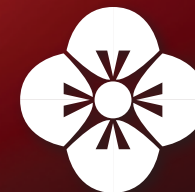


# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2007-2008



Public Legal Education  
and Information Service  
of New Brunswick

# MISSION STATEMENT

## Helping New Brunswickers Know the Law!

PLEIS-NB is a non-profit organization and a registered charity. Our mandate is to develop bilingual educational products and services about the law for the general public in order to promote access to the legal system. Our goal is to assist the public in identifying and understanding their legal rights and responsibilities, and attaining self-help skills where appropriate, to improve their ability to deal with legal issues.



To meet the diverse information needs of New Brunswickers, PLEIS-NB has adopted the following objectives:

- (i) To respond to individual and community requests for information about the law, the legal system, sources of legal assistance and law reform;
- (ii) To increase the availability of easily understood general information about the law, as well as law-related information on specific topics;
- (iii) To promote a greater understanding of how the law affects everyday activities and to facilitate self-help skills; and,
- (iv) To act as a clearinghouse for information about the law by promoting awareness of and access to legal resources in the community, while encouraging the coordination of public legal education initiatives.

### Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick

P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

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Web site www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca



Public Legal Education  
and Information Service  
of New Brunswick

June 2008

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) is pleased to report another extremely busy and successful year of creating law information products and delivering our core services and programs. We were proud to work with Gignoo Transition House once again to transform **The Healing Journey: Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention** project into a national toolkit and website. PLEIS-NB also worked collaboratively with several provincial government departments. For example, we collaborated with Victim Services, Department of Public Safety, to produce a script for a DVD on youth victims of crime, which will be filmed in the next fiscal year. As well, we worked with the newly appointed Public Trustee to produce a pamphlet to explain the role of the Public Trustee Office in providing services to help New Brunswickers who cannot manage their property and financial matters and/or make personal care decisions, and who have no family or friends to take on this role. In cooperation with Court Services, we began the process of creating a pamphlet and fact sheets to explain the new **Support Enforcement Act** and describe some specific enforcement measures such as license revocation, credit bureau reporting and corporate liability.



We continued our partnership with others in the family violence community to produce information for victims of family violence including a pamphlet to explain the specialized domestic violence approach in the Provincial Court in Moncton; a pamphlet about the new therapeutic program for children who witness abuse against their mothers; and a revised booklet called *Ending Abuse in Your Relationship*. Thanks to funding from Justice Canada, we also re-introduced our lipstick project for abused women. New partners in this fiscal year included the New Brunswick Police Commission who invited us to produce a pamphlet to explain the expanded role and duties of the Commission in responding to public complaints against municipal police or policing policy, and we worked with the Human Rights Commission to help explain their new policy on students with disabilities.

We would be remiss not to thank our many funders and to acknowledge in particular Justice Canada, the New Brunswick Law Foundation and the New Brunswick Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs. Together, they foster the stable foundation from which PLEIS-NB flourishes. As always, our success is attributable to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, as well as our many partners and supporters who make our work possible. We look forward to another productive year of creating access to law and the justice system.

Sincerely

Deborah Doherty, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

## PEOPLE

Over the past year we were sad to bid farewell to Sylvie Russel our law line operator and Erin Garland West who had join us as bookkeeper/administrative assistant for seven months. Kelly Landry joined us for six months on the family law line, followed by JD Blizzard. We were pleased to find a new bookkeeper who is learning the ropes - Jennifer Bishop. We also bid goodbye to Grant Garneau who faithfully served our Board for many years, and welcomed a new board member, Jason Dempsey.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2007-2008

Judith Keating (President)  
Chief Legislative Counsel, Legislative Services  
Office of the Attorney General

Chief Barry McKnight  
Fredericton City Police Force

Janet Cameron (Vice-President)  
Department of Tourism and Parks

Karen Pearlston  
Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton

Suzanne Bonnell Burley  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services,  
Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs

Jason Dempsey  
Ellsworth Johnson Phillips  
Moncton

Robert LeBlanc  
Faculté de droit, Université de Moncton  
Moncton

Deborah Doherty  
Secretary-Treasurer  
(Executive Director)

