



CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
Alberta

2024-25 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

It has been one of the great privileges of my career to serve as the President of the Canadian Bar Association - Alberta Branch. I first joined the CBA as a first-year law student and have been proud to be involved with the organization ever since.

My time as President has brought into focus the critical role played by the CBA in Alberta's legal ecosystem. We work vigorously to improve the justice system in both small and big ways. We are staunch defenders of the administration of justice and the Rule of Law. We provide critical mentorship and learning opportunities across the entire spectrum of practice areas. Since the CBA's founding in 1896, we have provided our members with a tight, interconnected network of lawyers who support and encourage one another.

Fundamentally, our organization is sustained by the hard work and dedication of our members. Every day, our members donate their time to work on advocacy projects, share their knowledge with other members, mentor students and juniors, and serve on a myriad of internal and external committees.

In particular, I want to thank my fellow Board of Directors and Executive members, both past and present, who have been tremendous supporters and inspirations to me during my term. I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the CBA staff, who work tirelessly to ensure the organization runs smoothly. And of course, thanks to you, our members, who continue to support the mission of the CBA. Together, we are striving to improve our profession, our legal system, and our broader community.

Christopher Samuel, CBA Alberta President
2025-26

2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan

CBA Alberta continues 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

- CBA Alberta advocacy initiatives are supported by Agenda for Justice, Voice of the Profession and Legislative and Law Reform committees
- CBA Alberta meets regularly with the Courts, the Minister of Justice, government officials and law schools
- CBA Alberta's submissions and statements can be found on the CBA Alberta website under "[Our Impact](#)"

Looking ahead

- Continued focus on education and support for rule of law and independence of the judiciary and the legal profession

Adaptive and Innovative Practice

- Robust slate of Section meetings delivered valuable professional development to members on topics ranging from:
 - Business Immigration Crash Course
 - Freedom of Expression and the Preservation of Democracy
 - An Australian Perspective on Cross Cultural and Family Violence
 - Who Owns Brine-Hosted Minerals in Alberta
 - Change Orders: Law and Practice in Construction Law
 - Roundtable Discussion with the Applications Judges
 - To a variety of case law updates
- The complimentary [Alberta Lawyer Insight Series](#) lets members hear directly from Alberta's Chief Justices, Alberta's Minister of Justice and court officials. It also provides PD programming about wellness, skills development and leadership development.
- The [Modern Lawyer Series](#) unlocks the latest developments in technology to help members adapt to the changing demands in the practice of law.

Looking ahead

- Spring Inns of Courts programs in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer
- Tips from the review assessment officers of the Courts



Healthy Culture within the Profession

- [Distinguished Service Awards](#) shine a light on outstanding contributions from Alberta lawyers
- Access to Justice Week encourages lawyers to take on pro bono work

Looking ahead

- Accessibility Guide from the Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee
- Insights delivered through a CBA Alberta Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee webinar
- Civility challenge

Wellness in Practice

- Professional development topics on surviving and thriving in the practice of law
- Building awareness of the support and complimentary resources for Alberta lawyers provided by [Assist](#)

Looking ahead

- A call to participate in CBA Alberta's research study "When Lawyers Become Parents"
- Grief management program during Mental Health Week
- A return of the Internationally Trained Lawyers Section

High Performance Board Leadership

- Leader Development committee encourages members with diverse experience and backgrounds to consider leadership roles in Sections and on the Board

Looking ahead

- Non-member research and member outreach in advance of the review of the strategic plan in fall 2026
- Nomination period for the 2026 Board election opens April 1, 2026



Advocating for Alberta Lawyers

2025 Fall Legislative Session

Following the **2025 fall legislative session**, CBA Alberta wrote to the Minister of Justice expressing concern that several pieces of legislation could weaken institutions and erode the rule of law in Alberta. The submission focused on the government's **pre-emptive use of the notwithstanding clause**, potential increases in political influence over historically independent institutions, and legislation that intervened in ongoing court proceedings. CBA Alberta emphasized that preserving judicial independence and respecting Charter protections are essential to maintaining public confidence in the justice system.

Auto Insurance Regime Changes

CBA Alberta has been actively engaged in discussions about proposed changes to Alberta's auto insurance system, including the move toward a **private no-fault model**. Through its Auto Insurance Working Group and policy submissions, the organization has raised concerns that limiting the ability to pursue claims in court could reduce legal protections for injured Albertans. CBA Alberta continues to advocate for reforms that balance affordability with fairness and maintain meaningful rights for people injured in motor vehicle accidents.

