



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2009**

# *INTRODUCTION*

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The Yukon Law Foundation was initially authorized in the Legal Profession Ordinance by amendments made in 1975, but was not actually established by the Government of Yukon until 1979. The Foundation now carries on its mandate under the Yukon *Legal Profession Act* proclaimed April 1, 1985.

The Foundation receives all its revenue from interest on the trust accounts of the lawyers practising law in the Yukon and from interest on the Foundation's investments. The money available to the Foundation to pursue its objectives will therefore vary from year to year depending on the amount of client money held in trust in a lawyer's trust account. For the year ending October 31, 2009 the interest paid to the Foundation was \$18,067. For the year ending October 31, 2008, the interest paid to the Foundation was \$203,026. The decrease in interest received during this fiscal year reflects the unprecedented low bank interest rates.

Work has been undertaken to renegotiate rates with the five local banks to ensure there is a minimum (floor) interest rate when prime rate is as low as it has been recently. The Law Foundation depends entirely on the interest on lawyers' trust accounts to provide funding for grants and scholarships to Yukoners and Yukon organizations.

Individuals or organizations wishing to apply for a grant from the Yukon Law Foundation should contact the Law Foundation at the following:

Yukon Law Foundation  
Box 31789  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6L3  
Phone: (867) 667-7500  
Fax: (867) 393-3904  
E-mail: [execdir@yukonlawfoundation.com](mailto:execdir@yukonlawfoundation.com)  
Web Site: [www.yukonlawfoundation.com](http://www.yukonlawfoundation.com)

The Board meets a minimum of twice per year for general grant applications (April and September) and once per year in September to review scholarship applications.

# ***OBJECTIVES***

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As noted in the Introduction, the Yukon Law Foundation is the recipient of the interest, which banks must pay on the trust accounts of lawyers practising law in the Yukon. The objectives of the Foundation are to use these funds, as the Board of Directors see fit, for:

- **conducting research into and recommending reform of law and the administration of justice;**
- **establishing, maintaining and operating law libraries for public use;**
- **contributing to the legal education and knowledge of members and the people of the Yukon and providing programs and facilities therefore;**
- **legal aid programs and programs of like nature for the benefit of persons unable to afford the legal services they require;**
- **contributing to the Assurance Fund;**
- **contributing to the cost incurred by the Law Society in relation to proceedings under Part 3 of the *Legal Profession Act*; and,**
- **doing all other things that are incidental or conducive to the attaining of the objects enumerated in the preceding paragraphs.**

# ***ADMINISTRATION AND GRANTS***

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The affairs of the Yukon Law Foundation are conducted by a Board of Directors comprised of six members, three being appointed by the Commissioner in Executive Council and three being appointed by The Law Society of Yukon. The Board members serve for a period of two years and can be reappointed. The Chair is appointed from within the membership.

The members of the Yukon Law Foundation Board during the 2008-09 fiscal year were:

## ***Appointed by The Law Society of Yukon***

Chair: Malcolm E.J. Campbell  
(term expired May 30, 2009)  
Michael Reynolds  
(appointed as Chair in September)

Board Members: Lesley McCullough  
Rick Smith

## ***Appointed by the Commissioner in Executive Council***

Board Members: Thomas Ullyett  
Michael Reynolds  
Janet Wood  
Norah Mooney (appointed in September)

The Board contracts an Executive Director for the Yukon Law Foundation.

Executive Director: Deana Lemke

The Board of Directors meets to consider applications and issues. Decisions of the Foundation are made in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the members present at a meeting. The Foundation presents a record of its financial position at each meeting and grants are considered in light of the revenues of the Foundation and the merits of each application. Applicants who receive grants are required to acknowledge in their grant activities the funding involvement of the Foundation.

# ***PROJECTS ACCEPTED***

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Grants accepted for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2009 are as follows:

## **Associations & Organizations**

Law Society of Yukon	
o CanLII Levy (half of annual fee)	\$ 3,812
Lynn MacDiarmid	
o Headnotes for the 2008 Yukon Law Reports	\$10,000
Yukon Human Rights Commission	
o Training Trainers in Duty to Accommodate Education and Policy Development	\$19,580
Supreme Court of Yukon Territory	
o Bench and Bar Seminar	\$ 5,400
Yukon Legal Services Society	
o Poverty Law pilot project (staff lawyer position)	\$ 30,000
Yukon Public Legal Education Association	
o Reprinting booklet: <i>A Child's Right to Love</i>	\$ 2,275

## **Law Libraries**

Law Library Society of Yukon	
o Textbooks	\$ 4,310
Law Library Society of Yukon	
o Subscriptions	\$ 33,720

# ***SCHOLARSHIPS***

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- A total of 8 scholarships were granted to Yukon students totalling \$12,800.
- One scholarship for the Professional Legal Training Course was awarded for \$1,500.

# *AUDIT*

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The accounting firm of MacKay LLP was retained to provide audited Financial Statements for the Yukon Law Foundation for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2009. Those statements are attached to this report.



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*Mike Reynolds*  
*Chair*  
*Yukon Law Foundation*