## STAFF

Deborah Doherty, Executive Director  
Stacey Brown, Project Coordinator  
Emily Bell, Legal Research Coordinator  
Erin Garland West, Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant  
Jennifer Bishop, Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant  
Sylvia Russel, Law Line Operator  
Kelly Landry, Law Line Operator  
JD Blizzard, Law Line Operator  
Kara Patterson, Legal Research Assistant



## ANNUAL PLEIS BBQ - AUGUST 2007

PLEIS-NB hosted its annual BBQ. This year's theme was "pirates" and many came in costume. The BBQ marked the beginning of our 18th year of providing law information to the people of New Brunswick. Everyone had lots of fun and good food. The BBQ is our way to acknowledge the contribution of our partners, volunteers, board, staff, and legal community.



## VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

We wish to thank all of the volunteers and project partners. We especially wish to acknowledge the legal community for its dedicated contribution to our work - not only individual lawyers who review and comment on draft materials, participate in our speaker's bureau, or supervise pro-bono students - but the Canadian Bar Association-NB Branch, which made a significant and much appreciated contribution to the delivery of our "charitable return" workshops. We also appreciate the contribution of the pro bono law students from University of New Brunswick and Université de Moncton who provided many hours of assistance conducting research, attending community events and helping out around the office.

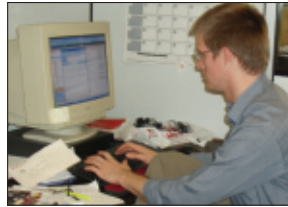
Finally, we would like to thank the many community groups and government departments who partnered with us in developing law information products and services, participated in focus groups during our fieldtest process, or reviewed draft materials and provided feedback. A special thanks to the Miramichi Family Violence Prevention Committee and the Outreach Coordinator who are working with us to pilot a key family violence messages campaign. They help to ensure we reach the target audiences and address the lived realities of New Brunswickers.



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Toll-Free Family Law Line – 1-888-236-2444

There were 1650 calls recorded to the **Family Law Information Line** during the 2007/2008 fiscal year. This represents a 23% increase from the previous year. Of these callers, 58% were registering for the **For the Sake of the Children** information sessions. Requests for family law information represented 15% of the calls. Another 3% requested **For the Sake of the Children** pamphlets, posters and related family law publications. Ten percent were from organizations, law firms, court offices and schools seeking more information on the **For the Sake of the Children** program. Finally the remaining 14% were administrative type calls including individuals wanting to reschedule sessions or instructors cancelling and rescheduling sessions or replenishing course materials. The most frequent source of referrals to the law line came from posters and the internet (34%), followed by referrals from family counselors (28%). Referrals to the **For the Sake of the Children** program were typically from law firms, friends, and court social workers.



### Web Site - [www-legal-info-legale.nb.ca](http://www-legal-info-legale.nb.ca)

The PLEIS-NB web site continues to be a valuable source of legal information for the public, offering close to 100 publications in HTML, Word and PDF versions in both official languages. This past year, we had 743,504 visitors to our website with a total of 977,386 page views and millions of “hits”. Once again, there were as many visitors from Ontario and Quebec as from New Brunswick, however, New Brunswickers had the majority of page views at 141,738. Most visitors were from Canada, United States and France. Overall, the most viewed documents were power of attorney, abuse and neglect of seniors, and parenting. The most download documents on our site were: Checklist for making a will; dying without a will; COESP intake form; divorce guide order form, Going to a Nursing Home, the Snapshot of Youth Services.

### Speaker’s Bureau and Video Lending Library

PLEIS offers a video lending library of close to 60 videos on a variety of legal topics. Many of the videos are available in both official languages, although some may be available only in the language of production. This year, we loaned out 32 videos to schools, universities and community groups for use with students or clients. We also sold a dozen of our own videos. Our free Speaker’s Bureau, which also features presentations and exhibits by PLEIS staff, was a popular service again this year. We booked close to 40 presentations around the province including schools, youth groups, youth serving agencies, seniors’ fairs, a sexual health fair, and family violence events. Efforts continue to be made to increase the participation of lawyers in this service and several new lawyers were recruited.

