
The Legal Co=ective

Inform – Guide – Empower

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 / 2023

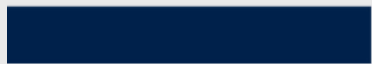


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Message from the Board of Directors

2023 was a year of change for The Legal Collective. On April 27, 2023, after nearly two years of research, reflection, consultation and work, the Mile End Legal Clinic unveiled its new name: Le Collectif juridique / The Legal Collective. The goal of this change was to highlight the true nature of our organization's day-to-day work and its expansion beyond Mile End, while remaining true to our organization's 20-year history.

Even with the name change, our approach remains the same: we continue to inform, guide and empower our users, but we are adopting a more engaged stance in order to inspire the legal community through our actions in the broader community. The Board of Directors would like to thank all those who contributed to this process, from near and far, in particular the marketing agency Minimal, The Legal Collective's employees, and numerous volunteer lawyers and notaries.

The year 2023 also marked the end of Sophie Lefebvre's tenure as Executive Director. Sophie's tenure, which began in May 2019, was marked by major achievements for The Legal Collective: the continuity of services during the Covid-19 pandemic, the reinvention of our identity (including our vision and mission, name and visual identity, and website), as well as the development of new partnerships, such as the one concluded with the Chambre des notaires du Québec, enabling the long-term sustainability of certain services offered to the public by The Legal Collective.

The end of Sophie's mandate was an opportunity for the Board of Directors to redefine the organization's management structure. On September 5, 2023, we announced the appointment of Nathalie Raymond as Executive Director and the hiring of Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix as Assistant Director. This new structure perfectly aligns with the new identity and vision adopted by The Legal Collective. We would like to thank all those who helped ensure a seamless transition, especially Emile, Bérangère, Anik, Océane, Tanisha and Sophie.

L'Honorable Geeta Narang

JSC, Founder.

Mme Valérie Gascon

Management, Evaluation, Performance and Ethics at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada.

Me Olga Redko

Lawyer at IMK.

Me Alexandre Ricci

President, Lawyer and legal advisor to the Quartier des spectacles partnership.

Me Léa Charbonneau

Lawyer, legal adviser-BRP.

Me Andrei Roman

Senior Trust Officer, Estate & Trust Services at Scotia Wealth Management.

Me Allen Mendelsohn

Vice President and Treasurer, Internet Law Specialist.

Scott McNicoll

Engineer P. Eng.

Me Léa Pelletier-Marcotte

Lawyer, political and campaign analyst at Oxfam-Québec.

Me Yolaine Williams

Secretary, Social worker for the CIUSSS of the Central-West Island of Montreal.

Me Lina Bensaidane

Intellectual property lawyer at Fasken.

Me Nathalie Raymond

Lawyer, Executive Director



The first word that comes to mind to sum up the past year is: gratitude. I am fortunate to be working for a mission that is very close to my heart, with a dedicated and extremely competent team. We're fortunate to be able to count on the involvement and support of a Board of Directors that takes our mission to heart. The students participate enthusiastically in their internships.

I cannot forget the volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to contributing to access to justice. The term "collective" takes on its full meaning here. Everyone makes a contribution, so that together we can contribute to greater access to justice. Our partners also make a significant contribution to this communal effort. Without them, without their financial contribution, without their support, The Legal Collective could not achieve its goals.

The notarial educational fund (thanks to the Chambre des notaires du Québec) enables us to both continue our mission on a day-to-day basis, and also to develop a socio-legal accompaniment service by providing specific funding for this project. This invaluable support makes it possible to match trained volunteers with citizens in need of support in their legal proceedings. The Ministry of Justice has also made a financial contribution through the FAJ (Fonds d'accès à la justice) program to our project to support unrepresented litigants at the Tribunal administratif du logement.

Without the generosity of the foundations that support our work, our services to the public would be reduced, as would our in-house team. They are invaluable partners to whom we offer our deepest thanks: the Bannerman Family Foundation, the Echo Foundation, the McConnell Foundation, the Hogg Family Foundation, the Law Foundation of Ontario, and the Canadian Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to law firm IMK, to the many donors both anonymous and named who have contributed over the past year. SOQUIJ, the City of Montreal, Mile End Mission, Accès bénévolat, CAPE, Ressource alimentaire and the Tyndale St-Georges Community Center have all contributed to enabling us to achieve our mission with their partnerships.

We would also like to highlight our participation in COMRADES, the legal education network, which gives us the opportunity to make a greater contribution to social justice. Finally, since we supervise a large number of interns every year, it's important to highlight the relationships we've built with the following universities: Université de Montréal, McGill University, UQAM and the University of Ottawa.

