



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Alberta Branch

2022-23 CBA ALBERTA ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

To improve the law

To improve the administration of justice

To improve and promote access to justice

To promote equality in the legal profession and in the justice system

To improve and promote the knowledge, skills, ethical standards and well-being of members of the legal profession

To represent the legal profession nationally and internationally

To promote the interests of the members of The Canadian Bar Association

OUR VISION

We are the essential ally and advocate of the legal profession and guardian of the rule of law in Canada. Our members are passionate about their Association — the good it brings to their lives and to the world. Staff and volunteers are inspired to exceed members' expectations every day.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I joined the Canadian Bar Association when I was in first year law school, and have been an active and engaged member ever since. In addition to involvement in Sections — most notably on the executives of the North Creditor and Debtor Law and what was then Junior Lawyers — I was involved in Edmonton Law Day for several years and served as North Section Coordinator. It was my honour to serve on the inaugural CBA Alberta Board of Directors, and now as CBA Alberta President. I strongly believe in the value of CBA as a partner throughout one's career, delivering value through professional development, building connections and speaking out in the best interests of the profession and the rule of law.

This past year was a provincial election year, and our Agenda for Justice Committee developed a thoughtful and principled document that formed the basis of our election advocacy. Change in government means ramping up our relationship with a new Minister. Justice Minister Mickey Amery has demonstrated a willingness to listen to CBA Alberta's concerns regarding the need for improvements and resources for the justice system, and we continue to press for action on our Agenda for Justice.

I want to extend a special thank you to our Section leaders who step up to deliver outstanding professional development to their peers. This past year, Sections responded to members' expressed interest in flexibility and choice by delivering programs both online and in-person, and rose to the challenge of increasing networking opportunities for Section subscribers.

Thank you also to all the members of the Board of Directors and our committees, who bring their passion to leading the organization, and to the staff, who bring to work every day a dedication to serving our members. When you have the opportunity, I urge you to acknowledge all those who are named on the back of this report.

Finally, my greatest appreciation to you, our members, as it is for you and through you that CBA Alberta can serve as a willing and able partner in the careers of all lawyers in Alberta.

Kyle Kawanami, CBA Alberta President
2023-24

2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

CBA Alberta continued to deliver on the commitments made in the 2022 — 2026 Strategic Plan, helping our members and our profession successfully move into the future.

POWERFUL ADVOCACY

- 2023 Agenda for Justice released to support election advocacy
- Voice of the Profession Committee developed a process to engage members and Sections in advocacy work
- Legislative Review Committee worked with Sections to provide substantive review of new legislation

ADAPTIVE & INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

- Sections hosted 450+ meetings in 2022-23
- Targeted programming was developed for law students, early career members and senior practitioners
- The Alberta Lawyer Insight Series (ALIS) continued to deliver valuable programming such as “A Chat With Alberta’s Chiefs”

COMMITTED MEMBERSHIP

- Universal student membership is offered at both UCalgary and UAlberta
- We continue annual roundtables or visits with firm managing partners around Alberta
- Through the Compassionate Dues Relief Program, we support Alberta members experiencing unexpected hardships
- The Career Development Grant has supported the PD of 7 Alberta members.

HEALTHY CULTURE WITHIN THE PROFESSION

- New resources coming from the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee include a guide for accessible events and an updated Inclusive Workplace Toolkit
- The Inns of Court program included topics related to civility
- The Editorial Committee regularly published content on well-being and civility in the profession

WELLNESS IN PRACTICE

- CBA Alberta responded to the National Study on Wellness in the Profession by:
- Partnering on the 2022 Well-Being in Practice Summit
 - Hosting events on World Mental Health Day (October) and Mental Health Week (May)
 - Engaging managing partners and firms in discussions on lawyer well-being

HIGH PERFORMANCE BOARD LEADERSHIP

- Feedback was collected from members as part of a five-year review of CBA Alberta’s governance structure
- In 2023, the Board of Directors introduced a formal program of self-evaluation to continue to demonstrate high-performance leadership within our association



ADVOCATING FOR ALBERTA LAWYERS

Agenda for Justice

The cornerstone of CBA Alberta's advocacy is the Agenda for Justice. This document became the backbone of our 2023 election advocacy, and made the case for for improving legal aid, pursuing a unified family court, greater support for specialized courts, and resources for Justice Digital and other innovations that advance court modernization efforts. The document also called on the government to support judicial independence, and commit to ongoing civic education for MLAs and members of the public.