## PUBLICATION PROGRAM

PLEIS publishes over 100 bilingual products including pamphlets, booklets and posters. Most are free of charge for quantities fewer than fifty. New or revised publications in 2007-2008 included:

### The Office of the Public Trustee

The recently established Office of the Public Trustee invited Public Legal Education and Information Service to develop and design a pamphlet to introduce the mandate of the Public Trustee. The new pamphlet, entitled **The Office of the Public Trustee: Protecting the Personal and Financial Interests of Vulnerable Persons**, explains the services provided by the Public Trustee and how New Brunswickers can access these services. The content and design elements of the publication have been incorporated into the website of the Office of the Public Trustee. The publication can also be viewed on the PLEIS-NB website. A launch and promotion of the publication will take place in the new fiscal year after the official opening of the Office of the Public Trustee. We plan to work with the Office of the Public Trustee to provide further information as their mandate expands.



### Resolving Complaints about Policing Services in New Brunswick: The New Brunswick Police Commission

PLEIS-NB was approached by the New Brunswick Police Commission to create a new pamphlet to educate the public on the role of the Commission. The result is a full-colour brochure which explains how the Commission can help resolve complaints against policing services. It is important that the public provide feedback to improve policing services. The pamphlet explains how to make a complaint about a municipal or regional police officer or share concerns about policing services in New Brunswick. It explains how the Police Commission can help resolve complaints in formal or informal ways.

The new publication will be launched in the upcoming year and distributed in a promotional mail out and added to both the PLEIS-NB and New Brunswick Police Commission’s new website.

### Moving Forward: A Program for Children (4 to 16 years) and their Mothers to Promote Healing from the Effects of Woman Abuse

Working in collaboration with the Women’s Issues Branch, PLEIS was engaged to create a plain language resource for the community agencies who will be delivering a “children’s program” to help youth deal with their exposure to family violence. The pamphlet describes the community-based group program for children aged 4 to 16 years. The program is intended to help children heal from the hurt of living with woman abuse in their family. Moving Forward is also intended for mothers whose children are participating in the program. It is a free, voluntary program



that offers separate, yet complimentary, group experiences for children and their mothers. Children and their mothers learn skills for making positive choices to end violence in their lives, creating safety plans, and making social connections. The child-centred focus of the program helps women “think through their children’s eyes” so they can better support their children’s healing process.

### Who’s Minding the Kids – Homecare Guide, Parent’s Guide and Sitter’s Guide

PLEIS updated its pamphlet series on ‘babysitting’. The three pamphlets, a homecare guide, a sitters guide and a parent’ guide, were revised to reflect changes in laws, such as new rules for restraints for children in vehicles, bicycle helmet laws, and so on. Specific information on such things as child care deductions on tax returns were made more generic to help extend the “shelf-life” of the product, as tax deductions change frequently. Rather than indicating the exact amounts, the pamphlet now includes links to appropriate government websites where individuals may find up-to-date information. As well, the pamphlets were given a face lift with a new graphic design. These popular pamphlets were widely distributed to daycares, family resource centres and children’s groups, and schools.



### Accommodating Students with Disabilities

New Brunswick Human Rights Commission developed a 46 page *Guideline for Accommodating Students with a Disability* which was released in October 2007. In an effort to promote awareness of the guideline and make the information accessible, the Human Rights Commission engaged the services of PLEIS-NB to create a 5 panel brochure which explains the purpose of the guideline, the responsibility of education providers, students and parents, and the complaint process. The text was approved and the Commission was responsible for design and layout. We are looking forward to the launch and promoting the printed product in the coming months.

### Specialized Domestic Violence Approach in Provincial Court

PLEIS-NB worked collaboratively with the Women’s Issues Branch, Executive Council Office and the new Domestic Violence Court Coordinating Team, to research, write, review, and publish a pamphlet which explains the role and procedures associated with the first ever specialized approach to domestic violence in Provincial Court in New Brunswick which was established as a pilot initiative in Moncton in April 2007. The pamphlet describes the specialized approach to domestic violence in the Provincial Court model in a generic sense, so that the pamphlet can eventually be used in other areas of the province if similar specialized courts are implemented elsewhere. The pamphlet explains the domestic violence court model and holistic approach used in New Brunswick and includes information about the services that are a part of this holistic approach, and provides a general description of the specialized process



and procedures. The pamphlet is bilingual and written in a plain language style. The distribution of the pamphlet will be undertaken collaboratively by PLEIS and the Women’s Issues Branch, Executive Council Office.

