20 25 ANNUAL REPORT



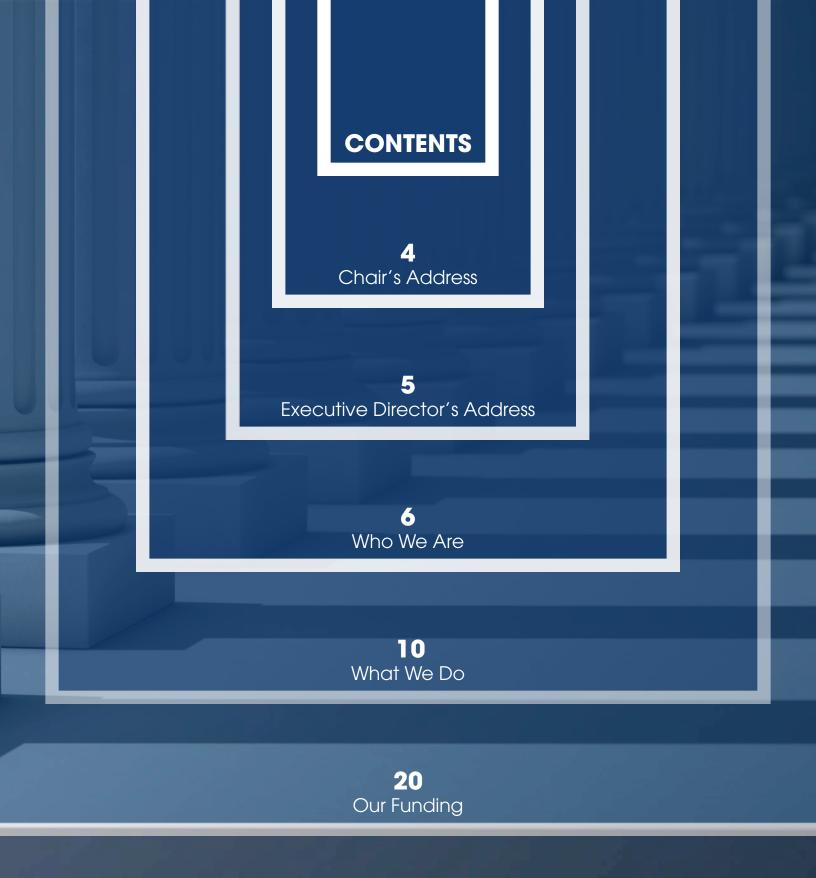
ALBERTA LAW REFORM INSTITUTE



OUR VISION Just and effective laws

OUR MISSION

Improve the laws of Alberta



34 Our Supporters



It is a privilege to deliver my first address as Chair of the Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI) Board. I am honoured to serve in this role alongside such a distinguished group of highly respected and accomplished legal professionals. Thank you to my fellow Board members for placing your trust in me.

Sincere thanks also goes to ALRI's Executive Director, Sandra Petersson KC, and to the entire ALRI team including legal counsel, support

staff, and student researchers. Under Ms. Petersson's leadership, the Institute has consistently demonstrated a commitment to crafting just and effective laws.

This year also brought a moment of reflection and loss as we mourn the passing of former ALRI Board Chair, Donald Cranston KC. To many, he was a friend, mentor, and colleague. To those at ALRI, he was all of those—and more. He was a steadfast advocate for improving the lives of Albertans, whether through legal reform or his extensive community leadership.

The Board itself experienced several changes this year. Barbara Billingsley, Carly Fox, and Karen Platten concluded their terms in June 2025. We are grateful for the insight and expertise they brought to the table during their tenure. A special thank you to Ms. Platten, who served on the Board for nine years and played a vital role in our Wills project.

We also welcomed new members: Debbie Klein, University of Alberta Law Dean Fiona Kelly, Stacy Petriuk KC, and Donald Scott KC. Debbie Klein joins us as ALRI's first public member-at-large and has already contributed meaningfully by broadening the perspectives informing our work.

The Board was active on multiple fronts this year. ALRI's ambitious project to reform Alberta's *Residential Tenancies Act* remained a central focus, as it carefully evaluated the scope and potential impact of these changes. In addition, the Board completed its project selection cycle and voted to adopt The Voice of the Child in Family Court Matters as ALRI's next official law reform initiative. Work was also done to strengthen ALRI's governance and financial policies, enhancing transparency and accountability in reporting to its funders and founding partners.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our funders. The Alberta Law Foundation has been a committed and valued supporter of ALRI's mission to improve the laws of Alberta. We are honoured to work with such a collaborative organization that is dedicated to improving access to legal information and support for all Albertans. Our gratitude also goes to Alberta Justice for their continued partnership in ensuring our laws serve the public's best interests and to the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary for their in-kind contributions.