The Agenda for Justice was used in a multi-pronged election campaign that targeted government influence, member engagement, and public awareness. Looking ahead, we will continue to use the document to advocate for improvements to the justice system in our engagement with government and stakeholders.

Advocacy Priorities

In 2023-24, CBA Alberta held regular meetings with two Ministers of Justice, as well as the Courts, and reinforced the principles and recommendations in the [CBA Alberta Agenda for Justice](#). We also advocated:

- For a two-pronged strategy on family justice with a short-term focus on improving processes and increasing resources within the system for Alberta families and a long-term child-centered and restorative justice approach, with the unified family court remaining an active consideration on both fronts
- In support of an increase in the Alberta Court of Justice monetary limit, on the condition that the impact of this change be monitored and reviewed
- On the importance of maintaining court resources including court reporters
- For action on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- To the Minister of Finance on resources for the justice system in budget 2024, including ongoing robust support for court digitization
- To the Alberta Court of Justice to recommend that appearances before the Court should default to virtual unless otherwise required
- For increased education for all elected officials on the separation and the division of powers
- On legal aid
 - Support for an increase in tariff rates and Financial Eligibility Guidelines
 - Expansion of financial eligibility for family law matters
 - Support for further innovation in the delivery of legal aid
- On the importance of judicial independence in a submission to the Justices of the Peace Compensation Commission
- In support for self-regulation of the profession

PROFESSIONAL & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Adaptive & Innovative CPD

In 2023, CBA Alberta hired our first Manager of Professional Development to further develop our CPD offerings and provide the advanced programming that members need to support their practices. Exciting new programming is coming, including a series on technology that gives attendees the tools they need to enhance the productivity and profitability of their legal practices.

SECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS

3,626

Total Members Enrolled in Sections

3,420

Total On-Demand Video Views

28,980

Total Event Registration

Civil Litigation
Family
Business
Will & Trusts
Labour

Largest Sections

The Hardest Issues in Spousal Support (Family Law)

Imputing Income: Peters v Atchooy (Family Law)

Summary Trials: A judge's perspective with Justice Kevin Feth (Civil Litigation)

Wills & Trusts Case Law Update 2022-23 (Wills & Trusts)

Labour & Employment Year in Review (Labour & Employment)

Overview of Taxes for Estates (Wills & Trusts)

Corporate Structuring and Taxation (Business Law)

Annual Update on Contract Law Cases of Interest (CCCA)

Most Popular Events

Statement of Operations

Year ended August 31, 2023

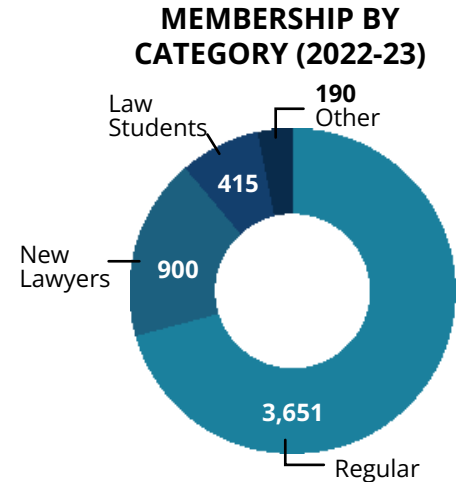
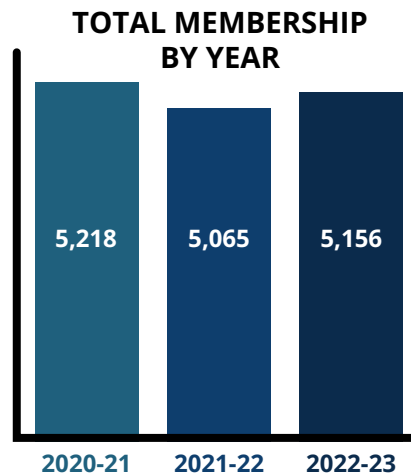
Abbreviated from the audited financial statements