### Family Support Orders Service: Pamphlet and Fact Sheets

PLEIS-NB worked collaboratively with Program Support Services, Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs, to research, revise and reprint an existing pamphlet and to create 3 new accompanying fact sheets which explain the role and procedures associated with the New Brunswick Family Support Orders Service. These new publications help educate the public on new provincial legislation, the **Support Enforcement Act**, which recently came into force. The Act includes stronger enforcement measures to help ensure a dependable flow of support payments and to promote compliance. The main pamphlet, entitled **Family Support Orders Service**, features a new design and includes information on the new legislation and enforcement procedures and incorporates. The 3 fact sheets set out specific information on some of the new enforcement procedures, including federal license denial and provincial driving privileges suspension; corporate liability for support payments; and credit bureau reporting. The distribution of the pamphlet and fact sheets will be undertaken collaboratively by PLEIS and Program Support Services, Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs.

## DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES



Over the past year, PLEIS-NB distributed 119,582 publications to the public, government and service providers across New Brunswick. The majority of materials requested were family law, criminal law and family violence/violence in schools. These categories accounted for 65% of our distribution. The most requested publications from these categories included **No Means No: A Guide to Sexual Assault Law, Spanking and Disciplining Children**, and **Child Abuse**. Most of our publications are free of charge for orders up to 50 copies. We also sold close to 600 divorce guides. Materials for seniors and wills and estate planning publications were also very popular. The top users of our materials were schools, law firms, social service/non profit agencies and medical services. Almost half of the requests for materials were received by telephone, while another 41% came by fax or emails (webmails).



### PR and Promotion

PLEIS held launches, issued press releases, conducted proactive mail outs and posted on our website, the following new or revised publications:

- Child Abuse: Recognize It, Report It, Prevent It
- No Means No: Understanding Consent to Sexual Activity
- What’s Fair
- Going to a Nursing Home
- You and Your Lawyer,
- For the Sake of the Children.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS



### Youth Justice Initiative

Our extensive Youth Justice program was not funded for the 2007-2008 year and this unfortunately meant a suspension of classroom presentations. This had a direct impact on our distribution of youth justice materials. In 2006-2007, PLEIS-NB recorded 739 requests and 23,339 youth publications distributed, in 2007-2008 these numbers dropped to 644 requests and 14,787 publications. The most requested publications for 2007-2008 were Let's Stop Bullies (2760 copies), Consequences of a Youth Record (993 copies) and Youth have Rights! (844 copies).



We were pleased to receive a grant from the Department of Justice Canada under the Youth Justice Fund in February to reprint the popular *Consequences of a Youth Record* and to make revisions to our youthjustice.nb.ca website. This included adding our youth justice videos *Chasing Away Rain Clouds* and *A Chance for Change* available online. We hope this will allow youth to access the videos on their own and will provide a free resource for teachers, parents and youth workers. It is our intention to continue to find funding to fill the need for accurate and youth friendly information about youth rights and responsibilities under the Youth Criminal Justice System.

### Workshops for Charitable Organizations – The Registered Charity Information Return

In Canada Registered Charities must complete an annual Registered Charity Information Return for the Charities Directorate of the Canadian Revenue Agency. The leading cause for organizations having their charitable status revoked is the failure to file this form properly. To assist charitable organizations CRA funded the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS) to develop annotated forms and presentation materials that explain the intricacies of the form and the importance of providing accurate information on time. LISNS designed partnered with PLEIS-NB to deliver sessions in English and French across New Brunswick.

PLEIS-NB partnered with the Canadian Bar Association, the Saint John Volunteer Centre, United Way, Policy Link and others to host sessions in Moncton, Fredericton, Saint John, Bathurst as well as online web-conferencing. While the sessions were not as well attended as we had hoped, the participants were pleased with the training they received. Many appreciated the opportunity to ask specific questions and share their own tips or frustrations with the return. Because registration was low, PLEIS-NB recommended a mail out to over 1000 charitable organization, large and small, across the province. A promotional card was designed to direct charitable organizations to the PLEIS-NB website where they could link to the annotated forms, our *Charitable Giving* publication and other resources for charities.