Updated in 2024 and 2025: Submissions and consultations on auto insurance reform continued through **2024 and 2025** as the government advanced proposals.

Access to Justice

Improving access to justice remains a central advocacy priority for CBA Alberta. The organization supports policies and investments that help Albertans obtain timely and affordable legal assistance while reducing systemic barriers to the justice system. Through research, policy work, and collaboration with justice system partners, CBA Alberta promotes reforms that make legal processes more efficient and accessible for individuals across the province.

Updated in 2025: Public opinion research identified access to justice and delays as key concerns for Albertans.

Legal Aid

CBA Alberta continues to advocate for stable funding and effective governance for Legal Aid Alberta so that low-income Albertans can access legal representation. The association participates in consultations and provides submissions to government to support improvements to eligibility thresholds, funding stability, and long-term sustainability of legal aid services.

Updated in 2025: CBA Alberta provided input to government consultations and surveys on **legal aid reform and governance**.

Family Justice Strategy

CBA Alberta supports reforms that strengthen Alberta's family justice system and help families resolve disputes more efficiently and with fewer barriers. Advocacy in this area focuses on improving services, encouraging early dispute resolution, and supporting initiatives that assist families navigating complex legal processes.

Updated in 2025: The Government of Alberta announced the expansion of the **Family Justice Strategy to additional communities**, an initiative welcomed as a step toward improving access to family law services.

Compassionate Intervention

CBA Alberta provided legal analysis and feedback on proposed legislation introducing a **Compassionate Intervention Act**, which would allow the involuntary commitment of vulnerable individuals to drug treatment facilities. The organization's advocacy emphasizes careful legislative drafting and the need to balance public health objectives with legal safeguards and protections for individual rights.

Updated in 2025: CBA Alberta submitted a formal letter regarding Bill 53, the **Compassionate Intervention Act**, when it was introduced in the Legislature.

Alberta Human Rights Commission

CBA Alberta engages in advocacy related to the protection of human rights in Alberta and the operation of institutions responsible for upholding those rights. The association contributes legal expertise to discussions about legislation and policy changes that may affect equality protections, access to remedies and the functioning of human rights processes in the province.

Review of Professional Regulatory Bodies

CBA Alberta has participated in government consultations examining the structure and oversight of professional regulatory bodies in Alberta. Through written submissions and engagement with policymakers, the organization contributes legal expertise on governance, accountability, and the importance of maintaining professional independence within regulatory frameworks.

Updated in 2025: CBA Alberta's Legislative Review Committee provided detailed analysis of Bill 13, Regulated Professions Neutrality Act. CBA Alberta wrote to the Minister to emphasize the importance of an independent legal profession.

CBA Alberta provided a **written response to a government survey reviewing professional regulators** in the province.

Transgender Legislation

CBA Alberta has raised legal concerns about proposed provincial legislation affecting transgender individuals. The organization's advocacy emphasizes the importance of ensuring that legislation respects constitutional protections and does not undermine existing legal safeguards related to dignity, equality, and access to necessary care. CBA Alberta provided submissions and commentary on Bills 26, 27 and 29 which address gender identity and related protections.

Updated in 2025: CBA Alberta wrote to the Minister expressing concern about the preemptive use of the notwithstanding clause to shield legislation from Charter scrutiny.

Privacy Legislation

CBA Alberta provides expert input on reforms to Alberta's **privacy and access to information legislation**, including the Protection of Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act, drawing on expertise from its Privacy and Access Law Section. The organization offers recommendations to help ensure legislative changes protect personal information while maintaining transparency and effective governance.

Updated in 2025: CBA Alberta submitted comments on proposed **privacy and access legislation and regulations**.



Professional & Career Development

CBA Alberta remains committed to delivering high-quality professional development, career advancement and networking opportunities across the province. Through the dedicated efforts of staff and volunteers, the Alberta branch continues to provide programming that enables members to remain informed, engaged and connected within the profession.

Alberta Sections

In 2024–25, 2,328 members participated in Alberta Sections, including nearly 1,000 articling students and lawyers within their first three years of call who received complimentary enrollment in the Articling Student and Young Lawyer Sections.

Alberta Sections delivered nearly 360 continuing professional development (CPD) events, including 150 virtual, 75 in-person and 135 hybrid sessions. Topics included distinguished speakers from government, the judiciary, senior practice, academia and subject-matter experts from across Canada.

