



**COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES
OF POINT-SAINT-CHARLES & LITTLE-BURGUNDY**

SERVICES JURIDIQUES COMMUNAUTAIRES DE POINTE-SAINT-CHARLES & PETITE-BOURGOGNE

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013-2014

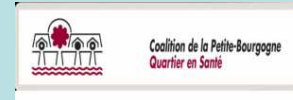


Our mandate contains many aspects

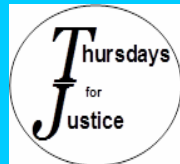
Local Legal Aid Centre



Coalitions and community activities



Access to justice





Only one organization like ours

Incorporated in 1970 under the name Legal Clinic of Point-Saint-Charles (*Clinique juridique de Pointe-Saint-Charles*).

Non-profit organization of advocacy for citizens' rights, independent and managed by citizens.

Since 1974 : accredited as *Local Legal Aid Centre* by the Commission des services juridiques. Annual financing to provide the services covered under the Legal Aid Act.

We therefore have double status and mandate: Non-profit organization of advocacy for rights and Local Legal Aid Centre.

The Board of Directors

Position	Name	End of mandate
PRESIDENT	Lydia Siebert-Bertrand	2015
VICE-PRESIDENT		
SECRETARY	Marie-José Corriveau	2015
TREASURER	Glen Fyon	2014
ADMINISTRATOR	Sylvie Guyon	2015
ADMINISTRATOR	Micheline Crompt	2015
ADMINISTRATOR		
ADMINISTRATOR	Marie-Yves Lemy	2014
ADMINISTRATOR		
ADMINISTRATOR	Éric Belzile	Coopted May 2014
ADMINISTRATOR		
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION LITTLE-BURGUNDY	ODAS represented by Omer Coupal	2015
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION POINT-SAINT-CHARLES	CONSEIL DES AÎNÉ(E)S DE POINTE-SAINT-CHARLES Represented by Maria Perez	2014
STAFF REPRESENTATIVE	Danielle L'Écuyer-Labonté	
COORDINATOR	Lise Ferland	

