program and heritage facility based in Calgary. The main components of the archives are:

- acquiring and appraising records of Alberta's legal and judicial communities
- arranging, describing, and establishing finding aids for records
- storing and preserving records

In 2020, LASA offsite storage was moved from Iron Mountain to Access Management/Calgary Archives, where there is approximately 950 boxes of archival and Law Society of Alberta records.

Arrangement and Description

The activity of arranging and describing archives involves accessioning the records to gain physical control, completing a preliminary listing of the material to facilitate access to the holdings, storing material for long term preservation and producing finding aids compliant with the Rules of Archival Description to aid researchers. A group of records from one person or organization is described in archival terms as Fonds. Detailed descriptions of all acquisitions received by LASA are available on the automated ACCESSION database. Approximately 75% of LASA's holdings are arranged and described at the fonds and series level on the FONDS database. Of the 116 fonds described, most are processed to the file and item level and included a finding aid for researchers.

Acquisitions

LASA acquired 13 accessions in 2020, amounting to approximately 3 metres of textual records, 107 photographs (86 born in digital jpeg, tiff, bmp, and Gif formats), 1 cassette tape, 17 Oral History interviews in WAV and in archival AVCHD, 3 pieces of art, 1 cultural historical artifact, and 5 volumes of yearbooks. Currently, LASA's total holdings exceed 850 metres.

Noteworthy acquisitions from 2020 include:



The Honourable J. Peter Jorgensen, Q.C., LASA Accession #2020-001

6 cm of textual records; 5 yearbook volumes; 14 awards/plaques; 7 commissions; 20 photographs (col., b&w); 10 items of ephemera (menus, invitations, postcards, and programs); 1 cultural historic artifact (wooden PCJ name sign) Date Range: 1930-1900.

Consists of the records of The Honourable J. Peter Jorgensen QC, Peace River lawyer and Provincial Court Judge. J. (James) Peter Jorgensen was a member of the Danish

community, a Second World War home guard veteran, and member of the University of Alberta law school class of 1951. Photographs include Military Royal Canadian Infantry Corps group images, University of Alberta class of '51 composite, and Mu Theta Chapter of the Zeta Psi fraternity. Ephemera includes invitations, postcards, menus, and law school event programs; The University of Alberta, moot court and 'Evergreen & Gold' yearbooks, 1947-1951; newspaper clippings, bar announcements, obituary notices; and certificates mark educational/military/community achievements. Also includes Peace River school report cards, and a wooden Edmonton Provincial Court Judge plaque. J.P. Jorgensen retired in 1985 and passed away in 2001. Law school, LSA admission, and service certificates presented to Peter (and wife Margaret) are included in oversize map cabinet storage. Family photographs include Jorgensen as a child.



The Honourable Jean Côté, LASA Accession #2020-012

1 photograph

Date Range: ca. 1928

Photograph of Jeanne Tilley Beck, third wife of The Hon. Justice Nicholas du Bois Dominic Beck Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Appellate Division who died on their honeymoon, (1857-1928)

Calgary Law Library Group (CLLG), LASA Accession #2020-011

1 m of textual records; 86 photographs

Date Range: 1994-2020

The Calgary Law Library Group (CLLG), wind-down operations in 2020. Final accrual includes historical records, and following identified series: incorporation documents; advocacy files; executive and committee reports; logos & templates; meeting minutes; photographs (AGM, and charitable initiative walks for ALS and ovarian cancer); policies & procedures; seminar presentations; and society membership lists. Also includes financial statements, and general correspondence.



Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) - Access to Holdings Grant 2020



Contract Archivist David Mittelstadt completed the finding aid to (½) half the records comprising the Roger P. Kerans fonds.

This grant enabled LASA to successfully complete the arrangement, description, and preservation of archival records of The Honourable Roger P. Kerans, retired Justice of the Alberta Court of Appeal (1980-1997), and former Associate Chief Judge of the District Court of Alberta (1970-1979). Justice Kerans presided over many prominent Canadian *Charter* cases having notable and precedent bearing significance. Prior to his appointment to the Alberta Court of Appeal, Kerans oversaw the merger of the District Court of Alberta resulting in the formation of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in 1979. The records include day files, correspondence, notebooks and reasons for judgment bearing historic interest and national importance to both Alberta and

Canada. For example, *R. v. Keegstra*; *R. v. Milton Born With a Tooth*; and *Vriend v. Alberta*, are three notable cases included. Kerans' papers contribute scholarly knowledge particularly for *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* historians, in view of the upcoming 40-year commemoration in 2022.

The people and events of the past have in great measure shaped the present.

We speak continually of our heritage and identity.

These depend on memory of past individual and events.

If the memory disappears so do heritage and identity.

