



Annual Report of Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. (CLASSIC)

2013-14

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INTRODUCTION

CLASSIC works toward access to justice with low-income, marginalized Saskatchewan residents, with attention to the needs of Aboriginal peoples, through a legal clinic that meets the needs of the community. This provides law and inter-disciplinary students with experiential learning, new insights into the cultural and social reality of law, and fosters an ethic of social justice.

CLASSIC has been providing services to the community for seven years now. CLASSIC began as an enthusiastic student initiative. We are so proud that CLASSIC continues to flourish within the community. CLASSIC is eminently grateful to its generous funders, dedicated staff and volunteers, and myriad of supporters who have made its growth and stability possible. We are humbled by how graciously CLASSIC has been received and trusted by the community. CLASSIC now presents its record of service for the 2013-14 year.

Overall Demand

CLASSIC has grown immensely since we opened our doors. The demand for our services is ever-increasing and demonstrated below with CLASSIC's front-line reception and phone statistics. These statistics do not include in-person walk-ins. CLASSIC's philosophy is to refer clients to the most appropriate services where we assess their needs to be non-legal in nature, or if they need other services besides those services CLASSIC provides. Because of these ever-increasing demands, CLASSIC is grateful to have obtained funding in order to allow us to hire a second administrative assistant this reporting year.

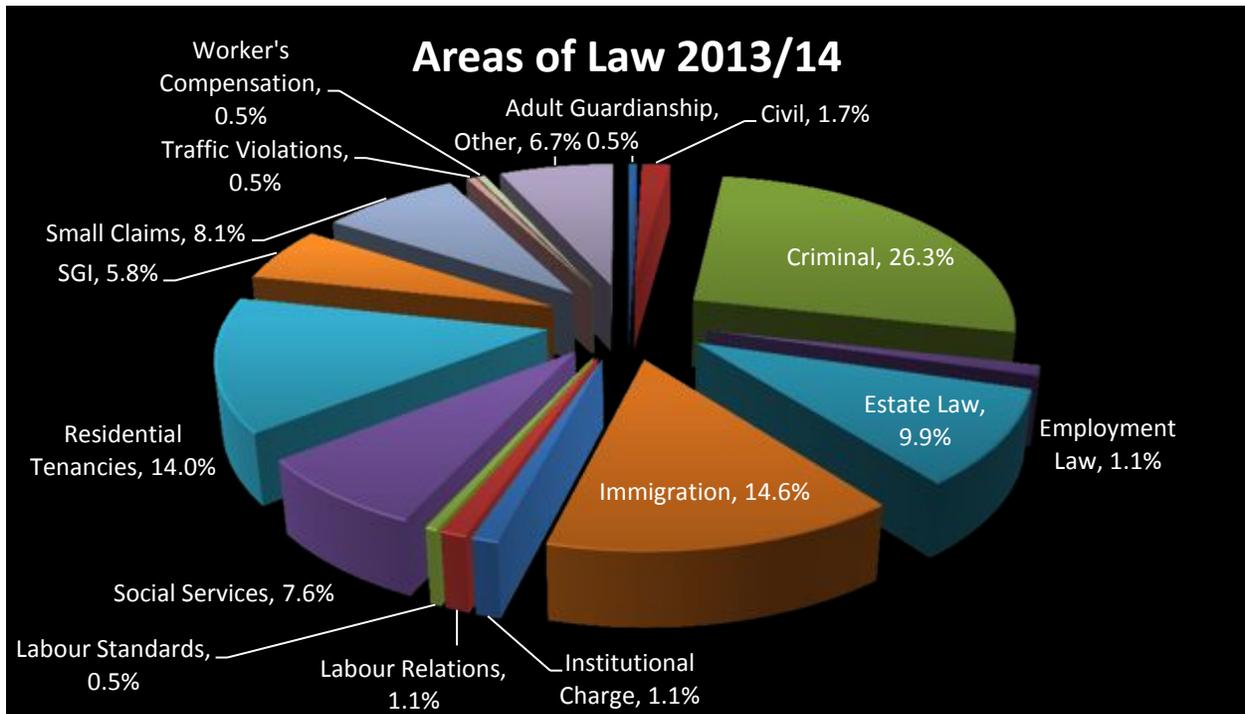
Front-Line Statistics 2013-2014

Month	Telephone Messages	Referrals
Apr-13	329	146
May-13	265	134
Jun-13	290	113
Jul-13	356	141
Aug-13	258	115
Sep-13	259	128
Oct-13	228	148
Nov-13	374	116
Dec-13	203	100
Jan-14	319	272
Feb-14	270	84
Mar-14	284	205
TOTAL	3435	1702