In the coming year PLEIS will conduct a follow-up survey with the organizations who were represented at the sessions and/or received the promotional card to see if they found the information sessions helpful in completing their 2007 return and if they made use of the annotated forms.

### Youth Victims of Crime Video

The Department of Public Safety, Victim Services Program has partnered with PLEIS-NB to create a short bilingual video to be used with teen victims of crime. Funding was made available through the federal government to develop a DVD and other resources to help teens and their parents better understand the dynamics of victimization and the various supports and services available from the Victim Services Program when a youth victim participates in the criminal justice system.

The 2007-2008 phase of this multi-year project saw the establishment of a management and advisory committees and the development of the script, which included fieldtesting with youth. The Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from Department of Public Safety Victim Services, Fredericton Police Force, Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Education. The second phase of the project involves filming and editing the video and developing a guide for parents. These products will be launched next fall. The third phase of the project will be the development of a pamphlet for youth and evaluation of the video and guide.

### Community Safety: Reaching Abused Women with Key Family Violence Messages

PLEIS-NB received funding from the Women's Community Fund, Status of Women Canada, in the amount of \$56,826 to implement a two-year project entitled: **Community Safety: Reaching Abused Women With Key Family Violence Messages.**

The purpose of this project is to pilot a family violence prevention campaign, particularly designed for rural areas, that is based on key individual and community safety messages extracted from a variety of evidence-based sources, including research on the connection between family violence, firearms and animal abuse. We plan to share these messages in unique and innovative ways. The first goal is to help women who may be isolated and alone, recognize the signs of abuse and take action to enhance their safety. The initiative is targeting women in their homes and communities and includes addressing some unique factors associated with experiencing abuse in a rural setting. The second goal is to create community awareness of family violence and explore the role that friends, neighbours and family can play in supporting victims of abuse and responding to them in a positive and helpful fashion.



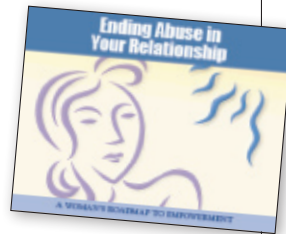
To accomplish these goals, PLEIS-NB has forged a partnership with the Miramichi Family Violence Partnerships Committee and their Bridging Gaps to End Violence Project headed by Outreach Coordinator, Patty Michaud. Together we are planning and implementing this project on a pilot basis. This partnership has enabled us to work collaboratively in a particular region to identify the bilingual products and education tools needed and to demonstrate the innovative ways that one can use to share them directly with abused women. Since the Miramichi has large rural population, as well as francophone communities and First Nation communities, we are seeking ways to disseminate the resources in a sensitive and appropriate fashion in all of these communities. Eventually, we hope to share the results of the project and the bilingual tools and resources with all of the family violence partnerships committees throughout the province. Since this is a cross-fiscal project, we will continue to collaborate with our project and community partners to develop resources and an innovative communication plan.

## Family Violence Revisions – A DOJ Project

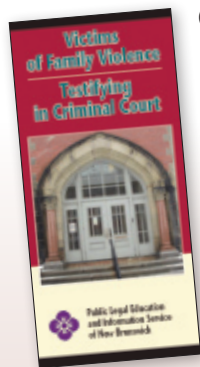
It is extremely important to ensure that the information we provide to abused women and service providers on the front line who play a major role in sharing information it with victims of domestic violence is accurate. We must constantly update, revise and reprint materials. Part of this process includes an evaluation of the use of the materials through fieldtests. We then incorporate suggested enhancements as required. Thanks to funding from Justice Canada, Family Violence Fund, we were able to review and revise the following publications:

### Ending Abuse in Your Relationship: A Woman's Roadmap to Empowerment

This booklet had been developed in 2006, in collaboration with the Women's Issues Branch, Executive Council Office, as a tool to help abused women understand the process of leaving abusive relationships and to help them document their journey to a violence free life. This immensely popular booklet was out of print and needed a number of revisions including the addition of new services and resources for survivors, such as family violence outreach workers and a new program for children who witnessed their mother's abuse. Frontline users suggested changing the format from a booklet, to a pocket-sized guide that would fit into a purse. In order to ensure that we could print sufficient quantities to meet the projected demand, we also obtained a grant for printing from Women's Issues Branch. Distribution will take place in the new fiscal year.



