
The Legal Co=ective

Inform – Guide – Empower

ANNUAL

REPORT

2023 / 2024



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Message from our Board of Directors

Dear friends, users, and partners,

It is with pride that we present this annual report, showcasing the significant progress made by the Legal Collective in 2024.

This year was marked first and foremost by a change in the leadership of our organization. In September 2023, we welcomed Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix as Assistant Director, working alongside Nathalie Raymond, then Executive Director. In October 2024, following Nathalie's departure, Léa assumed the role of Executive Director. We would like to express our deep gratitude to Nathalie for her dedication over the past two years at the Legal Collective, particularly for the development and strengthening of our service point in *Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie*, as well as for her invaluable support to users facing domestic violence.

A major turning point came in the spring of 2024 with the expansion of our services. Thanks to the adoption of Bill 34, we are now able to offer more than just legal information, providing personalized legal advice tailored to the situation of each user. This advancement meets an urgent need for support, particularly for asylum seekers, refugees, and people without status, through the various stages of their immigration journey.

As we conclude our 22nd year of existence, we would like to warmly thank all our donors, grantors, and partners who believe in our mission and enable us to have a tangible impact on the Montreal community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the *Chambre des Notaires* of Quebec, whose ongoing support of our mission since 2022 strengthens our commitment and determination to assist vulnerable individuals and provide them with the necessary tools to navigate and access the justice system.

Me Alexandre Ricci

President, Head of Legal Affairs at the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership

Me Allen

Mendelsohn

Vice President and Treasurer, Internet Law Specialist

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.

Mme Valérie Gascon

Consultant in Quality Management, Evaluation, Performance and Ethics at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada

Me Léa

Charbonneau

Counsel, Corporate Governance & Securities - TELUS Digital

Scott McNicoll

Engineer P. Eng.

Me Andrei Roman

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

Marie-Thérèse Brunelle

Consultant in collective business management

Me Lina Bensaidane

Intellectual property lawyer at Fasken

Message from the Executive Director

Me Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

I am pleased to present our annual report for the year 2023-2024. For over 20 years, The Legal Collective has been driven by a mission deeply rooted in the values of social justice and equal opportunities, namely providing access to legal services for all.

This year has allowed us to come even closer to this goal. Indeed, it is during the last year that we were finally able to begin offering legal advice to our users. The adoption of the *Act to improve access to justice by broadening the range of legal services provided free of charge or at a moderate cost* has allowed us to expand our services, whereas we were previously limited to providing legal information. The Legal Collective welcomes these changes with gratitude and enthusiasm, eager to continue supporting the community even more effectively.

This year, we also innovated by developing legal information videos for self-represented individuals in the areas of housing law and family law. This project enables us to reach more people and provide legal information in a way that is both accessible and useful.

2023-2024 has also provided us with an opportunity to consolidate and sustain our immigration law services. We are responding to the urgent need for support for asylum seekers and individuals with precarious status. We are now recognized as a key actor in this community, particularly in the *Parc-Extension* neighborhood, where we have built strong ties with local community organizations.

Additionally, we have enhanced and solidified our socio-legal support service, which is in high demand. This innovative and unique initiative was made possible thanks to the support of the *Chambre des Notaires*, who recognized the importance of personalized support that goes beyond legal matters for the most vulnerable individuals. We deeply thank the *Chambre des Notaires* for believing in this project and allowing us to assist many individuals during their hearings.

We also thank our valuable partners and donors, whose support enables us to continue our mission on a daily basis. A special thank you to the Hogg Foundation, the Trottier Foundation, the Echo Foundation, the *Chambre des Notaires* (for mission support), and Énergir for their financial support and renewed trust. We also thank the *Comité d'Action de Parc-Extension (CAPE)*, the *Ressource Action-Alimentation de Parc-Extension*, *Accès Bénévolat*, the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, and the City of Montreal for their hospitality during our weekly legal clinics.

On a more personal note, it is with great gratitude that I present my first annual report as the Executive Director of The Legal Collective. I thank the Board of Directors for their trust and ongoing support. I also thank my outstanding team: Émile, Raphaëlle, Tanisha, Jeanne, and the law students from the 2023-2024 cohort. You are contributing to a fairer society and the dismantling of several social barriers, and it is a great honor to be able to support you in this mission.

Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix
Executive Director

Our mission

To guide vulnerable individuals and provide them with the necessary tools to facilitate their access to and navigation through the justice system.

Our services

Legal services

Our team of lawyers and law students offer free legal consultations in various areas of law, including housing law, immigration law, labour law, and civil law. We also provide legal support beyond the initial consultation when relevant.

Socio-legal support

We offer individuals who are self-represented or need to take steps in their process the opportunity to be accompanied by a qualified person who will provide both emotional and technical support throughout certain stages of their process, whether for a hearing, filing a complaint, or a mediation session.

Psychosocial support

If you have an open case with The Legal Collective and your situation requires additional support, we can help. With the assistance of social workers, we work with you to identify coherent and comprehensive solutions that take into account challenges beyond the legal issues you are facing.

Our team



Me Léa Charbonneau-Lacroix
Executive Director, Lawyer



Me Raphaëlle Dionne-Lutfy
Lawyer, Coordinator, and Supervisor



Me Emile Racicot
Lawyer, Coordinator, and Supervisor



Tanisha Aubin
Psychosocial Services Manager



Anik Isabelle
Administrative Coordinator



Jeanne Gaudet
Communications Manager

Our student interns

An internship with The Legal Collective

Each year, we welcome a dozen law students from the University of Montreal, McGill University, the University of Quebec in Montreal, and the University of Ottawa. This experience provides them with essential knowledge and skills for practicing the profession, but more importantly, it raises their awareness of the challenges related to access to justice. We believe that the internships offered by The Legal Collective helps shape competent, compassionate, and empathetic legal professionals who are sensitive to the realities of others.

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-Bisseger 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 internship students

Rim Chaieb UdeM	Justin Dussault UdeM	Alexandra Laliberté UdeM	Charle-Antoine Thiry UQAM
Juliette Mercier UdeM	Karen Wang uOttawa	Anne-Frédérique Lessard UdeM	

Testimonials from students

The internship at The Legal Collective offers a unique opportunity to work autonomously while benefiting from multidisciplinary guidance, combining both law and psychosocial intervention. This synergy of expertise is the best way to describe the experience.

Through the knowledge-sharing of our internship supervisors, we gain the skills and confidence needed to deepen our understanding of the law. Most importantly, this mentorship offers us a unique perspective on the legal profession and the responsibilities it entails. For many people, The Legal Collective represents a last resort. As an intern, I am grateful to contribute in my own way to improve access to justice, and I approach the second half of my internship with enthusiasm.

— Charle-Antoine Thiry, UQAM



Completing my internship with the team at The Legal Collective was the most impactful learning experience of my undergraduate studies. Through the various consultations with users and the invaluable mentorship from our supervising lawyers, I was able to gain extensive knowledge and actively contribute to improving access to justice. Indeed, this internship allowed me to develop invaluable practical expertise, both legally and socially. The team at The Legal Collective helped me grow as a lawyer and as a person, and I will be eternally grateful to them. It was a rewarding experience on all fronts, and I am proud to have contributed to their mission. I highly recommend this internship to any student eager to learn!

— Valentina Fuchslocher Aranda, University of Montreal

News and highlights

October 2023



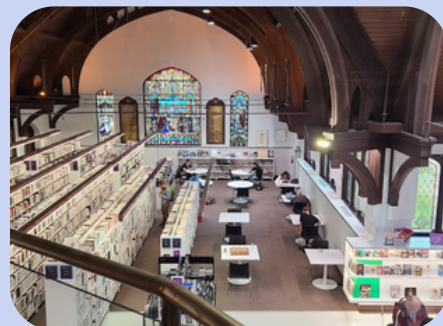
**Participation of Me Léa Charbonneau-
Lacroix in the Quebec Association
Plaidoyer-Victimes conference as a guest
of honor**