Dean Wilbur Bowker

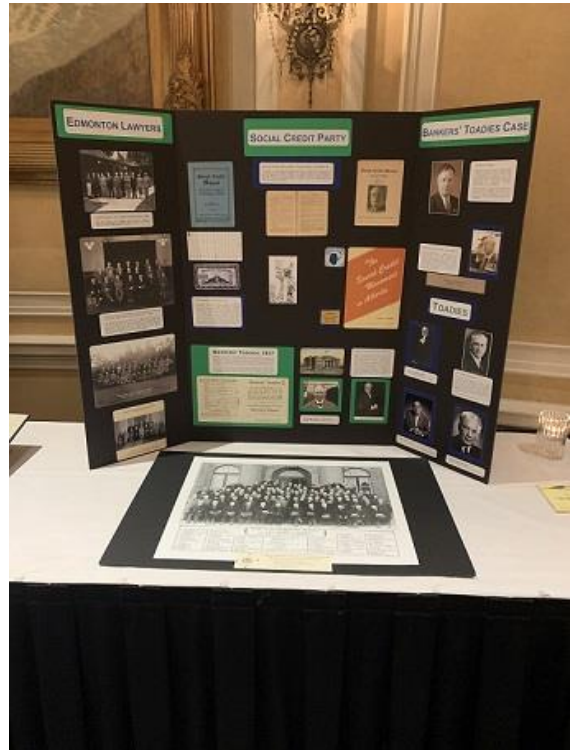
Heritage Programs

Exhibits and Interpretation

LASA is dedicated to the presentation, promotion, and understanding of the evolution of law and society in Alberta through the creation of historical displays showcasing memorabilia and photographs from our holdings.

LASA's archives houses over 10,000 photographs documenting the legal profession in Alberta from 1907 to the present day.

In addition to the interpretative displays constructed in the courthouses throughout the province, LASA has designed online exhibits on our website (www.legalarchives.ca). LASA also participates in an annual online exhibit promoting Alberta archival institutions at the Archives Society of Alberta (www.archivesalberta.org/virtual-exhibits). These exhibits make use of documents, photographs, and artifacts to celebrate and educate the public about the role of the legal and judicial communities in the history of the province.



LASA designed a wonderful exhibit to accompany the Annual Historical Dinner in Calgary featuring the Hon. Jean Côté and his speech on the intersection between politics and the courts in the 1930s.

Oral History

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta embarked on an oral history program to record the reminiscences of lawyers, judges, and other members associated with the legal profession who played an important role in Alberta's legal heritage. The Society has an extensive collection of oral history interviews of prominent lawyers and judges dating back to 1980.

Oral history fills in the gaps in the written record. It also adds information to supplement the documentary record by providing detail and texture to the characterization of legal figures, discussions of significant cases and analysis of subsequent developments in the law. As society moves towards more electronic correspondence, and traditional documentary sources become a thing of the past, oral histories may become the only viable alternative left for those wanting to obtain the same types of insights that traditional sources provide.

Thanks to funding from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, LASA was also able to successfully complete 7 interviews with lawyers and judges from the Calgary area in 2020. Interview completed: Hon. Clifton D. O'Brien, Q.C., Donna Jean Munn, Q.C., Hon. Mr. Justice Bruce McDonald, Hon. Madam Justice Elizabeth Hughes, Judy Boyes, Q.C., Colette Chenier, Q.C., and Laura Safran, Q.C.

Blake, Cassels, Graydon LLP has transcribed the following interviews in 2020: Hon. John D. Reilly, Ernest Shymka, Susan Robinson Burns, Q.C., Hon. Barbara E.C. Romaine, John Hope, Q.C., Hon. Ernest Marshall, Q.C., Hon. Terry Matchett, Chief Justice of the Provincial Court of Alberta, Hon. Robert A. Philp, Q.C., Marie L. Gordon, Q.C, Hon. Mr. Justice Jack Watson, and Dennis Edney, Q.C. We are grateful to Blakes, Cassels, Graydon LLP for their continued support in transcribing the Oral History interviews.

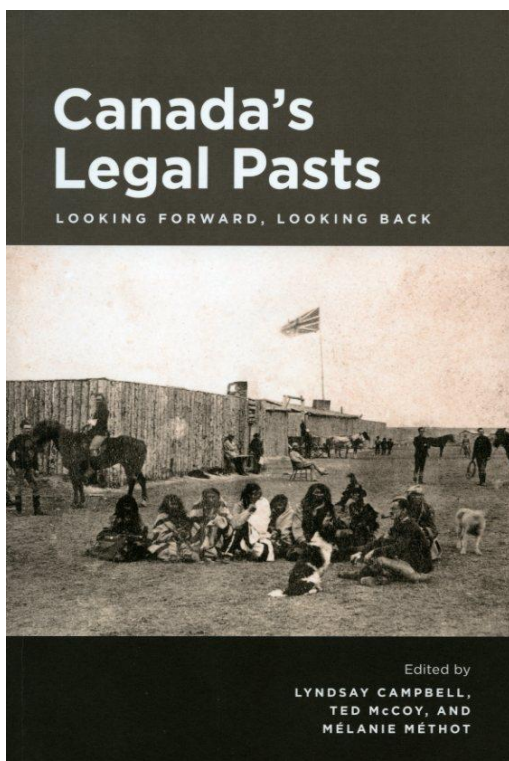
LASA appreciates the external funding for this important program, as well as the participation of all of the lawyers and judges who have been interviewed. LASA currently holds approximately 400 oral history interviews dating back to the 1980s.

Legal History Library

LASA's research and reference library houses a rare and unique collection of approximately 1000 books, including non-fiction, fiction, biographies and memoirs, and reference material. LASA also maintains a collection of pamphlets, serials, directories, newspaper clippings, and other publications documenting the history of law and society in Alberta.