### Victims of Family Violence: Testifying in Criminal Court



This pamphlet was formerly called Information for Abused Women: Going to Court. Not only was it out of stock and requiring revisions, we had decided to make our family violence materials more generic in nature when the need for reprinting arose. While recognizing that the majority of victims are women, the more inclusive approach does not preclude male victims or same-sex victims of domestic violence. This approach was applauded by our reviewers and fieldtest participants who included police, Crown prosecutor, victim services and community representatives. This booklet answers some of the questions commonly asked by victims in domestic violence cases. It discusses some legal questions such as testifying against a spouse, and it refers victims to the assistance, services and resources that can help them navigate the criminal justice system.

## Before Getting Married... Be Sure Your Home is Loving and Safe

This revised publication encourages people thinking about marriage to consider the nature of their relationship and be aware of the warning signs for family violence. It is being made available to religious organizations, transition houses, and other service providers to promote family violence awareness and prevention in New Brunswick. The pamphlet will be featured on a new site RAVE – [www.theraveproject.org](http://www.theraveproject.org) which assists religious leaders and families of faith to deal with the impact of abuse.



## The Healing Journey: National Campaign Update and Ongoing Development of Provincial Initiative

The original New Brunswick Healing Journey Toolkit and Website were developed collaboratively in 2005-07 by PLEIS-NB and Gignoo as a family violence prevention resource for New Brunswick Aboriginal communities. Funding for the original project was provided to both Gignoo and PLEIS-NB by numerous federal and provincial government partners. In January 2007, Gignoo received additional funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to create a National Healing Journey initiative. Gignoo and PLEIS continued their successful collaboration for this national initiative which entailed developing generic and/or province-specific information for the Toolkit and Website. The goal was to provide resources for First Nations and Aboriginal communities across Canada, in English and French (where available). The National Healing Journey Initiative was completed during the 2007-08 fiscal year, and although we are still developing our dissemination and publicity strategy, there has been an extraordinary response to the new website. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups and individuals from across Canada have ordered copies of the toolkit.



As a follow-up to the National Healing Journey initiative, and to further develop community response to the New Brunswick Healing Journey initiative, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada provided funds to Gignoo for a meeting of the original working group and further dissemination of the National kit across Canada. As a result, Gignoo has partnered with PLEIS-NB to organize the follow-up meeting and to enhance the dissemination strategy, which will take place during the summer of 2008. We are looking forward to the opportunity to further develop this innovative, comprehensive family violence prevention initiative.

## Publication for Youth in Care

PLEIS-NB has contracted with the New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate/Office of the Ombudsman to develop resources for teens taken into care by Child Protection. The goal of the project is to provide a resource that will help to inform youth who are the subject of Child Protection services about laws that impact on their rights when taken into protective care and when placed in group homes or foster care. This is a cross-fiscal project, commenced in early 2008 and to be completed by March 31, 2009. PLEIS-NB is currently working with our project partner to establish an appropriate and effective Advisory Group consisting of key stakeholders, and to develop an outline of the publication.

## Revisions to National Guide to the Criminal Justice System for Victims of Sexual Assault

The Policy Centre for Victim Issues, Justice Canada contracted with PLEIS-NB to undertake comprehensive revisions to update a 20 year old national guide on what victims of sexual assault should know about the criminal justice system, entitled **After Sexual Assault...your guide to the criminal justice system....** PLEIS-NB reviewed the guide and researched the substantive changes in the law and legal process to create an initial draft, which was also subjected to a comprehensive plain-language edit. PLEIS-NB also undertook to research, update and enhance the resource section of the guide to include current contact information as well as new organizations and service providers. This initial draft was then presented to a group of experts and service providers at a fieldtesting session organized by PLEIS-NB in December, 2007. The participants in the fieldtest included representatives from the police; the Office of the Attorney General, Crown Prosecutor's Office; the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre; second stage housing for abused women; the Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault; Victim Services Program, Department of Public Safety; and nurses from the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE).