Me Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix

Lawyer, Assistant Director



A wind of change and renewal blew through the clinic this year. First, the organization's new identity was revealed in April 2023. The Mile End Legal Clinic officially became The Legal Collective. A name that reflects the expansion of our services across the island of Montreal, but also a more broad-ranging support to the community through the addition of a psychosocial worker to the team.

Another important change over the past year was, of course, the change in leadership, as Maître Nathalie Raymond took the reins from Sophie Lefebvre. The Legal Collective's management structure was reorganized, and the position of Assistant Director was created. It is with tremendous gratitude that I have held this position since September, and I am proud to be able to contribute to the mission of The Legal Collective.

This year, we relaunched the immigration law clinic project at our Parc-Extension service point. I've been witness to the importance of the needs within the community and the diversity of our users. The complexity of immigration procedures and the inaccessibility of legal aid services lead us to encounter a wide range of issues in the course of our consultations. Thanks to our comprehensive expertise in immigration law, our clients benefit from one-stop access to all the legal information they need. We also train future jurists who will not only have extensive knowledge in the field, but will generally be better equipped to work with immigrant clients.

The past year has also been an opportunity to build bridges with various community actors. Notably, I offered training in immigration law to community organizations and hosted a webinar for various stakeholders on working with new arrivals. In November 2023, I had the privilege of being guest of honour at the colloquium of the Association Québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes, where I led a plenary session with former Chief Justice of the Court of Québec, Maître Élisabeth Corte.

I'm proud of The Legal Collective's contribution to this community of organizations who all working towards the same goal: greater social justice for all.

Me Emile Racicot

Lawyer, Coordinator and Supervisor



It will soon be almost a year since I joined the The Legal Collective family as coordinating lawyer and supervisor. I have witnessed several major changes: a new visual identity, the reopening of a service point in Little Burgundy and the relocation of the Mile-End service point. These changes reflect our commitment to our mission of providing access to justice. We offered hundreds of personalized consultations, psychosocial services and legal accompaniment, involving our volunteers and student interns.

On a more personal note, I worked with the team at the Tyndale-St-Georges community center to reopen the Little Burgundy service point, created training sessions and advocacy exercises to further the knowledge of our student interns. I also carried out consultations at our four service points.

Me Raphaelle Dionne-Lutfy

Lawyer, Coordinator and Supervisor



I'm a young lawyer specializing in housing law, and in January 2024 I joined The Legal Collective team as coordinating lawyer. In a short amount of time, I have had the opportunity to note the impact of our services on both users and students. In the current rental market, the services offered by The Legal Collective are more essential than ever. Whether it's through the sharing and popularization of legal information, or through the socio-judicial support we offer, I see our services as tools enabling tenants to soften the power dynamic with their landlord.

As problems rarely present themselves alone, The Legal Collective has developed ties with several other community organizations, allowing us to take a more holistic approach to the issues experienced by our users. For our students, I believe that The Legal Collective is an extremely enriching experience. It enables them to deepen their legal knowledge and research skills, as well as develop their ability to summarize complicated concepts and conduct consultations.

Tanisha Aubin

Psychosocial Counsellor

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It has now been 1 year since I joined The Legal Collective, and I am the first to hold the position of psychosocial counsellor since the organization's inception. My main role is to support and accompany users throughout their time at The Legal Collective. Since my arrival, the demand for my services has considerably increased, which testifies to the strong interest shown by users. The legal concerns of The Legal Collective users are often stressful and complex, leading to increasing psychosocial distress.

The services of a psychosocial counsellor are therefore essential to improve the well-being of users and ensure a comprehensive service. In sum, the role of the psychosocial counsellor is essential in creating a protective emotional and psychosocial space for both users and students as a whole.

TESTIMONIALS FROM LAW INTERNS



Émiliane Rancourt

My internship with The Legal Collective is a unique and rewarding experience. I feel privileged to be able to be part of a team that is so passionate and dedicated to its clientele. Thanks to this experience, I was able to confirm my desire to devote my future career largely to social justice and helping vulnerable people navigate a legal system that can sometimes be very complex.

To feel that I've been able to make a real impact in people's lives is a privilege, and I'm grateful to be able to do so every week thanks to the team at The Legal Collective. I appreciate the fact that learning is highlighted and considered a priority by everyone in the organization. The research, listening and empathy skills I have been able to develop, in addition to the extensive knowledge I have acquired in various fields of law, are invaluable to me.