February 2024

Collaboration with a volunteer psychologist to enhance our support for users



Reopening of our fourth service point at the Tyndale St-George Community Centre



**Relocation of our Mile End
service point to the Mordecai-
Richler Library**

March 2024

News and highlights

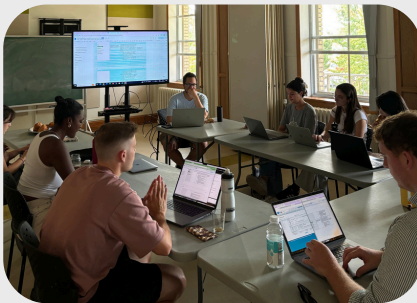
Launch of our legal advice service, a pivotal moment in the history of The Legal Collective

May 2024



We welcome Marie-Thérèse Brunelle as a new member of our Board of Directors

July 2024



We welcome the new cohort of students

September 2024



McGill Law Faculty's annual Christie Bike Ride, in support of The Legal Collective

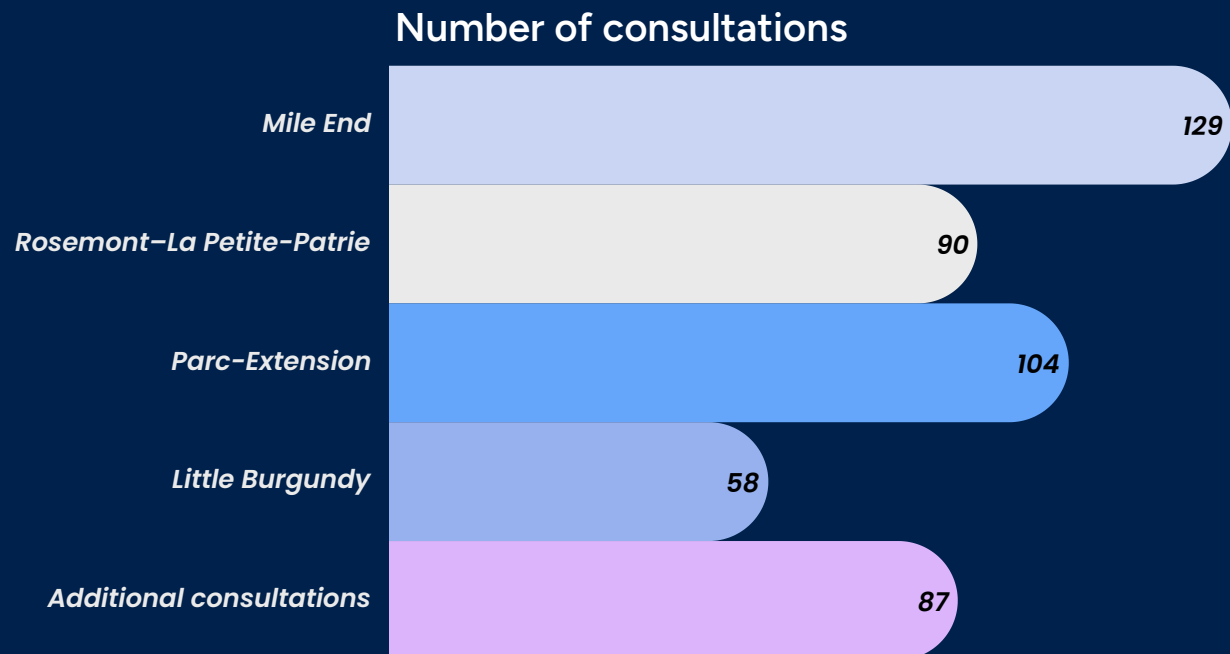


Filming of informational videos on housing law and family law

Statistics

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS

In 2023-2024, a total of 702 hours of free consultations were conducted, representing a 60% increase from the previous year.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A total of 556 hours of psychosocial support.