Publications

In 2019, LASA, with support from the Calgary Bar Association, began a publication project editing a compilation of stories from LASA's Oral History collection to be published in book form, both in print and digital format. This book will explore the first-hand experiences of Alberta lawyers in practicing law and examine the development of the profession and the business of law in the province over the past fifty years. The collected stories will utilize the unique and vast repository of the LASA oral histories to create a work that will demonstrate the value of the collection and raise awareness about it among the profession, as well as providing an entertaining and instructive first-hand account of the practice of law in Alberta.



The book will further fulfill LASA's mandate to preserve and promote Alberta's legal history, bringing stories about the law into the public realm with accompanying context. It will serve to effectively publicize LASA's oral history program and collection among the legal profession, academics, and the public. This will be a benefit directly to the program, for acquiring narrators for interviews and may also be expected to raise awareness among historians and other researchers of the collection and its utility. The book will provide a first-hand account of the practice of law and illustrate the many human experiences that are fundamental to the profession and which are one of the attractions of the law as a profession. First and foremost, the proposed project will be a great read.

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta has published a variety of historical studies, biographies, records, and reference works on Alberta's legal past. On our website we have introduced an 'Occasional Paper' series allowing authors to publish articles on law and society in

Alberta. We currently have five papers available for PDF download. LASA's available books are listed on our website (www.legalarchives.ca/lasa-publications/).

LASA has set up a section on our website (www.legalarchives.ca/updates) where visitors can find information on upcoming events and activities, read about past events, and discover legal history.

Some recent updates include material on Alberta lawyers and the **Spanish Flu**, the **1932 Corona Hotel Fire** in Edmonton, as well as recent **book reviews** on subjects related to Alberta's and Canada's legal heritage.



No. 54
Photograph of the south wall of the Corona Hotel, after the fire, showing coal chutes and air shaft.

In the King's Council. No. of 1935.

ON APPEAL FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF ALBERTA (APPELLATE DIVISION)

Between
NORTHWESTERN UTILITIES, LIMITED
(Defendant) Appellant
and
LONDON GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT COMPANY, LIMITED
AND OTHERS
(Plaintiffs) Respondents

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME I.
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Reference Services

LASA maintains an automated reference system along with services to support research projects such as family histories, firm history, academic papers, and biographies. LASA provides access to information on lawyers and judges, legal firms and legal organizations in the province. LASA serves the Law Society of Alberta, lawyers, judges, scholars, students, educators, genealogists and the broad public by providing access to its collection. Staff performs limited searches and interpretation of material in response to reference inquiries. LASA received 59 requests for information relating to, or taken directly from, its holdings. Some of those requests involved extensive in-house research of archival material. Others were simple requests for information provided in a matter of minutes over the telephone or via email. The information has been used for locating practice files, to complete genealogical research or to produce historical publications. The types of researchers are broken down as follows: Law Society of Alberta - 6; Academic - 14; Donor/Depositor - 6; Legal Community - 12; Private Researcher - 11; other Archives and Libraries - 4; and media - 6.

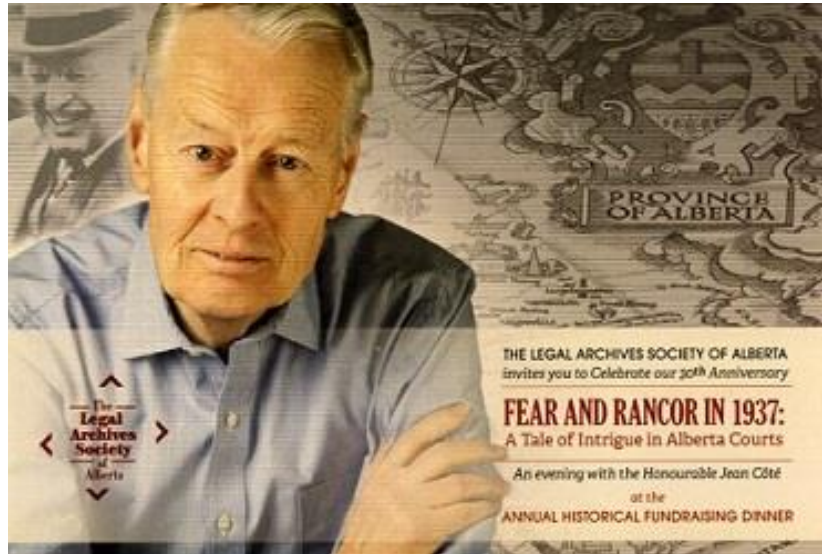
Events

Calgary Historical Dinner

LASA hosted its Annual Historical Dinner in Calgary on January 23, 2020 at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. We were delighted to welcome the Hon. Jean Côté, retired Justice from the Court of Appeal of Alberta, to speak about the intriguing interplay between the Alberta courts and politics in 1937.

Alberta politics were not always civil or dull. Frustration brought fear and rancor to a boil during the Depression. Politics spilled

over into the courts, time and again. Mr. Côté offered a ring-side seat to one of the sharpest episodes, right through to its surprising ending. It all began when zealots were imported from a desperate and dying cause overseas. They hatched a plan to destabilize Alberta by inflaming hatred. To do that, they preached violence. These battles may sound like melodrama, but they were no fiction. It happened in Alberta in 1937.