PROGRAMMING

1. Walk-in Advocacy Clinic (WAC)

CLASSIC fulfills its mandate primarily through the **Walk-In Advocacy Clinic (WAC)**. Under the supervision of staff lawyers, students from the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law assist low-income clients with legal matters that affect them, such as landlord-tenant, income support, summary criminal, immigration and refugee, social services, wills and estates, and more. Since the WAC opened in February 2007, its services have assisted **nearly 3,000 low-income clients** and their families. During 2013-14, the WAC served **645 low-income clients**, an increase over the previous fiscal year. The chart below outlines the numerous areas of practice at CLASSIC and the proportion of files practiced in each area over the 2013-14 year.



Starting in the academic fall semester of 2012 CLASSIC launched the “**Intensive Clinical Law**” course where students obtain a full term’s worth of course credits for working at the WAC. They are at the

office Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the course of the term. Fridays they take the seminar course related to their clinical experience. In the first term of 2013-14, we had **7 Intensive Students**, and in the second term, we had **11 Intensive Students**. These numbers, combined with our other WAC volunteers, total **50 students and student**



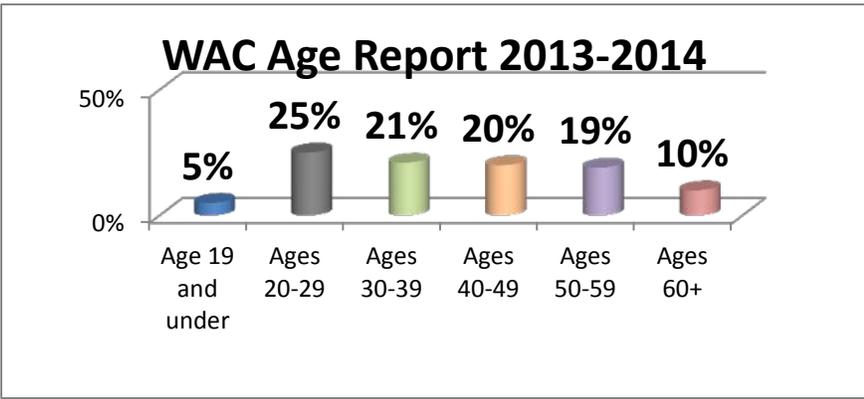
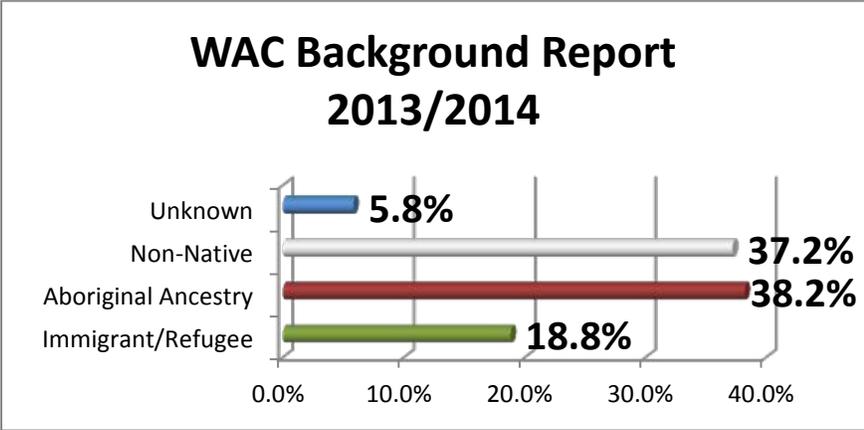
2013-2014 First Term Intensive Clinical Law Students

volunteers through the WAC this year.