Yena Lee

The community internship at The Legal Collective is without doubt one of the most informative experiences I have had since I started law school. As a student, it is not always easy to conceptualize how the theoretical information acquired in the classroom will be applied in practice. My experience at The Legal Collective has not only allowed me to put these concepts into practice, but has also shown me the power of legal information.

il feel that law and legal education take on their full value when they can be used to provide concrete help to a vulnerable clientele. In addition, I'm very grateful for the guidance and support of our supervising lawyers throughout the internship and the importance given to continuing education. I feel very privileged to be able to contribute to the mission of increasing access to justice.

The student intern team for 2023-2024

Arshia Amera

UdeM
Parc-Extension

Justin Dussault

UdeM
Parc-Extension

Valentina Fuchslocher Aranda

UdeM
Parc-Extension

Daniela Guadalupe Lucha Arevalo

UdeM
Mile End

Christopher Holman- Bissegger

McGill
Parc-Extension et Petite-Bourgogne

Yena Lee

UdeM
Mile End

Julie Lessard

UQAM
Rosemont

Jacinte Morel

UdeM
Parc-Extension

Émiliane Rancourt

UdeM
Rosemont

Anne Santagati

McGill
Mile End

Charle-Antoine Thiry

UQAM
Mile End

Our summer interns

Christophe Stril
UdeM

Alexis Lamy-Théberge
UdeM

Meriem Beninal
UdeM

Charle-Antoine Thiry
UQAM

Malena Vila Martinez
U Ottawa

Leïla Rondeau
UdeM

Jean-François Bigras
UdeM

Daniela Guadalupe Lucha Arevalo
UdeM

SERVICE POINTS

Parc-Extension

COMITÉ D'ACTION DE PARC-EXTENSION (CAPE)

165 Consultations

**Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie**

ORGANISME ACCÈS BÉNÉVOLAT

68 Consultations

**Mile End**

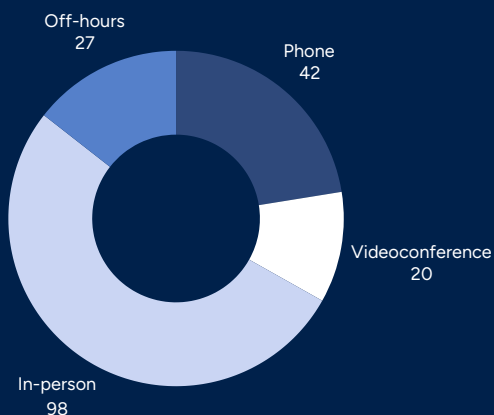
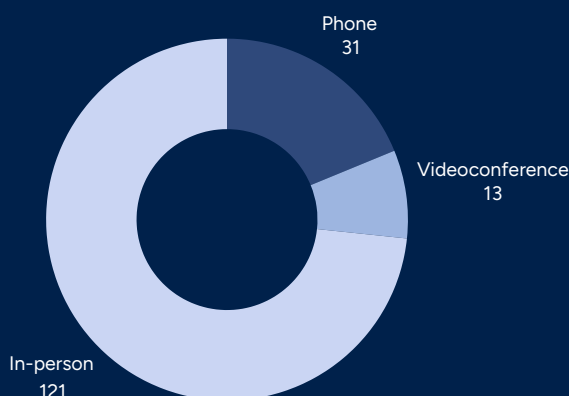
BEFORE MISSION COMMUNAUTAIRE MILE-END AND NOW MORDECAI-RICHLER LIBRARY