Section programming aligned with the evolving interests of our members, with topics including recent decisions in health law, the future of temporary work in Canada, navigating emerging AI technologies and their associated liabilities, discipline for off duty conduct in professional settings, and appropriate fees for small, solo practitioners.

Webinar Series

The Alberta Lawyers Insight Series featured distinguished presenters this year, including Alberta's Chief Justices and the Minister of Justice. Our "A Chat with Alberta's Chiefs" session covered court updates, courtroom expectations, family law processes, digital justice initiatives, and career advice for lawyers at all stages. The ALIS series featured sessions on navigating bias and a timely look at the role and responsibilities of Justices of the Peace.

The Modern Lawyer Series, our technology-focused professional development stream, continued with practical sessions designed to support lawyers in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This year's topics included generative AI, efficient practice management, and digital marketing.

In-Person Professional Development

We held Retirement on *Trial: Life's Next Case* as an in-person, stigma-reducing program featuring a documentary screening and panel discussion on identity, legacy, and mental health in retirement. Hosted in Edmonton and Calgary, each evening's event brought together the filmmakers and local panellists and concluded with a reception to encourage open, informal conversation.

Inns of Court

Our Inns of Court program continued across the province with five in-person events held semi-annually in Edmonton and Calgary, along with single events in Red Deer and Lethbridge. These gatherings brought more than 100 early-career lawyers together with senior practitioners and members of the judiciary for meaningful discussion in an intimate, tradition-inspired setting. The sessions focused on essential advocacy and professionalism skills, including effective questioning, civility in legal relationships, the strengths of alternative dispute resolution, and the importance of strong preparation.

Building a Strong Membership

CBA Alberta membership continued its upward trajectory in 2024–25 with nearly 5,600 lawyers, judges, law students, and articling students. This sustained growth reflects the strength and relevance of the Association within the legal community.

Total membership increased by more than 3 per cent over the previous year, with gains realized across nearly all categories. This performance was bolstered by strong law student numbers and increases in the articling students and young lawyer categories.

Membership

By the numbers in 2024-2025

5,595 **+3.1%**

Members

3,668 **-0.3%**

YOC 4+

727 **+2.0%**

YOC 1 – 3

982 **+18.1%**

Students

218 **+5.8%**

Other

**As at May 31, 2025*

Statement of Operations

Year ended August 31, 2025

Abbreviated from the audited financial statements

	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)	Change
REVENUE			
Membership Revenue	1,499,463	1,392,424	7.69%
Sections	372,463	427,238	-12.82%
Other Revenue	312,783	287,276	8.88%
TOTAL REVENUE	2,184,709	2,106,938	3.69%
EXPENSES			
Personnel – Staff	1,012,360	1,070,726	-5.45%
Administrative	396,419	397,524	-0.28%
Committees	254,848	190,253	33.95%
Personnel – Officers	150,690	142,822	5.51%
Sections	129,179	146,193	-11.64%
Meetings	0	50	-100.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,943,496	1,947,568	-0.21%
NET BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	241,213	159,370	51.35%
OTHER ITEMS			
Amortization, gain/loss on marketable securities	135,001	134,411	0.44%
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	376,214	293,781	28.06%

CBA Alberta Leadership

Board of Directors (2025-26)

Christopher Samuel President	Yoko Azumaya Director
Sarah Vincella Coderre Vice-President	R. Travis Bissett Director
Kathy M. Briere Treasurer	Maddison Croden Director
Tracey D. Stock, K.C. Secretary	Patricia Gonzalez Director
Robert D. L. Bassett Past President	Jonathan Griffith Director
	Sifa Sarah Serushago Director
	Michael Thorne Director
	Sierra Yanush Director

Branch Staff (2025-26)

Maureen Armitage Executive Director	Sandra Meyer Manager, Professional Development & Sections
Marija Barcan South Section Registrar	Mina Okumura Digital Marketing Coordinator
Krista Dejager North Section Registrar	Chani Samresh Executive Assistant
Dwayne Brunner Manager, Member Services & Communications	Sandra Schrempp Member Experience Advisor
Tara Iles Bookkeeper	Jakes Bennett Section Administrator

Committee Chairs (2025-26)

Access to Justice	David Girard Teri Lynn Bougie
Agenda for Justice & Advocacy	Kyle Kawanami, K.C.
Editorial	Jillian Gamez Olufunke Fasunon
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Shetal Jas Bedar ZagRoss
Inns of Court	Niharika Ahuja Carly Toronchuk Wendy A. Young
Legislation & Law Reform	Omolara Oladipo Bernard Joseph Roth, K.C.
Leader Development	Sarah Vincella Coderre Kathy M. Briere
Voice of the Profession	Yoko Azumaya Adam J.C. Norgett