During this fiscal year, WAC student advocates and supervising lawyers made **326 appearances in the Provincial Court, 37 appearances before administrative tribunals** (e.g. the Office of the Residential Tenancies), **14 appearances before the Immigration and Refugee Board, 3 admissibility hearings, and 8 appearances before the Court of Queen’s Bench.**



WAC clients are diverse in age, and reported ancestry. One goal of the WAC project is to prioritize the legal needs of Aboriginal people. In 2013-14, **38% of the WAC’s clientele were of Aboriginal ancestry.** With respect to age, the highest percentage age group we helped through the WAC in 2013-14 were between the ages of 20-29 at 25% of our overall client base. The next highest served age group were between the ages of 30-39. These groups tend to be most impacted by the increased rental rates in Saskatoon and often present at CLASSIC with landlord-tenant issues.



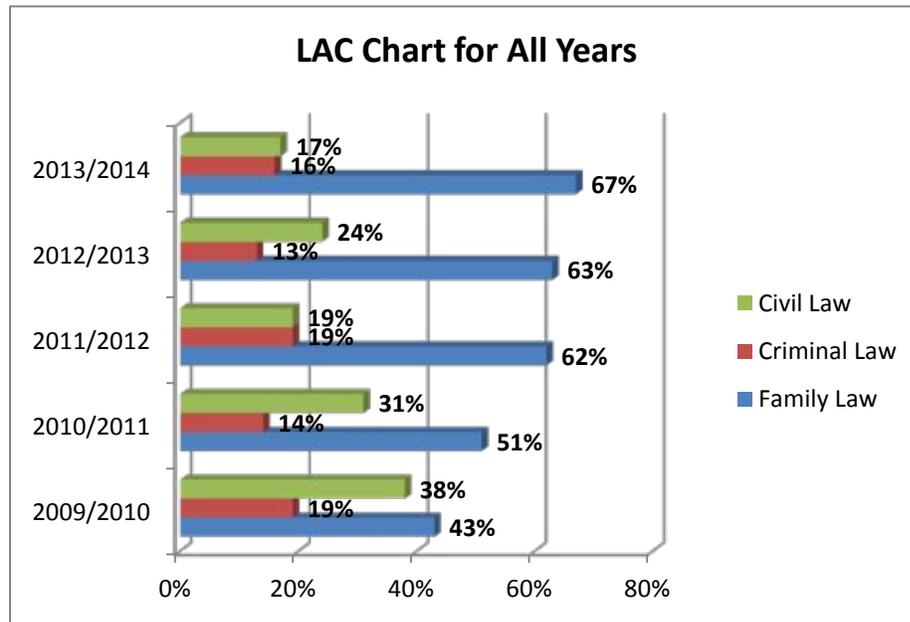
The WAC has **improved clients’ lives in very tangible ways.** In 2013-14, WAC student advocates saved tenancies, obtained compensation for poor living conditions, assisted in successful refugee claims, increased and defended public benefits, obtained acquittals and rehabilitative sentences, helped clients advance immigration matters, settled and litigated civil claims, drafted wills, and much more. WAC advocacy helped clients **obtain \$78,656.09** in compensation and income support. Further, WAC clients **retained \$16,212.98** they would have had to pay or income support they would lose, if not for the WAC’s advocacy. This is a total of **\$94,869.07 in the pockets of low-income community members.** In addition, many of the WAC file

successes include non-monetary outcomes, such as stays of criminal charges, permanent residency status, and continuation of residence in rental accommodation, to name a few examples.

CLASSIC enjoys tremendous support from the **legal community**. This year, **22 lawyers** volunteered to **mentor law students** placed in the WAC.

2. Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)

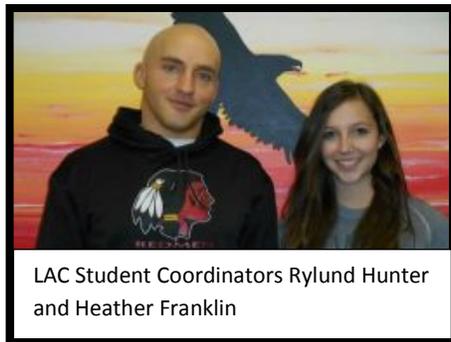
CLASSIC's secondary program is the **Legal Advice Clinic (LAC)** through which low-income clients receive free legal advice and guidance from practicing lawyers in the areas of criminal, family and civil law. The



LAC provides vital support to low-income individuals who are self-represented in their legal matters.

CLASSIC works in partnership with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs) to provide this program. Since its inception, the LAC has assisted **over 1,500 low-income community members**. During 2013-14, the LAC assisted **316 clients**: 66.8% of the clients received family

law advice, 17.4% received civil law advice, and 15.8% received criminal law advice.