Coming to power in 1935, the Social Credit Party, led by William Aberhart, promised to establish Social Credit theory. He introduced plenty of legislation, which became untenable, aimed at banking, the press, private property, and civil rights. This led to numerous fights with the legislature and the courts.

3. *A*
BND

Bankers' Toadies

My child, you should NEVER say hard or unkind things about Bankers' Toadies. God made Bankers' Toadies, just as He made snakes, slugs, snails and other creepy-crawly, treacherous and poisonous things. NEVER therefore, abuse them—just exterminate them!

AND TO PREVENT ALL EVASION

Demand the Result you want

\$25.00 a Month

AND A LOWER COST TO LIVE

(Please turn over.)

Courtesy of Provincial Archives of Alberta
Accession# GR1983.0001, Box 4, Page 317

Aberhart introduced something similar to recall legislation, which allowed voters to remove their MLA between provincial elections. After two-third of his constituents voted to remove him, he simply repealed the legislation retroactively. Justice Côté explained that Aberhart became paranoid and believed that conspiracies were abound to oust him. Teaming with two members from the English Social Credit movement - George Powell and L.D. Byrne - the Premier became more despotic as he believed his movement was at war with his opponents.

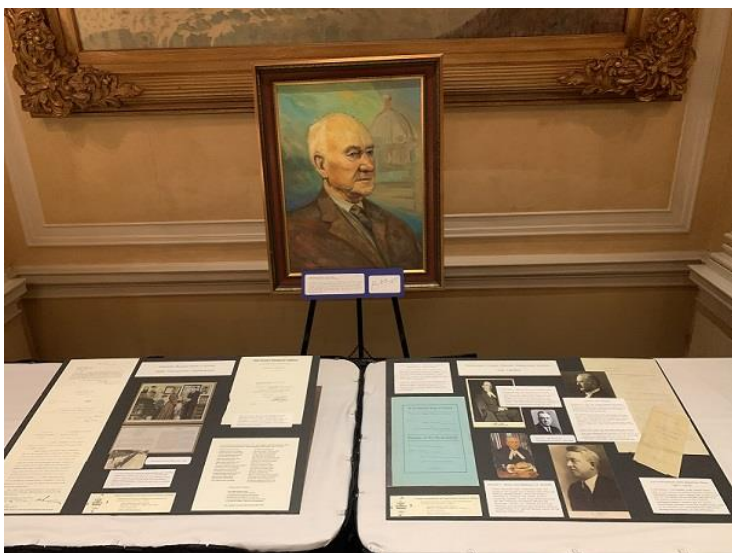
This led to an explosive open battle with the legal community to which no judge nor was lawyer immune. Conspiracies ruled the day. Aberhart concluded that the banking system was to blame for the Great Depression. In response, a group of lawyers and businessmen organized to counter the

government's anti-business sentiment. This group, known as the People's League, became the target of an ominous campaign to vilify and discredit all those who opposed Social Credit.

It culminated in 1937 with the appearance of a leaflet that named a number of prominent lawyers and businessmen in Edmonton. The flyer, labeled 'Bankers' Toadies', was anonymous, but was certainly framed with propagandistic overtones. "My child, you should NEVER say hard or unkind things about Bankers' Toadies. God made Bankers' Toadies, just as He made snakes, slugs, snails and other creepy-crawly, treacherous and poisonous things. NEVER therefore, abuse them - just exterminate them!"

Following in a police raid on the Social Credit League's office where 16,000 were confiscated, political expert Powell and Social Credit MLA and Whip, Joseph Unwin were arrested and charged with sedition and incited murder, as well as criminal libel. The two former charges were dropped, but the investigation into the latter charge was investigated.

Following a conviction at the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division in front of Mr. Justice W.C. Ives, and an unsuccessful appeal where Mr. Justice Horace Harvey, speaking for the five appellate Justices, affirmed the conviction, the two men were sentenced to hard labour in a provincial jail after which George Powell would be deported.



Despite the controversy, Albertans gave the Social Credit Party a second mandate, though with a smaller majority, in the 1940 election. Joseph Unwin was the first victim having failed to get reelected. Others fell victim to Aberhart's vengeful behavior, including John Hugill, K.C., the Party's most experienced MLA and first Attorney General, Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, John Bowen. Newspapers and individual reports became targets of Aberhart and the Social Credit Party. Along with having their content controlled, one newspaper was shut down by the Cabinet, and one

Edmonton-area journalist was convicted of contempt.

The legal and judicial communities became targets. Aberhart attempted to infringe on the legal profession's independence to self-regulate and discipline lawyers. As a result, the Law Society of Alberta set up the Assurance Fund to protect the profession's independence. The Honourable Horace Harvey, Chief Justice of Alberta, was punished when Aberhart used his influence to oust Harvey from the University of Alberta's Board of Governors. The Premier could not go after his position on the Bench, so he condemned the respected jurist by removing him from sitting on the Board of Governors, a role Harvey enjoyed.