Section Chairs (2024-25)

Section Coordinators (North)	Stephanie Chau Kent West
Section Coordinators (South)	Michelle Lee Cass Lintott
Aboriginal Law (North)	Janet Lynn Hutchison
Aboriginal Law (South)	Kaitlin Long
Administrative Law (North)	Vivienne M. Ball Emma Banfield
Administrative Law (South)	Laurie Baptiste
Alternative Dispute Resolution (North)	Paulette DeKelver
Alternative Dispute Resolution (South)	Stacey Haskins Filippo Angelo Titi
Articling Students	Ahmed Selim
Business Law (North)	Jeffrey Arsenault Ryan McKenna
Business Law (South)	Elsy Gagne Lindsay E. Amantea
CBA In-House (North)	Jason White
CBA In-House (South)	Devadeep Jagdev
Charities Law	C. Yvonne Chenier K.C. Cam Schwartz
Child & Youth Law (North)	Elizabeth L. Turner Elizabeth Kinhnicki
Child & Youth Law (South)	Suchetna Channan, K.C. Meghan M. Hanson
Civil Litigation (North)	Stephanie Chau Anna Turcza-Karhut
Civil Litigation (South)	Kelly Moffet-Burima
Commercial Property & Leasing (North)	Roshan Kalra
Constitutional & Human Rights (North)	Andrew Foster
Construction Law (North)	Allan Noel Delgado Peter Clark
Construction Law (South)	Peter Vetsch
Creditor & Debtor Law (North)	Stephanie Wanke
Criminal Justice (North)	Gabriel Sandstrom Stephanie Brown
Criminal Justice (South)	Janice K. Walsh Andrea Lillian Serink

Elder Law (North)	Anna Choles Cory Dawson	Real Property Law – Residential (South)	Dionne Levesque Daniel MacAulay
Elder Law (South)	Donna Lynn Gee	Securities Law (South)	Andrew P. Wilson, K.C.
Environmental, Energy & Resources (North)	Fiona N. Vance Jacob Marchel	Sexual & Gender Diversity Alliance	Dustin W. Klautd Will Randall
Environmental Law (South)	Brenda Heelan Powell Daniel BR Johnson	Small, Solo & General Practice (North)	<i>Vacant</i>
Family Law (North)	Megan N. Tupper	Solo, Small & General Practice (South)	Jonathan Ablett
Family Law (South)	Crystal Marie Thompson Stacey Haskins	Taxation Law (North)	<i>Vacant</i>
Foreclosure Law (South)	Cassidy J. Lintott Rafael Enrico Badiola	Taxation Law (South)	Daniel Downie
Health Law (North)	Ashley A.V. Reid Vita Wensel	Technology & Intellectual Property (South)	Brendan Joel Sawatsky F. Julian Dobre
Health Law (South)	Laura Comfort	Wills, Estates & Trusts (North)	T. Colleen Feehan
Immigration Law (North)	Robert J. Normey Anna Kuranicheva	Wills & Trusts (South)	Lindsey Louro Katharine Zhang
Immigration Law (South)	Karen Howley	Women Lawyers' Forum (North)	Sarah Dargatz Shauna Gibbons
Insolvency Law (South)	Ryan E. Algar	Young Lawyers (North)	Megan Harris Kirsty Voogesang
Insurance Law (North)	Colten Harrish	Young Lawyers (South)	Shiny Chhina Bronwhyn Simmons
Insurance Law (South)	Kass Freeman Raphael Jacob		
Labour & Employment Law (North)	Iain Walker Chaylene Gallagher		
Labour & Employment Law (South)	Todd M. Lee		
Law Firm Management & Leadership (South)	<i>Vacant</i>		
Law Students (University of Alberta)	Madalyn Mandziuk		
Law Students (University of Calgary)	Sergio Plazas Claire McCarvill		
Legal Research & Knowledge Management (South)	Sarah K. Lulman Ronke Omorodion		
Municipal Law (North)	Paul Michael Barrette		
Municipal Law (South)	Jennifer Sykes		
Natural Resources (South)	Keely Cameron		
Personal Injury Law (South)	Michael G. Massicotte		
Privacy & Access Law (North)	Lorne Randa Steve Hughes		
Privacy & Access Law (South)	Natasha Lakhani Adam LaRoche		
Real Property Law (North)	<i>Vacant</i>		
Real Property Law – Commercial (South)	Shetal Jas		



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