	2023	2022	Change
REVENUE			
Membership Revenue	1,307,288	1,275,335	2.5%
Sections	444,494	367,395	21.0%
Other Revenue	278,433	274,845	1.3%
TOTAL REVENUE	2,030,215	1,917,575	5.9%
EXPENSES			
Personnel - Staff	982,603	818,347	20.1%
Administrative	390,976	484,376	-19.3%
Personnel - Officers	143,079	140,335	2.0%
Committees	113,207	118,958	-4.8%
Sections	109,117	40,882	166.9%
Meetings	10,500	7,777	35.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,749,482	1,610,675	8.6%
OTHER ITEMS			
Amortization, gain/loss on marketable securities	-47,561	-198,610	-76.1%
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	233,172	108,290	115.3%

ENGAGING CBA ALBERTA MEMBERS

Membership By the Numbers

CBA Alberta membership is on an upward trend emerging from the pandemic, surpassing 5,100 members in 2022-23. Membership grew by nearly 2% overall, outpacing the national CBA average of 1.5%. This was driven in part by our growing law student membership, which saw an increase of 38% due to the introduction of universal student membership which was piloted at the University of Calgary and expanded to the University of Alberta in 2023-24.



What Members Are Saying

Through ThoughtExchange, CBA Alberta's survey platform, members shared their feedback with us on topics including professional development, the availability of virtual court appearances, and association governance. Here are some of the top responses from recent surveys:

What do you most value about your CBA membership?

"Education"

What actions should we consider during the governance review process to improve Branch direction setting, deepen member engagement and enhance member experience?

"Keep working to find innovative ways to bring members together from across practice areas and across Alberta. No law conference + no Council + Covid = a loss of engagement opportunities to connect with lawyers outside our immediate circles/professional development."

What specific technology-related PD topics would help you to modernize your legal practice, enhance your productivity, and improve your clients' experience?

"Document automation options. So much time is wasted filling in the same information over and over again. There must be a solution for small firms that isn't insanely expensive."

How do you think the Alberta Court of Justice should handle virtual court appearances moving forward?

"For rural communities, the ability for their 'city' lawyer to attend virtually is cost effective and improves access to justice."

The feedback of CBA Alberta members has allowed us to expand our professional development offerings, evaluate our programs and services, and provide valuable input to government and the Courts. We thank all those members that took the time to respond, and encourage you to continue providing your feedback.

CBA ALBERTA

LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Kyle Kawanami <i>President</i>	Yoko Azumaya <i>Director at Large</i>
Robert D.L. Basset <i>Vice-President</i>	R. Travis Bissett <i>South Director (outside Calgary)</i>
Christopher Samuel <i>Treasurer</i>	Sania Chaudhry <i>Director at Large</i>
Sarah Coderre <i>Secretary</i>	Jillian Gamez <i>Director at Large</i>
Amanda Lindberg <i>Past President</i>	Stacey Haskins <i>South Young Lawyer Director</i>
	Benjamin Kormos <i>Director at Large</i>
	Sifa Serushago <i>North Director (outside Edmonton)</i>
	Nerissa Youth <i>North Young Lawyer Director</i>

Branch Staff

Maureen Armitage <i>Executive Director</i>	Krista DeJager <i>North Section Registrar</i>
Susan Borsic, K.C. <i>Manager, Professional Development</i>	Sandra Schrempf <i>Member Services Coordinator</i>
Lee-Anne Hateley <i>Manager, Member Services & Communications</i>	Mina Okumura <i>Digital Marketing Coordinator</i>
Tara Iles <i>Bookkeeper</i>	Chani Samresh <i>Executive Assistant</i>
Sandra Meyer <i>Chief Section Registrar</i>	Chi Tran <i>Section Administrator</i>

Committee Chairs

Access to Justice	Jessica Chapman Tiana M. Knight
Agenda for Justice & Advocacy	David Hiebert, K.C.
Editorial	Opeyemi Bello Mosi Taylor-Cole
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Daniela Perez Taylor Andreina Varela-Taylor
Inns of Court	Jasmine Billing Wendy A. Young Sasha Joshi
Voice of the Profession	Sania Chaudhry Adam J.C. Norget
Leader Development	Robert D.L. Bassett Christopher Samuel
Legislation & Law Reform	Omolara Oladipo Bernard Joseph Roth, K.C.