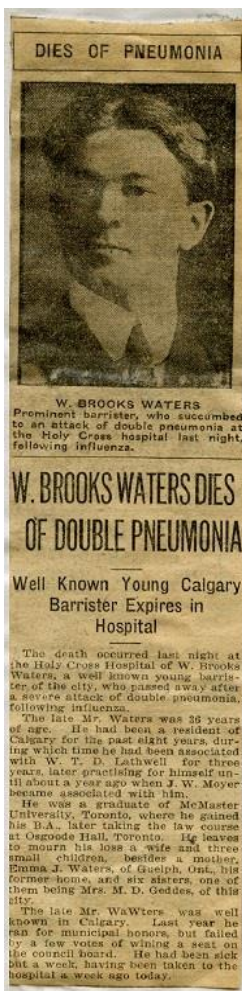
Aberhart's last victim was Police Magistrate, Andrew Gibson, K.C., whose only offence was doing his job when he issued the search warrant and committed two of Aberhart's minions to trial. As Mr. Côté suggested, this was a clear-cut case as both the Trial and Appellate Divisions found the issue to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. In what can only be

deemed a conflict of interest, Aberhart, as Attorney General, recommended removing Gibson as Magistrate, which was then approved by Aberhart acting as Premier. Gibson was given no reason for his removal, but later told the press it was likely because of his actions regarding Unwin and Powell.

Mr. Côté speech established that this period in Alberta's history was neither dull nor civil.

Annual General Meeting

On September 9, 2020, LASA hosted its Annual General Meeting via ZOOM. Members of the current Board of Directors the Hon. Madam Justice Jo'Anne Strekaf, Aaron Bickman, Oliver Ho, and the Hon. Willis O'Leary* were re-elected to two-year terms. The Board of Directors also welcomed Calgary lawyer, Brian Kiers to a two-year term.



At the AGM, LASA Archivist, Brenda McCafferty, presented archival records at LASA related to the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic.

Believed to have started on March 4, 1918, at Camp Funston in Kansas with the case of Albert Gitchell, the Spanish Flu went through four waves lasting until 1920 infecting an estimated 500 million people globally with a death toll of between 50 and 100 million. That is between 3% and up to more than 5% of the world's population. The Spanish Flu killed more people worldwide than soldiers who died during World War I.

Though it reportedly began in the United States, it was called the Spanish Flu because initially reports originated in the Spanish press. Spain, who remained neutral during the First World War, had a free press and could openly report on the outbreak without fear of censorship in an effort to maintain high moral during the war effort.

It is difficult to separate World War I from the Spanish Flu outbreak, the two are intrinsically related. Demobilization of troops facilitated transmission of the influenza within the military and the general population much faster.

In a letter from Cecil B. Rice, Registrar at the University of Alberta, to the Law Society of Alberta, law students admissions to the Bar overseen by the Law Society of Alberta were altered "[w]ith the autumn of 1918 and the spring of 1919, some unusual circumstances gave rise to some exceptional courses. The two exceptional circumstances were the close of the war and the influenza epidemic of the autumn of 1918."

* Resigned from the Board of Directors in December 2020.

It is probable that the Spanish Flu spread to Alberta in the Fall of 1918, just before the cessation of hostilities in Europe. The legal profession was not spared the effects of the influenza. A number of Alberta lawyers were known to have been infected with the virus, and at least three died during the second wave in 1919.

Ms. McCafferty detailed the records from three lawyers - Joseph Edward Caldwell, George Stirling Matthews, and Roderick Francis Murphy - admitted to the Law Society of Alberta between 1909 and 1919 who were known to have died from the Spanish Flu.

Records also showed that society was affected by the pandemic. Gordon Allen, Q.C., former Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Appellate Division, wrote in his memoir, "In the Late Fall of 1918, studies at high school were interrupted by the epidemic of the most virulent and often fatal type of pneumonia, what was then term "Spanish Influenza" or "The Flu"."

It is hoped that in the future, Alberta lawyers and judges will donate their records related to the COVID-19 pandemic so that future historians will be able to better understand how the profession adjusted to 2020/2021.



For more information, please visit www.legalarchives.ca/the-1918-spanish-flu/.

Centennial of the Medicine Hat Courthouse



On September 24, 2020, LASA took part in a physically-distanced ceremony in Medicine Hat to dedicate a storyboard recognizing the centenary of the opening of the Medicine Hat courthouse in September 1920. The city's courthouse is the longest operational courthouse in Alberta.

Speakers at this event included the Honourable James Horsman, Q.C., C.M., the Honourable Kaycee Madu, Q.C., Ministers of Justice and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mary Moreau, Chief Justice, Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, Patrick O'Brien, Chair, Heritage Resources Committee, and Shaun T. MacIsaac, Q.C., Chair, Legal Archives Society of Alberta.

This event was one of several that were to take place celebrating this milestone in Medicine Hat. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, LASA postponed the dinner featuring the Honourable Russell Brown, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada until September 2021.

Personnel

Board of Directors

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Hon. Madam Justice Susan Richardson Edmonton (2019-2021)	Leanne Young, Q.C. Edmonton (2019-2021)
Hon. Judge John Maher Edmonton (2019-2021)	

Staff

Stacy F. Kaufeld, M.A., Executive Director
 Brenda McCafferty, MARM, Archivist
 Ewa Gniazdowska, M.Sc, Administrative and Development Officer

* Resigned from the Board of Directors in December 2020

** Became Secretary in March 2021

Donors

2020 Annual Campaign

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Shaun T. MacIsaac, Q.C.	The Hon. Willis E. O'Leary, Q.C.	