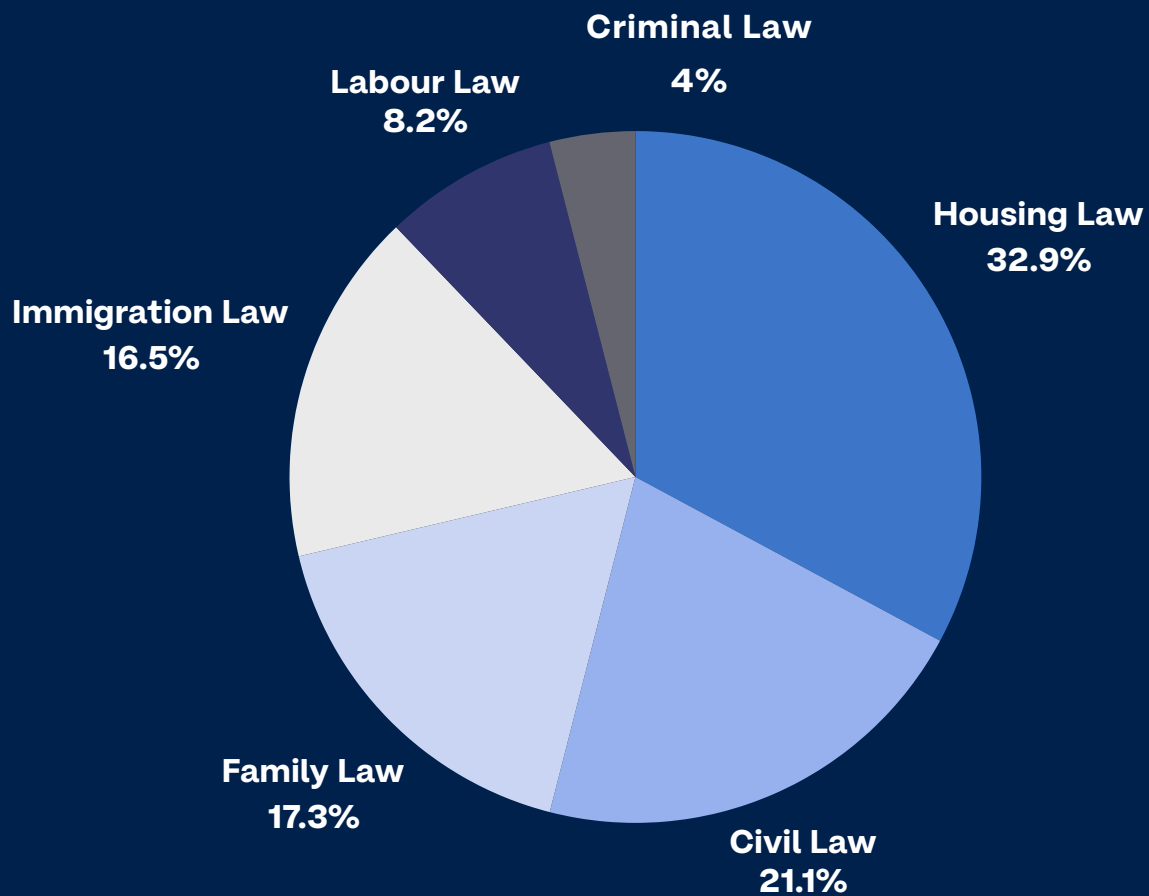
SOCIO-LEGAL SUPPORT

Support to 31 individuals at court for their hearings.