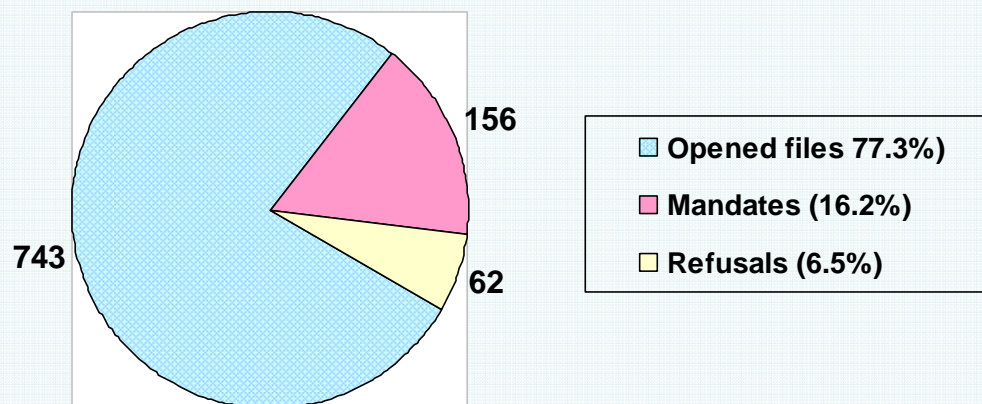
Staff

LEGAL ASSISTANTS	Raquel Sanchez	2000
	Catherine Legault	November 2012 to June 2013
	Annabelle Drouin	August 2013 to March 2014
	Danielle Whitford	1982
THE RECEPTIONNISTS	Martine Dieujuste	2009 <i>maternity leave - returned since March 2014</i>
	Pascale St-Denis	February 2013 to February 2104 (contractual/replacing maternity leave)
THE LAWYERS	Stéphane Proulx	1989
	Claude-Catherine Lemoine	November 2012 <i>maternity leave - returned since March 24, 2014</i>
	Valérie Montcalm	April 2013 to March 21, 2014 (replacing maternity leave)
ARTICLING LAWYER AND LAWYER	Nathalie Darveau-Langevin	November 2012 to May 2013 contractual lawyer (June to Feb. 2014)
ACCOUNTING (4 days/week)	Danielle L'Écuyer-Labonté	1981
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER (3 days/week)	Pascale Brunet-Gauthier	August 2012
COORDINATOR & LAWYER	Lise Ferland	1989
At certain moments during the year, we also had help from students (legal technician and law student).		



Local Legal Aid Centre

934 processed applications in 2013-2014



- ✓ **743** files were opened:
 - 446 for citizens of Point-Saint-Charles;
 - 297 for citizens of Little-Burgundy;
- ✓ **156** legal aid mandates were issued for people represented by a private practice lawyer;
- ✓ **62** applications were refused. The refusals are mostly due to income surpassing the financial eligibility criteria.



Local Legal Aid Centre

Opened files	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009
Point-Saint-Charles	446	470	492	564	575	540
Little Burgundy	297	271	272	335	314	329
Total:	743	741	764	899	889	869
Mandates	156	166	158	194	199	237
Refusals	62	58	35	54	50	46
TOTAL of processed applications:	961	965	957	1 147	1 138	1 152

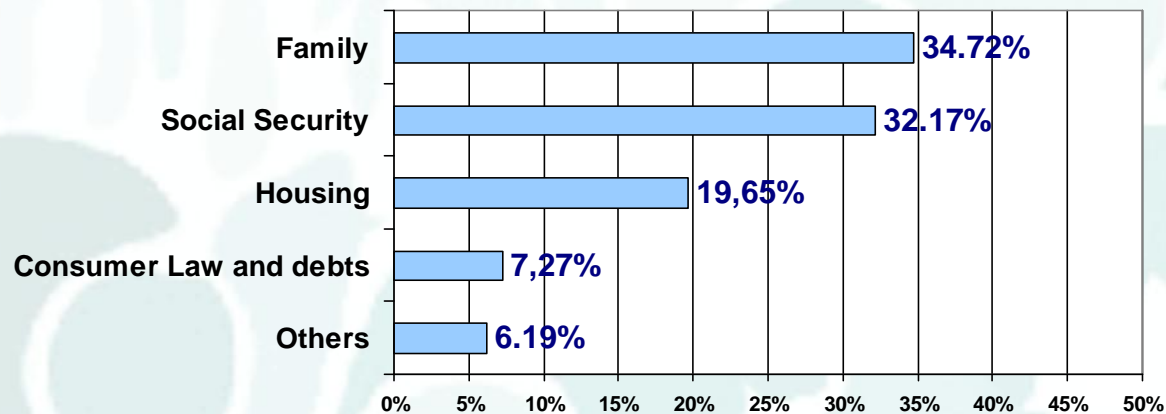


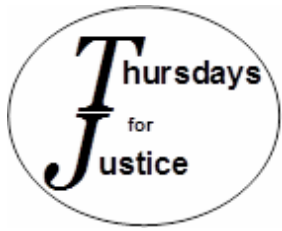
Local Legal Aid Centre

743 individual files

Breakdown according to the different fields of law

2013-2014



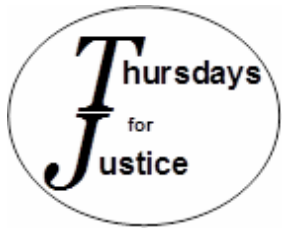


Thursdays for Justice

Fall 2013

- ❖ End of federal subsidies for social housing
- ❖ Bon voisinage : Droits et obligations
- ❖ Being good neighbours: Rights & Obligations