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Stephen M.K. Hope	The Hon. Mary T. Moreau, Chief Justice Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta	The Hon. Mr. Justice Jack Watson
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The Hon. Judge Marlene L. Graham

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The Hon. Madam Justice Susan Richardson

The Hon. John D. Rooke, Associate Chief
Justice, Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

The Hon. Mr. Justice Sterling M. Sanderman

Wayne Malcolm Schafer, Q.C.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Frans F. Slatter

The Hon. John Z. Vertes

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The Hon. Judge Richard J. O'Gorman

John T. Prowse, Q.C.

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Andrew C.L. Sims, Q.C.

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The Hon. Ernest J.M. Walter, Q.C.

Neil B. Watson

John H. Wilson, Q.C.,

Moin A. Yahya

Supporter (up to \$149)

Sophia L. Blumin

Thomas H. Ferguson, Q.C.,

The Hon. Adelle Fruman

Julian G.J. Koziak, Q.C.

Jim H. Leitch

Rajiv Malhotra

The Hon. Mr. Justice Dallas K. Miller

M. Patricia Murphy

Kevin T. Mott

John H.W. Rathwell

Barbara J. Snowdon

University of Alberta Library Bibliographic Service
(EBSCO)

The Hon. Allan H. Wachowich, Q.C.

The Hon. L. David Wilkins, Q.C.

Financial Summary

In 2020, LASA operated on a budget of \$329,190. The Law Society of Alberta provided the core grant of \$205,000.

LASA is a registered charity and holds a category “A” status under the Cultural Properties Export and Import Act.

2020 Annual Campaign

The purpose of the Annual Campaign is to raise funds to assist with covering operating expenses during the fiscal year (January 1 - December 31). Staff and volunteer supporters strive to achieve an annual goal of \$50,000 (after expenses) through two major fundraising efforts: a direct mail/email campaign and the Annual Historical Dinners. The total amount received in the 2020 campaign was \$57,200.

Direct Mail/Email Campaign

LASA sent out via direct mail and email approximately 1,000 appeal letters and donor cards to Alberta’s legal and judicial communities. Combined with other contributions throughout the year, the profession responded with \$52,305 in direct donations.

Historical Dinners

LASA hosted its annual fundraising dinner in Calgary in January 2020 with keynote speaker the Hon. Jean Côté. The evening was a great success and LASA is grateful to all those who attended and continue to support the preserving and promoting of Alberta’s legal heritage.

Membership

Membership stood at 132 on December 31, 2020, an increase from 2019’s total of 122. Revenue from the annual campaign donations for 2020 was \$52,305 an increase over 2019’s amount of \$42,759. The average donation for 2020 was \$396. In 2019, it was \$350.

Contributions were distributed among the following categories:

A list of donors for 2020 can be found on page 14 and 15 of the Annual Report.

Honourary Members - 20	Patron (\$1,000 - \$4,999) - 14
Supporter (up to \$149) - 14	Advocate (\$500 - \$999) - 24
Friend (\$150 - \$249) - 40	Benefactor (\$5,000 - \$9,999) - 1
Sustainer (\$250 - \$499) - 39	

COVID-19 Relief

In 2020, due to COVID-19, LASA received financial relief.

LASA received \$5,000 from the Government of Alberta for Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch to help small businesses reopen after the first wave of the pandemic.

The Museum Assistance Program (MAP) provided LASA with \$29,613 as general support to help the Society carry out activities.

LASA, with the assistance of our landlord, received \$20,385 in rent relief from the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (“CECRA”).

Project Funding

There were a number of projects put on hold because of COVID-19 in 2020. Funding for these projects was received in 2019, and work has restarted.

LASA has applied for several project-based grants in 2021 to be completed in 2021 and 2022.

Alberta Legal Heritage Fund

In 1997, LASA established the Alberta Legal Heritage Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Calgary Community Foundation, and the Medicine Hat Community Foundation. In 1998, funds were established in the Community Foundations of Red Deer, Lethbridge, and Grande Prairie. Funds from casinos held in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004 were also added to the Alberta Legal Heritage Fund in each community. The interest income received from the funds is used to ensure the future preservation of legal archives in Alberta. In 2020, \$13,114 was received in Endowment Income.

Casino

LASA held a charity casino at Cowboys Casino in Calgary on November 18 & 19, 2020. Casino profits are first deposited in to a city-wide pool and then equally distributed. LASA’s portion of this profit was received during the first quarter of 2021 and amounted to \$56,300, which is pro-rated over a two-year period

**Archives are evidence of past policies, events and issues,
an understanding of which is vital for the future progress of our Province.
LASA will provide the source material for many aspects of the general history of Alberta.**

**The Honourable J.H. (Herb) Laycraft, Q.C.
Chief Justice of Alberta**

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020



CZECHOWSKY, GRAHAM & HANEVELT
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
• AN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES •

STEVE CZECHOWSKY*
LOUIS GRAHAM*
DIANA HANEVELT*
JESSICA STOCK*
DANIEL CASHION*
*DENOTES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
400, 1121 CENTRE STREET NORTH
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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of The Legal Archives Society of Alberta

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Legal Archives Society of Alberta (the Society) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Society derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to me obtaining evidence I considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended December 31, 2020, current assets and net assets as at December 31, 2020. My review conclusion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

(continues)

Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report to the Members of The Legal Archives Society of Alberta *(continued)*

Qualified Conclusion

Based on my review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Conclusion* paragraph, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Legal Archives Society of Alberta as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Calgary, Alberta
June 9, 2021