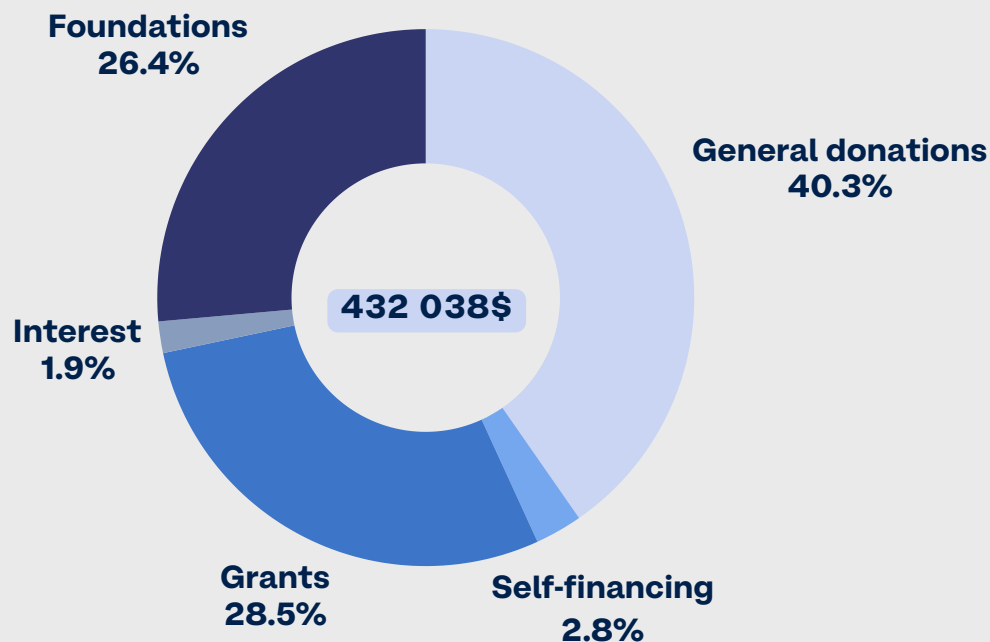
VOLUNTEER PSYCHOLOGIST

30 hours of free psychological support were offered to our users.

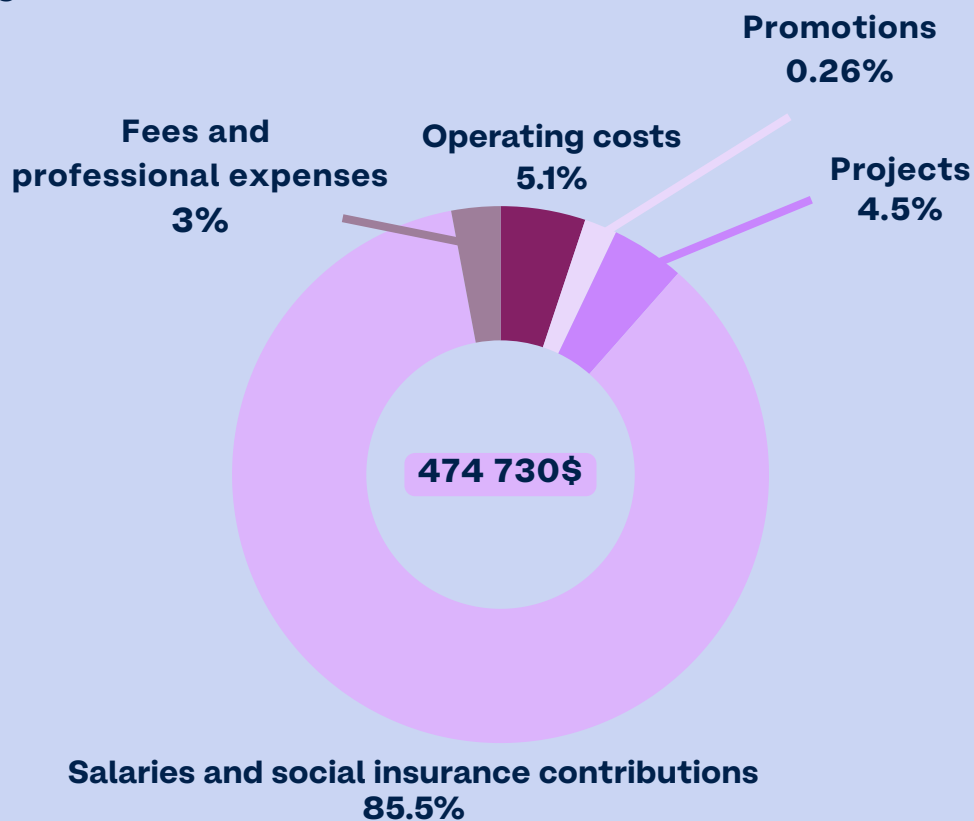
AREAS OF LAW



Revenues



Expenses



Our partners

Donors and grantors

Fonds d'études
notariales



Service
Canada



Fondation de la
famille
George Hogg
Family Foundation

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

Fondation **ECHO** Foundation

Justice
Québec

Community partners

COMITÉ D'ACTION
du
PARC-EXTENSION



Soutenu par

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal
Montréal



Centre communautaire
Tyndale St-Georges
Community Centre

mon **istère**

Centre de services
communautaires



**Accès
Bénévolat**
Centre d'action bénévole
Est de Montréal



Mission communautaire
MILE-END
Community Mission

Partner organizations



***SOQUIJ**

Université **de Montréal**

ADAJ Accès au
Droit et
À la Justice



uOttawa



McGill

UQÀM

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