Thursdays for Justice

Winter/Spring 2014



- ❖ **Municipal taxes and municipal assessment**
What are the impacts for the housing coops and their tenants?
- ❖ **Hydro-Quebec's new meters**
What are the health impacts and our rights?
- ❖ **Shared custody / Legal and psychological aspects**
- ❖ **Open House / Free legal consultations and mini information workshops**
- ❖ *Lawyers in the park (to come)*



Activities in community organizations

Summer/Fall 2013

- ❖ **Social assistance (welfare) and social and domestic violence**
Workshop at Logifem
- ❖ **Defend yourself, use your rights to do so**
Workshop in collaboration with TRAC and Clinique Droits Devant
- ❖ **Workshop with the members of the team of the Carrefour d'éducation populaire**



Activities in community organizations

Winter 2014

- ❖ **Dying with dignity**
Workshop presented at the Cité des Bâtisseurs
- ❖ **Travelling abroad : what rights do we preserve?**
Workshop organized in collaboration with the CEDA
- ❖ **Access to Justice**
Workshop at Madame Prend Congé
- ❖ **Wills, estates and mandates in case of incapacity**
Workshop at Impact



Summing-up the 2013-2014 activities



- ❖ **7 Thursdays for Justice**
- ❖ **7 workshops in community organizations**
- ❖ **Groups of 4 to 70 people**
- ❖ **Approximately 300 people participated in the activities**



Presence within the community activities

- ❖ Information stand during the Little-Burgundy Festival
- ❖ Through the *Projet informel*, distribution of information pamphlets in the schools of Point-Saint-Charles and also during report card day at Charles-Lemoyne School
- ❖ Presence during Saint-Gabriel School's « Open house »
- ❖ Launching of the POPIR's newspaper *Le Canal* held at CEDA
- ❖ Information stand during the food distribution at Share the Warmth
- ❖ Information stand during mental health day in Point-Saint-Charles





The Coalition's main demand

Increase of the financial eligibility scale to Legal Aid:

**Free access for a single person working
at minimum wage**





The Coalition exists since 2007

and we:

- ❖ **were the ones who initiated the creation of the Coalition**
- ❖ **played a central part within the coordination committee**
- ❖ **acted as the Coalition's spokesperson**
- ❖ **made sure of continued links and communications with the members of the Coalition and maintained its website**



October 2013, Justice Minister Bertrand St-Arnaud finally announces an increase of the legal aid financial scales in 2 steps:



- ❖ **January 2014... a first step**
- ❖ **June 2015... the scale for a single person will be equivalent to minimum wage at 35hours/week**

A victory for the Coalition



The Coalition's role is one of vigilance:

- ❖ **Follow and analyse** the impacts of the modifications made to this law:
 - Do the increases allow to reach more people?
 - What are the true impacts?
- ❖ **Assure** that the Legal Aid budgets are sufficient in view of the increase of the financial scale and the new services
- ❖ **Inform** the members of the Coalition regarding the modifications and improvements
- ❖ ... **Take action** when needed!



Legal recourses are outrageously expensive

- In cases of litigation, nearly 80% of Quebecers cannot afford to defend themselves at Court, having no financial means to pay their legal expenses;
- 50% mistakenly believe that the opposing side in a court case will automatically pay their attorneys' legal fees if the judge finds in their favour
- 38% think they are covered by the province's Legal Aid program, when in reality only 10% are eligible.

MONTREAL, May 21, 2014 . According to the first legal Quebec barometer created for AXA Assistance Canada



Activities 2013-2014 of the committee *Défense des droits*

- ❖ Manifêste and launching of the *Are we losing the Point?* campaign
- ❖ Bearer of the word on “porteur de parole” : *Are we losing the Point?*
- ❖ Public rally with puppets for affordable public transportation!
- ❖ Public rally against poverty and for a social fare in public transportation
- ❖ Organization for the 2 election assemblies
- ❖ Presentations during the Action-Gardien’s general meetings