167 Consultations

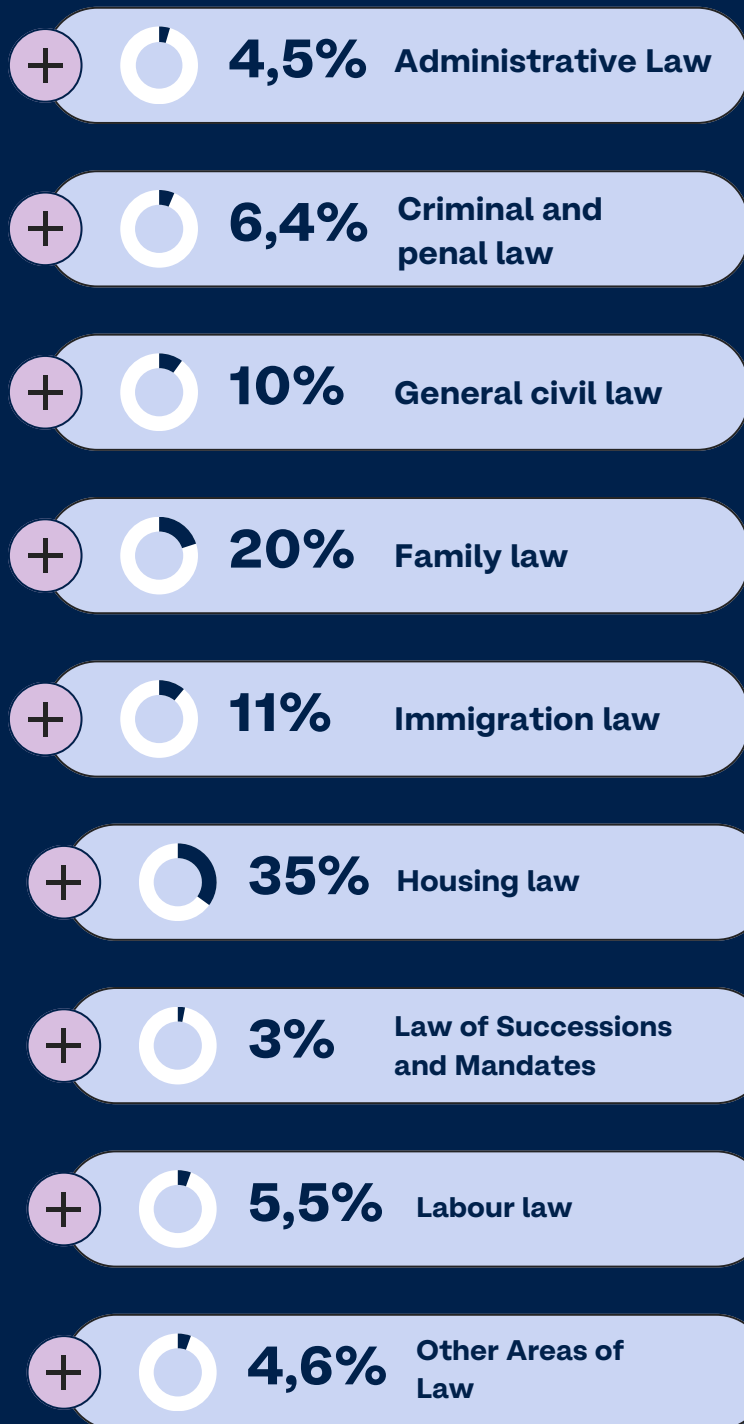
**Little Burgundy**

TYNDALE ST-GEORGES COMMUNITY CENTRE

7 Consultations * Opening on October 26, 2023

**In total, 434.5 hours of consultation were conducted.****SUMMER CONSULTATION
MODALITIES****FALL CONSULTATION
MODALITIES**

FIELD OF LAW



PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION

SUMMER

18 interventions

FALL

15 interventions

SUPPORTS

SUMMER AND FALL

30 accompagnements

In total, 58.25 hours of support were provided.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

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Launch Event for Our New Brand Image.



New management takes office.



Training for our trainees.



