



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2012 – MARCH 2013

*What 30 years of helping Nova Scotians get the information they need
about the law can do!*

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TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

To Our Stakeholders

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

As volunteers, donors, clients and funders, we recognize you want to know what the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS – pronounced like “listens”) does in the course of a year ... or 30 years.

Over the last year, LISNS has increased the number of pages of legal information on legalinfo.org, as well as, increasing the number of site visitors by almost 250%. We also began adding audio Q & A legal information to the Dial-a-Law section of the website, produced a Divorce Fair in Sydney, NS, increased legal information sessions by 63% and participated in 7 community displays, worked on 5 audience targeted projects, bestowed the LISNS Lorne Clarke, QC Access to Justice Award on Ray Wagner and increased the number of people receiving information through a new social media strategy. In honour of our 30th Anniversary, we asked the public to help us find a name for the Legal Seagull (Seacil was the winner) and we hosted a panel discussion on Access to Justice in collaboration with the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University. All of this was accomplished while answering more than 4,500 calls to the Legal Information Line. We couldn't do it without our dedicated and hard working staff of 6.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

At year end, LISNS is showing a very small deficit of just over \$1,700. This is due to the allowance for depreciation and a couple of fundraising initiatives not making as much money as we had targeted. We have limited resources to dedicate to fundraising. Currently seven hours a week are allotted. These factors contributed in part for the difference in expected revenue.

On a positive note, management held the expenses down, making for a good year end result.

The value of our annual grants continues to shrink in value as they remain static and do not keep up with inflation. This situation is unlikely to change in the near future due to current economic conditions. While we make a real difference in the lives of the many Nova Scotians who fall between the cracks because they don't qualify for legal aid but are a long way from being able to afford private legal services, we don't have the advantage of the image of cute children or puppies to help us attract funds. Like many charities the struggle is real and on-going.

LOOKING AHEAD

The upcoming year is one of developing new strategies to move LISNS forward in to the future. We are collecting stories from real people that we helped in order to give 'a face' to our work. The incoming Board of Directors will be looking at what was accomplished on the old strategic plan, current trends in technology and the needs of Nova Scotians and creating a new plan that will guide LISNS for the next 3-5 years.

Maria Franks
LISNS, Executive Director

June 19, 2013

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 01, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2013

REVENUE

GRANTS

<i>Law Foundation of N.S.</i>	\$133,000
<i>Department of Justice Canada</i>	70,000
<i>Department of Justice Nova Scotia</i>	50,000

PROGRAMS

<i>Community Programs</i>	196
<i>Publication Sales</i>	161
<i>Lawyer Referral Service</i>	4,450
<i>Legal Information Fair</i>	6,226

FUNDRAISING 72,422

OTHER 329

SUB-TOTAL 336,784

PROJECTS 206,282

TOTAL \$543,066

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS

<i>Legal Info Line & Lawyer Referral Service</i>	\$ 53,322
<i>Dial -a - Law</i>	8,664
<i>Publications</i>	12,142
<i>Community Programs</i>	53,135
<i>Website</i>	59,196

COST OF RAISING FUNDS 47,600

PROJECTS 206,282

ADMINISTRATION 104,482

TOTAL \$544,823

INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR (\$ 1,757)

A copy of the audited statements is available upon request

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

Funders and Sponsors

THANK YOU TO ANNUAL GRANTORS

- Law Foundation of Nova Scotia
- Department of Justice Canada
- Department of Justice Nova Scotia

THANK YOU TO WEBSITE (LEGALINFO.ORG) SPONSORS

- BOYNECLARKE
- Wagners Law Firm
- Atlantic Home Warranty
- Nova Scotia Legal Aid

THANK YOU TO LISNS EVENT SPONSORS

LUNCH for LISNS April 2012

- The Printer
- BOYNECLARKE
- Millar Productions
- Basil AV

Play in a Day 2012

- Quantum Communications
- WBLI
- Halcraft Printers Inc.
- Jane's Catering & Events
- IN-POINT MEDIA
- Jost Vineyards
- Made with Local
- Glow Parties
- Yelp – Halifax

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive:

Kevin A. MacDonald, Outgoing President
Matthew Pierce / Michelle Higgins, Vice President
Jonathan Gallant, CA, Treasurer
Jennifer Pink, Secretary

Members:

- Elizabeth Buckle (leaving June 2013)
- Joseph Cameron
- George Clarke
- Nila Ipson
- Adrian Lake
- Jessica Lumiere (leaving June 2013)
- Justice Beryl MacDonald
- Donald McDougall, Q.C.
- Wayne Moug
- Andrew Rankin
- James Rossiter
- Lindsay Thomson (term completed June 2013)
- John Underhill
- Dan Urquhart (resigned mid-term)

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2013 - 2015

Natalie Ghosn, Pauline Doucette, Diane Hawco, Quy Linh and Sarah McGrath-White

HERE'S JUST ONE REASON WE DO WHAT WE DO...