Summing-up our participation within the *Are we losing the Point?* campaign

- ❖ Participation at the housing forum of discussion and at the meeting held on gentrification
- ❖ Manifête and launching of the *Are we losing the Point?* campaign
- ❖ Exhibition on housing in our waiting area
- ❖ Training workshop for the staff regarding the housing situation in Point-Saint-Charles
- ❖ Organization of 3 Thursdays for Justice:
 - End of federal subsidies for social housing
 - Bon voisinage : Droits et obligations / Being Good Neighbours: Rights & Obligations
 - Municipal taxes and municipal assessments



Working with and within the community



Action-Gardien Coalition:

- ❖ General meetings and regular meetings
- ❖ Advocacy Committee (Comité de défense des droits) and public activities organized by this committee
- ❖ Committee of allocation of funds



Coalition de la Petite-Bourgogne
Quartier en Santé

Little-Burgundy Coalition:

- ❖ General meeting
- ❖ Housing committee and living environment



Working in and within the community

Other involvements:

- ❖ Support to the Conseil des Aînés
- ❖ Member of the Board of Directors of the Cité des bâtisseurs (housing project for seniors). Lise Ferland represents our organization
- ❖ Support to the Services des bénévoles pour le 3^e âge
- ❖ Participation in campaigns and actions that aim to protect & improve social benefits (support letters, taking positions, public rallies)



Priorities for 2014- 2015

Many challenges await us:

- ❖ Transition and changes within our team: ongoing process
- ❖ Preserve the unique status of our organization
- ❖ Pointe-Saint-Charles and Little-Burgundy are neighbourhoods in transformation
- ❖ A Legal system that is not always accessible



Priorities for 2014- 2015

THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

Priorities	Means
<p>For both Staff and Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Have an entire an competent team➤ Assure the transition within the organization	<p>Continue the involvement of the Board of Directors and Staff in the hiring process in order to find the key-people</p> <p>Continue the integration, the ongoing training for the staff, the transmission of knowledge and history of our organization</p> <p>Creation of a transition committee (Board and Staff) further to the change in coordination</p>
<p>Preservation of our specificity</p>	<p>Vigilance regarding the provincial measures and the changes in the Legal Aid network</p>



Priorities for 2014- 2015

MANDATE AS LOCAL LEGAL AID CENTRE

Priorities	Means
Assure quality services for individual and collective needs	➤ ongoing training for the members of our team
Maintain the quality of the services provided to the population	
Inform the population of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ the existence of our organization➤ the entire services covered by the Legal Aid Act➤ the legal aid eligibility criteria	➤ visibility campaign ➤ on our website: distribution of explanatory documentation regarding the Legal Aid law and the new services to the population and organizations.



Priorities for 2014-2015

ADVOCACY FOR COLLECTIVE RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT OF THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Priorities	Means
Work towards obtaining greater access to legal aid	With the members of the Coalition to improve access to Legal Aid, watch for the application of new measures and analyse the results/impacts, and when necessary take action and contact the Justice Minister
Work towards obtaining a better access to justice	<p>Understand the stakes around the implemented measures for a better access to justice;</p> <p>Analyse the needs of the population and intervene to obtain measures that adequately meet those needs;</p> <p>Maintain links with the community organizations regarding justice</p>



Priorities for 2014-2015

ADVOCACY FOR COLLECTIVE RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Priorities	Means
Continue to broadcast and simplify the legal information	<p>Maintain the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Thursdays for Justice-workshops in the community organizations-website-the communications with our members <p>With our committee on “Education and Rights”, identify the needs and the priorities. This committee is made up of members of the organization, Board members and the community organizer</p>



Priorities for 2014-2015

ADVOCACY FOR COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

Priorities	Means
Work to better the life conditions of the citizens	Continue our involvement in both coalitions and participation to struggles in both neighbourhoods
Connect the dots between individual and collective problems	Participate in struggles and demands for social measures that meet the needs regarding the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ justice➤ housing➤ transportation➤ health➤ food supplies➤ welfare➤ etc.
Support the community organizations in both neighbourhoods	Legal support for the organizations Participation in common activities