The LAC is coordinated and supported by volunteer students from the College of Law. In 2013-14, **Heather Franklin and Rylund Hunter** served as coordinators. **Twelve students** matched with CLASSIC through Pro Bono Students Canada (PASC) facilitated the clinics, and a parallel **14 lawyers** matched with CLASSIC through Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs) provided free legal advice at the clinics. CLASSIC deeply appreciates the work of the PBLs volunteer lawyers and PASC students; without their *pro bono* ethic this program would not be possible! Thank you to the LAC volunteer lawyers listed

below, for their dedication over the past year.

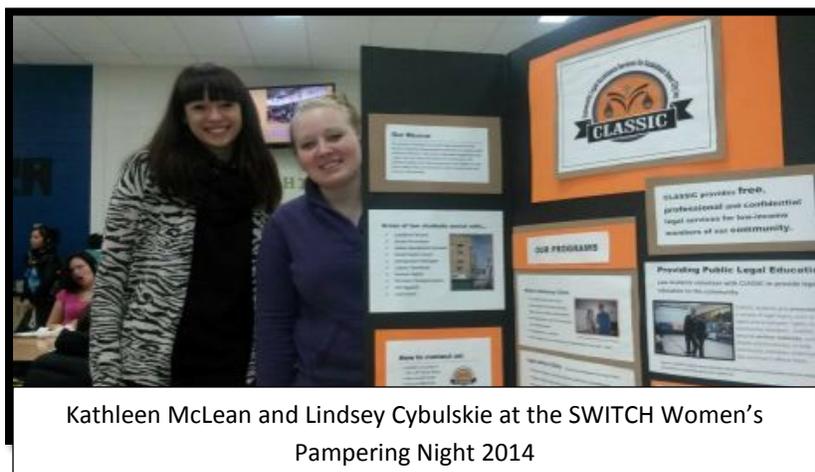
2013-2014 LAC Lawyer Volunteers	
Name	Firm
Terry Zakreski	Stevenson Hood Thornton Beaubier LLP
Ammy Murray	Cuelenaere Kendall Katzman & Watson
Kimberly Clark	Stevenson Hood Thornton Beaubier LLP
Kate Crisp	Scharfstein Gibbings Walen Fisher LLP

Kristen Greenough	Scharfstein Gibbings Walen Fisher LLP
Blaine Beaven	Scott & Beaven Law Office
Mark Galambos	WMCZ
Amanda Neudorf	McDougall Gauley LLP
Don McIver	Hnatyshyn Gough
Beau Atkins	Cuelenaere Kendall Katzman & Watson
Connie den Hollander	Knott den Hollander
Mark Vanstone	WMCZ
Anna Singer	Scharfstein Gibbings Walen Fisher LLP
Brad Mitchell	McDougall Gauley LLP

The demand for family law services within the LAC, and in general, was identified by student Lindsey Cybulskie who developed the Family Legal Advice Clinic (FLAC) in partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) and CLASSIC. Students cannot represent clients on family law matters through the WAC, because family matters are heard at the Court of Queen’s Bench where students do not have standing. The FLAC allows the client to have assistance from a student in filling out forms of application and/or appeals during an evening/afternoon at the LAC. At the end of the evening/afternoon the Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs) volunteer lawyer spends the last half hour verifying all documents are properly filled, and gives the client the next step for filing their documents. As this program is in its early developmental stage, suitable clients for the FLAC are currently identified by the LAC lawyers.

COMMUNITY

CLASSIC receives incredible support from the community. CLASSIC works in partnership with, and receives support from the College of Law. CLASSIC is proud of its ongoing partnerships with the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) Urban, the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and the White Buffalo Youth Lodge (WBYL).



Kathleen McLean and Lindsey Cybulskie at the SWITCH Women’s Pampering Night 2014

CLASSIC has continued to run the Wiyasiwewina: Core Neighbourhood Law School (CNLS). At the beginning of the year the CNLS was struggling due to low attendance. After doing some community consultation, we found that the name was too vague and confusing for many of the people we were trying to reach. For example, a number

of people indicated that they did not think something named “law school” could possibly apply to them. CLASSIC has decided to rebrand the CNLS as the **Free Legal Information Clinic** (part of the Wiyasiwewina: CNLS Series). The Free Legal Information Clinics occur approximately once a month. Since the name change, CLASSIC has noted an increase in attendance.