PLEIS-NB synthesized the results of the fieldtest into a comprehensive Fieldtesting Report, which was then submitted to the funder. Following feedback from Justice Canada with respect to the initial draft and the Fieldtesting Report, PLEIS-NB submitted a final draft to the funder incorporating the suggested changes. This final draft is now accurate with respect to the legal content, and much more accessible from a literacy perspective. As well, the tone of the final draft guide is considerably more empowering to victims of sexual assault. The anticipated publication date of the revised guide is unknown, as Justice Canada will publish the final guide following an internal professional review process.

## Federal Guide for Victims of Mentally Disordered Accused

The Policy Centre for Victim Issues, Justice Canada, contracted with PLEIS-NB to research and draft a new national publication for victims of crime entitled **A Federal Guide for Victims of Mentally Disordered Accused.** PLEIS-NB was particularly well-suited to this project due to our 2007 collaboration with the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety's Victim Services program which resulted in the publication of a provincial pamphlet entitled **What Victims of Crime Should Know About Not Criminally Responsible Accused.** Both publications required researching recent amendments to the Criminal Code (in particular, Bills C-2 and C-10). The Federal Guide was to be much more comprehensive in scope since it applies to victims of crime across Canada and had to include national resources. The federal guide includes a brief overview of what is meant by terms such as "unfit to stand trial" and "not criminally responsible" due to mental illness. The guide explains why mental health is considered important in a criminal trial and what happens when the Court finds a person accused of a crime unfit to stand trial or not criminally responsible for an offence. The guide also explains in a generic fashion how the Court makes these decisions and the role of Criminal Code Review Boards. It includes a section specific to victims' rights in cases involving mentally disordered accused. PLEIS-NB submitted an initial draft to the funder in November 2007 and responded to feedback and suggestions from Justice Canada various reviewers, submitting a final draft to the funder in March, 2008. We have received positive feedback from Justice Canada. The publication date of this new guide is unknown, as Justice Canada continues with an internal professional review process.

## COMMITTEES, RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIONS



PLEIS participates in a variety of consultations dealing with law information matters. We also sit on national, provincial, and local committees. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, we continued to participate on the following committees: **New Brunswick Silent Witness Organizing Committee**, the **Provincial Caring Partnership Committee**, the **Workplace Family Violence Advisory Committee**, the **Fredericton Regional Resource Network**, the **Atlantic Regional Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety**, and the **Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women**.



The executive director also participates in family violence research and sits on the Board of the **Public Legal Education Association of Canada** and various sub-committees. This year, the Legal Research Coordinator and the Project Manager accompanied the director to the annual conference which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2007-2008

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**TEED  
SAUNDERS  
DOYLE & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
An Independent Member of  
DPK Canada Inc. and DPK International

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick Inc.

We have audited the statement of receipts and disbursements of the core fund for the year ended March 31, 2008. This statement is the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, the statement of receipts and disbursements presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the core fund for the year ended March 31, 2008 in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*Teed Saunders Doyle & Co.*

June 19, 2008  
Fredericton, NB

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE OF NEW BRUNSWICK INC. CORE FUND