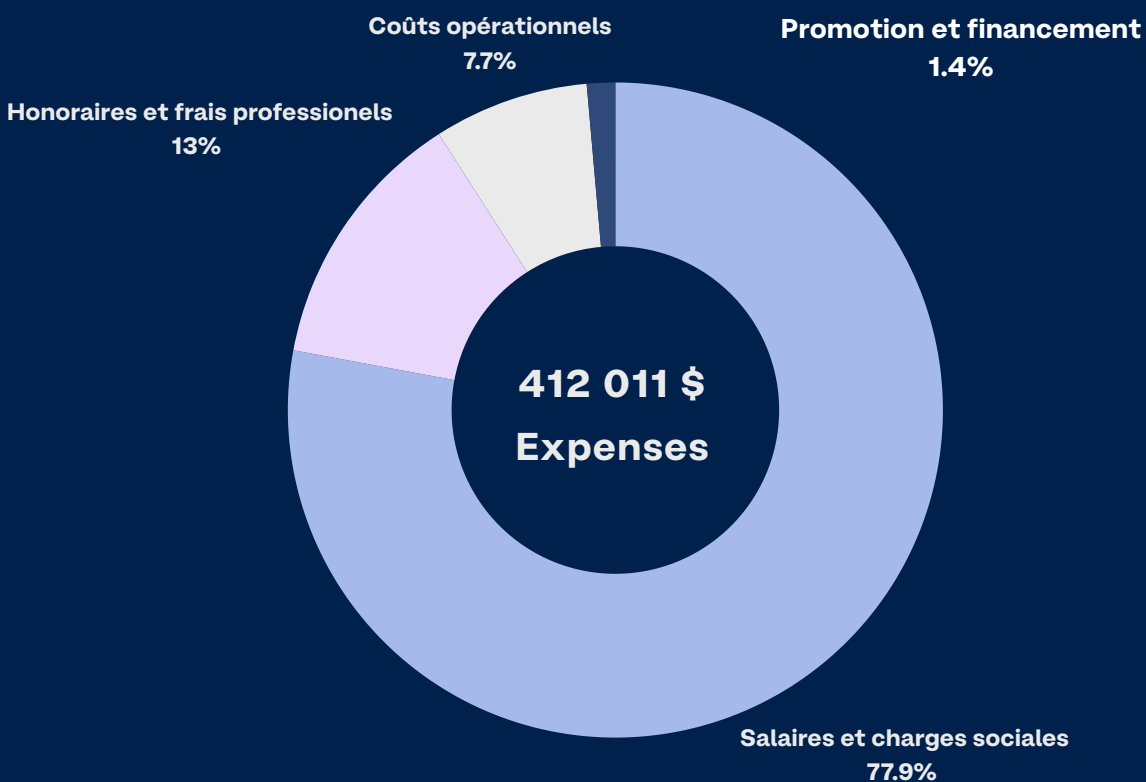
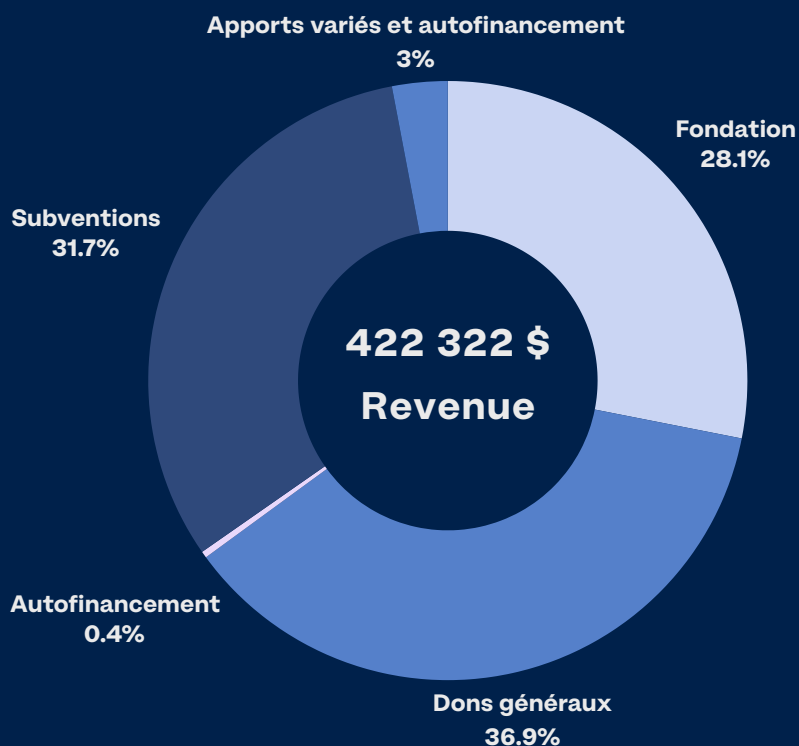
Last day of the summer cohort 2023.

“ Now that the dust has settled a bit, I just wanted to take the time to thank you, Me Racicot, for all the time you've given me to answer my numerous questions. It has been extremely helpful not only to have your legal assistance but also to have information from a reliable source. I also thank you for your patience with me, as my anxiety sometimes makes clarity of thought and expression difficult.

I am deeply impressed by the support service offered by Le Collectif Juridique. During my hearings at the TAL, I had the privilege of being accompanied by Tanisha Aubin and Christopher Holman-Bissegger. Their invaluable support and comforting presence were of immense help when I felt extremely alone and vulnerable. Their humanity and kindness deeply touched me. Thanks to them, I was able to approach these hearings with a little more strength and confidence. I am infinitely grateful to them.

I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to defending people's rights. It is a very necessary and invaluable service that you provide.”

-A.T



Donors and Funding agencies

Fonds d'études
notariales



Service
Canada

The Law
Foundation
of Ontario
Advancing access to justice

FONDATION FAMILIALE
TROTTIER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Fondation de la
famille
George Hogg
Family Foundation

The **Bannerman** Family
Foundation
La Fondation Famille
Bannerman

Fondation **ECHO** Foundation

imk
avocats • advocates

Justice
Québec

Community Partners



Soutenu par
Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal



mon**stère**
Centre de services
communautaires



Partner organizations



***SOQUIJ**

Université **de Montréal**

ADAJ Accès au
Droit et
À la Justice



McGill

UQÀM

sources=entrou
plaisir=out
=guidance
t=satisfaction
engagement
accessibilit
n=compass
tten=connec