CLASSIC has also created an exciting partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, Community Outreach and Engagement, Station 20 West. CLASSIC has run several Free Legal Information Clinics out of Station 20 West, which is located at 1120 20th St West. CLASSIC has also continued our partnership with **Public Legal Education Association (PLEA)** who continues to help us find volunteer lawyers to host the Free Legal Information Clinic, through their Speakers Bureau program. We also rely on the excellent legal education materials PLEA provides. Finally, PLEA invited CLASSIC to sit on its advisory committee for the Family Law Forms Website it is currently developing.

CLASSIC partnered **with Masters of Public Health (MPH)** students who conducted an evaluability assessment of CLASSIC. This was a partnership that promoted inter-disciplinary learning, which fits nicely with CLASSIC's mandate. One of the main results of their evaluability assessment was a recommendation that CLASSIC develop a strategic plan. Our work with the MPH students flowed nicely into working with consultant Tracey Mitchell of "Facilitrace" to conduct strategic planning. In February and March of 2013, CLASSIC staff, students, Board members and our Advising Elder committed two weekends to strategic planning. The result of that work was a Strategic Plan to guide CLASSIC, over the next five years, and in June 2013 it was approved by the Board of Directors.



This five-year plan provides CLASSIC's Board, staff, students and other stakeholders with clear goals and direction. It also allows us to re-evaluate our priorities and goals and ultimately articulate a clear plan for the direction of the organization. The Strategic Plan is divided into sections and each has an overarching goal, initiatives and timelines attached to it. The five areas of the Strategic Plan's focus are Board Policy/Governance, Education, Community Service, Social Justice and Legal Practice. While there are specific activities and resources identified for each section, foundational to the successful implementation of the whole, is the understanding of the interconnectedness of the different sections. Over the course of our first fiscal year of this strategic plan, CLASSIC met many of our objectives and timelines. We also recognized that our plan is aggressive, and had to alter some timelines into workable timeframes. Finally, portions of our plan are conditional upon obtaining funding in excess of CLASSIC's current operating budget. Portions of the plan may have to be modified, if funding increases are not secured.

CLASSIC continues to seek and foster relationships with other **community organizations and the legal community**, regularly meeting with representatives from other community organizations and attending community events. CLASSIC regularly presents to organizations including: AIDS Saskatoon, Global Gathering Place, Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, the Saskatoon Prosecution Office, Ombudsman Saskatchewan, the Provincial Court Managers (provincial meeting), and the Saskatoon Provincial Court Judges. CLASSIC has received very **positive feedback** from our community partners about our services and how they benefit community members.

In fact, this fiscal year, CLASSIC began tracking statistics for community events. This year **68 people attended 11 Free Legal Information Clinics**. CLASSIC also gave 16 presentations to specific organizations within our community, and CLASSIC representatives attended 17 Saskatoon community events. Because of our community outreach efforts **over 1000 people learned of CLASSIC's services**. As

a result, this exposure proved useful as many of these event participants came to CLASSIC for legal help through our WAC and/or LAC.

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) continues to be an important partner to CLASSIC, recruiting and placing our remaining 40+ law student volunteers in CLASSIC’s WAC and LAC programs, as well as special projects. Thank you to the 2013-14 PBSC coordinators, **Chris Clarke and Carly Romanow**. This year CLASSIC partnered with **Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan (PBLs)** to commence a project whereby CLASSIC volunteer students will work to update manuals create for internal use, to be shared on the PBLs web-site for PBLs volunteer lawyers.

Last but certainly not least, CLASSIC places **inter-disciplinary students** who support and strengthen our programs in many ways. During 2013-14, CLASSIC had three social work practicum students, **Priyanka Yadav, Ben Nicholson, and André Morin** as well as political studies interns **Brenda Schurr and Briana Mackow**.

CLASSIC students report very positive experiences from their placements at CLASSIC. The students describe how their experiences teach them about the impact poverty has on our clients’ lives in general, and with respect to their legal matters. They also report on positive feedback about using their legal education and experiential learning in a positive way, to help people who cannot otherwise obtain legal services.