Section Chairs

Section Coordinators (North)	Adam L. Ollenberger Kent West
Section Coordinators (South)	Michael Thorne Cass Lintott
Aboriginal Law (North)	Janet Lynn Hutchison Patrick Stratton
Aboriginal Law (South)	Kaitlin Long
Administrative Law (North)	Emma Banfield M. Joseph Redman
Administrative Law (South)	Laurie Baptiste
Alternative Dispute Resolution (North)	Paulette DeKolver
Alternative Dispute Resolution (South)	Filippo Titi
Articling Students	Jacob Stucken Andrew Carlos Duran
Business Law (North)	Jeffrey Arsenault
Business Law (South)	Elsy Gagne Lindsay Amantea
CCCA (North)	Imran Hussainaly
CCCA (South)	Dev Jagdev
Charities Law	C. Yvonne Chenier
Child & Youth Law (North)	Christina Riddoch Dustin Tkachuk
Child & Youth Law (South)	Michelle Lee Suchetna Channan
Civil Litigation (North)	Stephanie Chau Anna Turcza-Karhut
Civil Litigation (South)	Peter Banks
Commercial Property & Leasing (North)	Roshan Kalra
Constitutional & Human Rights (North)	Andrew Foster
Construction Law (North)	Allan Delgado Shaun Daniel Wetmore
Creditor & Debtor Law (North)	Stephanie Wanke
Criminal Justice (South)	Michael Bates Janice Walsh
Criminal Justice (North)	Gabriel Sandstrom Stephanie Brown

Elder Law (North)	Cory Dawson Anna Choles	Real Property Law – Residential (South)	Dionne Levesque Daniel MacAulay
Elder Law (South)	Donna Gee	Securities Law (South)	Andrew Wilson, K.C.
Environmental, Energy & Resources (North)	Rebecca Kauffman Jacob Marchel	Sexual & Gender Diversity Alliance	Dustin Klaudt Will Randall
Environmental Law (South)	Brenda Heelan Powell	Small, Solo & General Practice (North)	Omolara Oladipo Ese Ogelebor
Family Law (North)	Megan Tupper	Solo, Small & General Practice (South)	Jonathan Ablett
Family Law (South)	Tara Tiefenbach	Taxation Law (North)	Athena Sturmay
Foreclosure Law (South)	Denise Hendrix Cass Lintott	Taxation Law (South)	Daniel Downie
Health Law (North)	Katherine Fisher Ashley Reid	Technology & Intellectual Property (South)	Bradley Schneider Brendan Sawatsky
Health Law (South)	Izaak Atnikov	Wills, Estates & Trusts (North)	Maya Gordon
Immigration Law (North)	Ruth Williams Violeta Boquiren	Wills & Trusts (South)	Katharine Zhang
Immigration Law (South)	Rowan Fisher	Women Lawyers' Forum (North)	Sarah Dargatz Shauna Gibbons
Insolvency Law (South)	Ryan Algar	Young Lawyers (North)	Megan Harris Kirsty Vogelesang
Insurance Law (North)	Monelle Sturko	Young Lawyers (South)	D. Bronwyn Simmons William Katz
Insurance Law (South)	Kass Freeman Neil Zimmerman		
Labour & Employment Law (North)	Iain Walker Chaylene Gallagher		
Labour & Employment Law (South)	Teri Treiber		
Law Firm Management & Leadership (South)	Loretta Bouwmeester		
Law Students (University of Alberta)	Erwin Kwok		
Law Students (University of Calgary)	Claire McCarvill Sergio Plazas		
Legal Research & Knowledge Management (South)	Ronke Omorodion Sarah Lulman		
Municipal Law (North)	Michael Gunther Kathleen Elhatton-Lake		
Municipal Law (South)	Jennifer Sykes		
Natural Resources (South)	Jeremy Barretto		
Personal Injury Law (South)	Grace Carswell		
Privacy & Access Law (North)	Lorne Randa		
Privacy & Access Law (South)	Adam Laroche		
Real Property Law (North)	Gregory Miskie Jennifer Monyo-Maina		
Real Property Law – Commercial (South)	Joshua Selby		



THE CANADIAN
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