DIANA HANEVELT PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2020

	Operating <i>December 31</i> 2020	Restricted <i>December 31</i> 2020	Casino <i>December 31</i> 2020	Combined <i>December 31</i> 2020	Combined <i>December 31</i> 2019
ASSETS					
CURRENT					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 31,313	\$ 44,721	\$ 12,115	\$ 88,149	\$ 86,330
Accounts receivable (<i>Note 8</i>)	12,247	5,251	709	18,207	6,774
Prepaid expenses	5,195	-	3,034	8,229	8,999
Interfund balances (<i>Note 5</i>)	-	13,655	1,712	15,367	22,539
	<u>\$ 48,755</u>	<u>\$ 63,627</u>	<u>\$ 17,570</u>	<u>\$ 129,952</u>	<u>\$ 124,642</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
CURRENT					
Accounts payable	\$ 5,469	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,469	\$ 12,635
Interfund balances (<i>Note 5</i>)	15,291	76	-	15,367	22,538
Deferred revenue - Other (<i>Notes 6, 8</i>)	-	63,551	-	63,551	54,971
Deferred revenue - Casino (<i>Note 7</i>)	-	-	17,570	17,570	37,484
	20,760	63,627	17,570	101,957	127,628
NET ASSETS (DEBT)	<u>27,995</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,995</u>	<u>(2,986)</u>
	<u>\$ 48,755</u>	<u>\$ 63,627</u>	<u>\$ 17,570</u>	<u>\$ 129,952</u>	<u>\$ 124,642</u>

See notes to financial statements

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Operating	Restricted	Casino	Total	Total
	<i>December 31</i>	<i>December 31</i>	<i>December 31</i>	<i>December 31</i>	<i>December 31</i>
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019
REVENUES					
Grants - Law Society of Alberta (<i>Note 9</i>)	\$ 205,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 205,000	\$ 200,000
Grants - Other	-	18,537	-	18,537	6,786
Fundraising	77,993	-	22,171	100,164	109,710
Investment and sundry income	13,114	-	-	13,114	12,892
Publications	375	-	-	375	425
	<u>296,482</u>	<u>18,537</u>	<u>22,171</u>	<u>337,190</u>	<u>329,813</u>
EXPENSES					
General administration	37,818	258	395	38,471	47,557
Fundraising	20,522	-	-	20,522	23,635
Projects	-	10,279	2,377	12,656	7,922
Publications	1,600	-	-	1,600	22,970
Premises (<i>Note 8</i>)	24,120	-	19,399	43,519	69,791
Salaries and benefits	189,441	-	-	189,441	176,930
	<u>273,501</u>	<u>10,537</u>	<u>22,171</u>	<u>306,209</u>	<u>348,805</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 22,981</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 30,981</u>	<u>\$ (18,992)</u>

See notes to financial statements

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Operating	Restricted	Casino	Total	Total
	<i>December 31</i> 2020	<i>December 31</i> 2020	<i>December 31</i> 2020	<i>December 31</i> 2020	<i>December 31</i> 2019
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ (2,986)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,986)	\$ 16,006
Excess of revenues over expenses	22,981	8,000	-	30,981	(18,992)
Transfers (<i>Note 5</i>)	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 27,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,995	\$ (2,986)

See notes to financial statements

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Total	Total
	<i>December 31</i>	<i>December 31</i>
	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 30,981	\$ (18,992)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(11,432)	253
Accounts payable	(7,166)	2,634
Deferred revenue - Other	8,580	26,958
Deferred revenue - Casino	(19,914)	24,170
Prepaid expenses	770	(1,054)
	(29,162)	52,961
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	1,819	33,969
Cash - beginning of year	86,330	52,361
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 88,149	\$ 86,330

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta (the "Society") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Companies Act of Alberta. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The purpose of the Society is to preserve, promote and understand the evolution of law and society in Alberta.

2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consists of cash in bank.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable.

At the end of each reporting period the Society assesses whether there are any indications that a financial asset measured at amortized cost may be impaired. Objective evidence of impairment might include significant financial difficulty of the issuer, default or delinquency in interest payments, or bankruptcy. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset. Any impairment loss is recognized in the statement of revenues and expenditures in the current period. Impairment losses can be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the statement of revenues and expenditures in the period the reversal occurs.

Contributed goods and services

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year. Because of the difficulty in determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements. At times, goods are also donated to the Society. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value, contributed goods are not recognized in the financial statements.

(continues)

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Fund accounting

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenues and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities are reported in the Operating Fund.

Revenues and expenses related to special archival activities are reported in the Restricted Fund, these include:

1. cataloguing and preserving archival records,
2. researching and documenting oral histories,
3. commissioning bronze busts of individuals who have contributed significantly to legal history in Alberta.

The Casino Fund reports only funds raised from casino activities. These funds are not for general use. The majority of these funds must be used for qualifying activities in accordance with the Alberta Gaming Control guidelines and may be distributed to specified community trusts.

Revenue recognition

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Casino contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Government grants

Government grants are recorded when there is a reasonable assurance that the Society had complied with and will continue to comply with, all the necessary conditions to obtain the grants.