BOARD

CLASSIC’s Board of Directors is a diverse group, made up of representatives of the College of Law, our partner organizations, the legal community, and the community at large. The Board and its subcommittees meet every 4-6 weeks throughout the year, with summer off. The Board provides CLASSIC with guidance and assistance in the areas of finance, fundraising, policy and program development, governance, and human resources. We are thankful for the dedicated volunteers who sit on our Board and invest in CLASSIC’s present and future. Below is a list of all individuals who sat on the Board over the course of this fiscal year. Those members with an * beside their name are no longer on the Board, as they have recently stepped down.

Name	Position	Committee
EXECUTIVE		
Tori-Lynn Wanotch	Chair and Community Representative	All
Andy Park (Hyun Joo Park)	Treasurer and Community Representative	Finance
Bonnie Reddekopp	Secretary and Private Bar Representative	Legal Advisory
Lynn Latta	Vice-Chair and Community Representative	Human Resources, Governance
BOARD		
Gus Michalik	Aboriginal Law Student Representative	Fundraising and Governance
Steve Robertson	Community Representative	Fundraising and Finance
Deb Andrade (on leave)	White Buffalo Youth Lodge Representative	Governance
Cathy Bohachik	Legal Aid Saskatchewan	Fundraising and Legal

	Representative	Advisory
Ammy Murray	Community Representative	Human Resource, Legal Advisory, Fundraising
Patrick McDougall*	Community Representative	Governance and Legal Advisory
Lori Johnstone-Clarke	Saskatoon Tribal Council Representative	Finance and Legal Advisory
Rachelle Tanton	CUMFI Representative	Human Resources, and Governance
Signa Daum Shanks	College of Law Representative	Finance, Human Resources and Legal Advisory
Prof. Glen Luther, Q.C.	College of Law Representative	Fundraising (Chair), Legal Advisory
Thomas Hynes	Law Student Representative	Fundraising
Michael Maurice	Advising Elder	

STAFF

CLASSIC is immensely proud of our dedicated, hard-working staff. They keep the clinic running smoothly and successfully. During 2013-14, CLASSIC's student managers were **Kathleen McLean** and **Leif Jensen**, and its summer caseworkers were **Steve Robertson, Samuel Edmondson, Lindsey Cybulskie, and Dan LeBlanc** (pictured left).



CLASSIC's 2013 Summer Students: (l-r) Lindsey Cybulskie, Steven Robertson, Leif Jensen, Samuel Edmondson, Kathleen McLean, and Dan LeBlanc

During 2013-14, CLASSIC's Executive Director was **Chantelle Johnson**. **Nicholas Blenkinsop** continued as one of the Supervising Lawyers. However, **Amanda Dodge** went on education leave to complete her Masters at Harvard Law School. Our term replacement was **Trevor Oleniuk** and we are happy that upon Amanda Dodge's return, he will continue on as our third Supervising Lawyer. CLASSIC's Office Manager is **Betty Beaton** and Legal Assistant **Lierin Mulder** went on Maternity Leave and was replaced by **Joilene Whitehead** during this time. We also had a new administrative assistant join the team named

Kim Huynh. CLASSIC also appreciates retired lawyer **Janice Gingell** as a continuing part-time volunteer. She donates 20 hours a week of her time to CLASSIC, and has quickly made herself irreplaceable. This academic year CLASSIC's articling student was Jane Basinski. The articling position was funded by esteemed lawyer and Professor, Mary Eberts. CLASSIC is grateful for the opportunity both Mary and Jane presented us with over the year.

FUNDING

CLASSIC is very thankful for the financial support it received during the 2013-14 fiscal year.



CLASSIC staff and students at the 5th Annual Lawyers' Charity Gown to Gown Gala

Our funders included the **Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Law, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, the Community Initiatives Fund, the United Way of Saskatoon and Area, the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Community Foundation, Affinity Credit Union, Student Summer Works, Canada Summer Jobs, and individual donors.** CLASSIC also received generous in-kind donations and support, in particular from the College of Law and the legal community, including a significant donation of office furniture from Miller Thomson LLP and the Federal Department of Justice.

In January 2014, the 5th Annual Lawyers' Charity Gown to Gown Gala was held at TCU Place. This is an annual event, which alternates back and forth between Regina and Saskatoon. This year it was held in Saskatoon and it generated over \$39,000 for CLASSIC. Next year it will be held in Regina, with proceeds to Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan.

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.