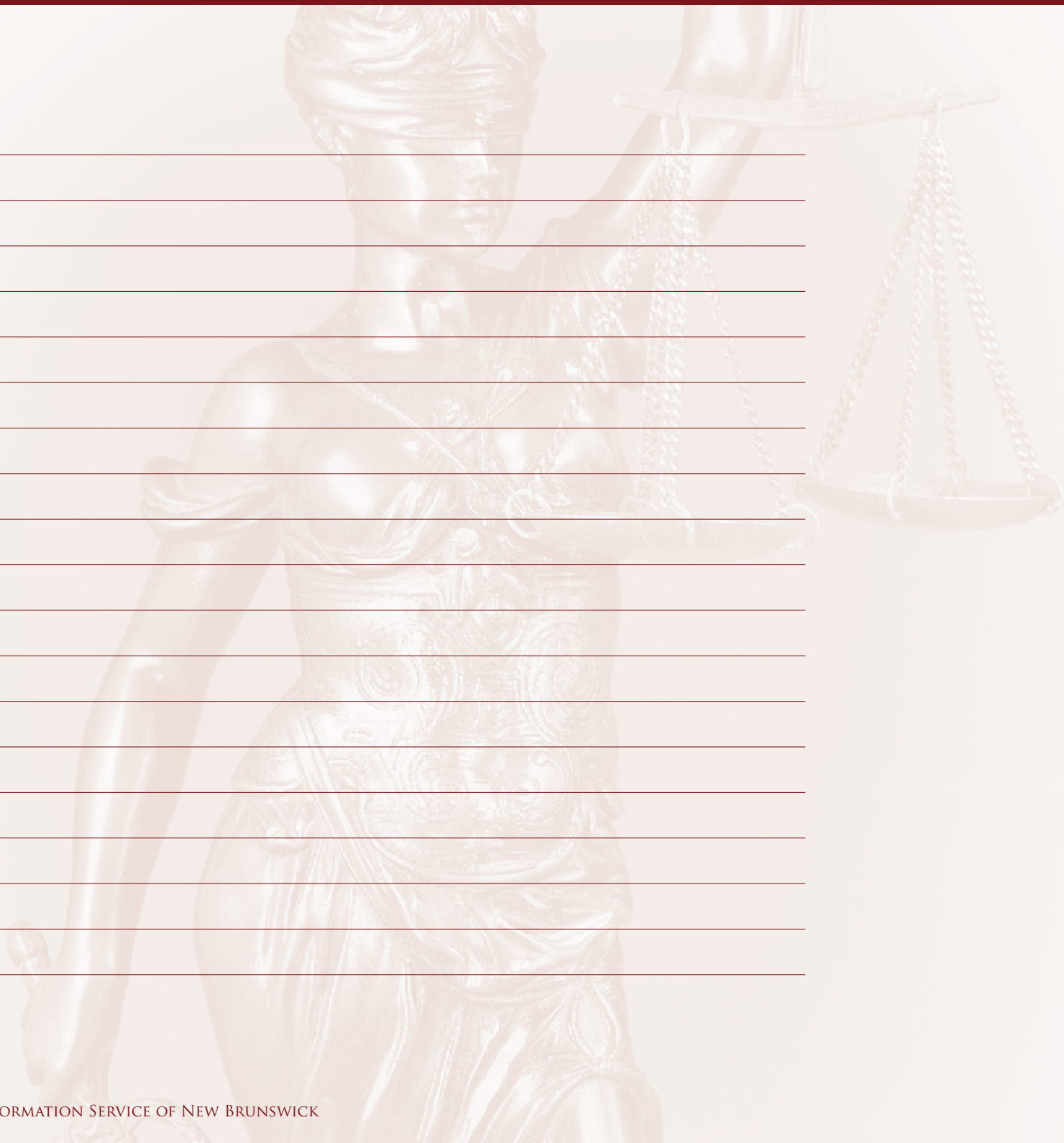
### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	Actual 2008	Budget 2008	Actual 2007
<b>Receipts</b>			
Justice Canada	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
New Brunswick Law Foundation	70,000	50,000	50,000
N.B. Department of Justice (note 2)	56,200	56,200	56,200
Other	<u>24,856</u>	<u>19,000</u>	<u>29,465</u>
	<u>221,056</u>	<u>195,200</u>	<u>205,665</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Conference and travel	6,154	6,000	5,958
Office expense	41,036	35,000	34,442
Printing and distribution	60,781	37,000	41,422
Professional services	11,418	9,000	11,624
Salaries and benefits	80,414	85,000	91,527
Translation	<u>21,253</u>	<u>33,200</u>	<u>20,692</u>
	<u>221,056</u>	<u>195,200</u>	<u>205,665</u>
<b>Excess Of Receipts Over Disbursements For The Year</b>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>

**TEED  
SAUNDERS  
DOYLE & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants  
An Independent Member of  
DPK Canada Inc. and DPK International

# NOTES



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