Archival collection

The archival collection consists items related to Alberta legal history, prominent lawyers and judges, including textual records, audio-visual materials, cultural items, medals and memorabilia, publications, prints and photographs. The archival collection has not been capitalized in the statement of financial position. Any purchases of collection items are expensed in the period in which the items are acquired. Contributions of collection items are reported as revenue and expenses at their fair value. When fair value cannot be determined, the contribution is not recognized in the financial statements.

Capital assets

Capital assets are expensed on acquisition. Capital assets include leasehold improvements related to the Calgary office, furniture and office equipment. For the year ending December 31, 2019 capital assets with a cost of \$nil (2018 - \$8,000) were purchased.

(continues)

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Accounts affected by measurement uncertainty relate to deferred revenue, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

4. INCOME TAXES

The Society is a registered charity within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and is exempt from income taxes.

5. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

During the year, the Society's board of directors have approved the following transactions:

1. The Restricted Fund owes the Casino Fund \$76 (December 31, 2019 - \$76), regarding general operating expenses.
2. The Operating Fund owes the Casino Fund \$1,635 (December 31, 2019 - \$1,276) for payment of general operating expenses.
3. The Operating Fund owes the Restricted Fund \$13,655 (December 31, 2019 - \$21,187) regarding office rent and other sundry transactions.

These advances are non-interest bearing and due on demand.

During the year, the Restricted Fund transferred \$8,000 to the Operating Fund related to excess funding on completed projects (2019 - \$nil).

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

The deferred revenue in the Restricted Fund relates to outstanding projects.

	2020	2019
<u>Deferred revenue - restricted</u>		
Balance, beginning of the period	\$ 47,475	\$ 28,014
Contributions during the period	34,613	26,247
Amounts spent during the period	(10,537)	(6,786)
Transferred to Operating Fund	(8,000)	-
	\$ 63,551	\$ 47,475

Additional deferred revenue of \$nil (2019 - \$7,496) is present in the Operating Fund, which relates to ticket sales for the Calgary dinner being held in January 2020. The amount was recognized in fundraising revenue in the Operating Fund in the current year.

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

7. CASINO

Revenues of the Casino Fund are recognized when the related expenses or distributions are incurred, with the balance of Casino proceeds recorded as deferred revenue. Gaming proceeds may not be disbursed without the prior approval of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Gaming proceeds are required to be expended within 24 months of receipt.

	2020	2019
<u>Deferred revenue - casino</u>		
Balance, beginning of the period	\$ 37,484	\$ 13,314
Amounts received during the period	2,257	70,055
Amounts spent during the period	(22,171)	(45,885)
	\$ 17,570	\$ 37,484

8. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Society applied for various government financial assistance under available COVID-19 government assistance programs.

During the year, the Society received government assistance of \$5,000 (2019 - \$nil) from the Government of Alberta for the Covid-19 Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch. The Society also received \$29,613 (2019 - \$nil) from the Canadian Heritage Covid-19 Emergency Support Fund. These amounts are currently included in the Restricted Fund deferred revenues until the related expenses are incurred.

Included in Premises expense was \$30,803 of rent assistance related to the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program (2019 - \$nil). This amount reduced rent in the Operating Fund by \$24,008 and the Casino Fund by \$6,795. As at year-end, \$10,417 of the assistance is in the Operating Fund accounts receivable related to this program (2019 - \$nil).

9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Society receives a significant portion of its funding from the Law Society of Alberta. The Society's by-laws make provision for a representative of the Law Society to be a member of its board of directors.

The Society has a deposit agreement regarding the administration of the Law Society's archival records. No fee is assessed by the Society for this service.

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

10. CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Since 1995, the Society has contributed to various provincial community foundations as a means of fulfilling its mandate. Beginning in 2005, these annual contributions were suspended. The balances in the various foundations are as follows:

	2020	2019
Edmonton Community Foundation	\$ 122,157	\$ 122,157
The Calgary Foundation	115,458	115,458
Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta	4,792	4,792
Lethbridge Community Foundation	5,995	5,995
Medicine Hat Community Foundation	6,487	6,487
Red Deer and District Community Foundation	5,566	5,566
	\$ 260,455	\$ 260,455

Funds contributed are held in trust indefinitely. Income distributions to the Society are at the discretion of the various foundations. Distributions are recognized as income in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated. Amounts have not changed materially from the balances disclosed at December 31, 2019.

11. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Society has a long term lease with respect to its premises. The lease contains renewal options and provides for payment of utilities, property taxes and maintenance costs. Future minimum lease payments as at December 31, 2020 are as follows:

2021	\$ 70,916
2022	70,916
2023	70,916
2024	70,916
2025	212,748
	\$ 496,412

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Society's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2020.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The society is exposed to credit risk from funders. The Society has placed its cash and investments with major financial institutions from which management believes the risk of loss to be remote.

(continues)

THE LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2020

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *(continued)*

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Society manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Society is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its floating interest rate bank indebtedness and credit facilities.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

13. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the year, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic. As a result, there has been a downturn in many economic factors that may have a negative effect on the financial instruments and cash flow of the Society. The impact of COVID-19 on the global economy and financial markets are evolving and the potential impact on the Society is uncertain and cannot be quantified at this time.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society was required to postpone or cancel some fundraising opportunities. However, they were able to utilize some of the available government assistance programs, as disclosed in note 8. It is management's expectation that the impacts of the pandemic will not affect the Society's ability to operate as a going concern.