I turned to LISNS when my partner and I decided to move in together. He had three children, and I wanted to understand my rights and obligations as a stepparent. There was lots of information out there about divorce, custody, and access, but I could find nothing about my role as a new parental figure in the life of these children. I had personal, private – and important – questions, and nowhere to turn. I called the LISNS help line and got the answers I needed. Answers that enabled me to understand my situation and make better decisions as a result. *Amelia, LISNS caller*

VOLUNTEERS

EVENT, COMMITTEE, RESEARCH, WRITING & LEGAL INFORMATION VOLUNTEERS

Raphina Ghosn	Deanna Richardson
Sarah McGrath-White	Joseph Anthony Loot
Julie Keenan	Sheri Woodland Farmer
Angela MacKenzie	Mark Tipperman
Christine Dimitrov	Betony Rowland
Barbara Fickes	Samantha Ratnam
donalee Moulton	Cheryl Schurman
Tanya Jones	Hugh Goodday
Fiona Wilson	Colin Strapps
Rejean Aucoin	Agathon Fric
Gussie Postlewaite	Amanda Lutz
Pam Kachafanas	Dave Dhillon
Damian Penny	Lindsay Thompson
Illana Luther	Brendan Sheridan
Claire McNeil	Kiel Mercer
Francyne Hunter	David Shore
R. Paul Thorne	Tanya Wiltshire
Michelle Chai	Tamara Kelly
Brendan Hale	Catherine Walker, Q.C.
	Tara Horsman
	Caitlin Jimmo

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of our Speakers Bureau speakers and project Advisory Committees

ONE MORE REASON WE WORK SO HARD

It's in Your Hands: Legal Information for Seniors was a valuable reference material during a recent change of health of our grandmother. With the online magazine view, we could talk and discuss options with other family members living outside of the province of NS, and all be on the "same page". It was easy to understand and share with our grandmother and her family members. – *Randy*

PROGRAM INFORMATION – HOW MUCH DID WE HELP?

Program Information – How much did we help?

Website	Outreach	Legal Information Line & Lawyer Referral Service	Dial-a-Law	Publications
Different Visitors: 162,304 (262% increase from previous year) Total Visits: 190,708 (245% increase) Avg. Visitors per day: 522 Pages viewed: 309,816 (169% increase)	Legal Information Sessions delivered: 18 (63% increase) Most requested topics: Power of Attorney Wills Estate Planning Community Booths: 7 Divorce Fair Sydney: 14 booths 18 Information Sessions	Total # of Legal Information Line calls: 4,956 Top 3 areas of law: Family (29%) Criminal (14%) Wills & Estates (8%) # of referrals to the Lawyer Referral Service: 689	Phone system listens (122 titles): 1,538 Top 3 areas of law: • Separation • Divorce • Child Custody & Access Online audio listens (34 titles): 4702 Top 3 areas of law: • Child custody & Access • Probating an Estate • Spousal Support in Separation & Divorce	LISNS Publications distributed: 47,298 Top 3 topics: • Justice Information for New Canadians (several different languages) • Legal Information Themed LISNS Newsletters (produced quarterly) • It's In Your Hands: Legal Information for Seniors & Their Families

POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM DIVORCE FAIR 2013 – SYDNEY, NS

- Very informative. Thank each and everyone for input and time
- Friendly and informative
- Very useful to hear judge and lawyers talk about the process
- It was a nice experience
- Very helpful fair
- Exceptional presentation by Justice Wilson. Very helpful

LISNS Project Work

THERE WERE SEVERAL PROJECTS IN 2012/13:

- Work continued on a three-year pilot project to develop a Pro Bono Legal Services Hub for Nova Scotia. The project is funded through an Access to Justice Fund administered by the Law Foundation of Ontario.
- A 2-year project to raise awareness of Post Separation Abuse among frontline workers was completed. The project targeted at front line workers and included workshops, an on-line learning tool in English and French, and a facilitator's guide so that organizations can continue the work of offering workshops. The project was funded by Justice Canada. The project built on the work we did a previous project *Family Law Information for Abused Women* which was partly funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.
- Work continued on a project *to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence Laws and Resources for newcomers*. The Project is funded by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. It includes two brochures in eight languages, a poster, bookmark and on-line information and the implementation of a dissemination plan.
- Work began on a 2-year project to Raise Awareness of Elder Abuse for healthcare providers. The project is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, New Horizons for Seniors Program. This builds on the work of a previous project which resulted in the very popular *It's in Your Hands* booklet. LISNS leads the project and is working in collaboration with the Centre on Aging, MSVU and the NS Department of Seniors.
- We received a small grant from Justice Canada to update our printed and on-line information on the Youth Criminal Justice Act to reflect changes made by the federal Safe Streets and Communities Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

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Fax (902) 455 - 3105

legalinfo.org



Seacil the Legal Seagull