Finally, we are thankful for the individuals who volunteer their time on ALRI's professional advisory committees and those who participate in our consultations. Your expertise and input are essential to ALRI's work. The progress we make in improving Alberta's laws would not be possible without your contributions.

I would be remiss if I did not begin my address by acknowledging the passing of our long-serving board member, Donald Cranston KC. ALRI was truly fortunate to have such an exceptional leader who generously shared his time and wisdom with the Institute. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Deirdre McKenna KC, who has graciously volunteered to take on the role of Board Chair. Both the Board and staff recognize the extra commitment this responsibility entails and are deeply grateful for her decision to step into this important position.



The Institute formally approved its law reform project on the *Residential Tenancies Act*. ALRI Counsel spent much of this year meeting with stakeholders individually to learn about issues in residential tenancies in greater detail. ALRI published its Issues Paper on the *Residential Tenancies Act* late this year. Improving the *Residential Tenancies Act* is a substantial undertaking and this Issues Paper will serve as the first in series of reports that address several aspects of the Act.

ALRI also began work on its law reform project that considers the voice of the child in family court matters. This new project will include a legal education component and a review of whether Alberta legislation should expressly recognize the right of a child to have their voice heard in court matters that affect them.

I would like to thank the Alberta Law Foundation, Alberta Justice, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary for being outstanding supporters of our work. The Institute takes pride in having recognized expertise when it comes to improving the law through an independent and experienced lens.

ALRI acknowledges the legal professionals who generously volunteer their time to serve on our advisory committees, as well as to those who participate in our consultations. We deeply appreciate the time you dedicate to providing your input and strive to ensure it is reflected in our publications.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board, counsel, and staff at the Institute. It is truly an honor to collaborate with such committed and skilled individuals. ALRI's success and the exceptional work it produces are a direct result of their dedication to our vision of just and effective laws.

WHO WE WE ARE

BOARD MEMBERS

Deirdre MI McKenna, KC Chair (as of July 2024) Donald R Cranston KC, Chair Alice Barnsley-Kamal Justice Dave Hancock **Professor Cameron Hutchison Dean Fiona Kelly Professor Howard Kislowicz** Debbie Klein Calvin Johnson KC Justice Peter B. Michalyshyn Donna L. Molzan KC Stacy Petriuk KC Kathleen Ryan KC June Ross KC **Donald Scott KC** Matthew Woodley

STAFF

Sandra Petersson KC Executive Director Laura Buckingham Carol Burgess Barry Chung Ilze Hobin Kyla Krysko Katherine MacKenzie Matthew Mazurek Stella Varvis

THE INSTITUTE

The Alberta Law Reform Institute [ALRI] was established in November 1967 by the Attorney General of Alberta, the Governors of the University of Alberta and the Law Society of Alberta. In 2019, ALRI incorporated as a non-profit. ALRI is funded by the Alberta Law Foundation, Alberta Justice and the University of Alberta. Funding in kind is provided by the University of Alberta and University of Calgary.

The ALRI Board is composed of up to sixteen directors with six being nominees of the founding parties who then nominate up to ten additional directors-at-large from the legal community. The nominees of the founding parties are chosen as follows:

- one elected Bencher nominee from the Law Society of Alberta
- two nominees from Alberta Justice
- the Provost of the University of Alberta or an academic staff member nominated by the Provost
- one nominee from the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta
- one nominee from the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary
- ten nominees chosen by the other directors of the Board

OUR BOARD

The ALRI Board saw some changes this year. ALRI Board member Deirdre McKenna KC took on the role of Chair. Ms. McKenna has been an ALRI Board member since 2018 and has been a crucial voice on the last ten law reform projects. Her commitment to improving the laws of Alberta made her the natural choice for Chair.

Donald Scott KC joined the ALRI Board in January 2025. Throughout his career, Donald has demonstrated commitment to community service through his various elected positions as mayor of the Municipality of Wood Buffalo and MLA of Alberta. He also served on various boards such as the Law Society of Alberta and United Way. ALRI is excited to benefit from Donald's expertise and insight as it works on current and upcoming law reform initiatives.

The ALRI Board welcomes Debbie Klein. Debbie is currently the Executive Director of the Edmonton Community Legal Centre but has also dedicated most of her career to free community based legal services. Debbie brings to the ALRI Board her relationships and associations with a large network of community leaders and agencies, and a familiarity with the experiences of lower income Albertans with the law and the justice system.

OUR STAFF

ALRI's complement of support staff and counsel benefited from the addition of new team members.

The Institute welcomed executive assistant, Kyla Krysko, to its team of support staff early this year. Kyla has since become an integral member of ALRI committed to supporting the work of law reform.

Sawyer Nessel and Rachel Ponzikoff also joined ALRI's team as summer student researchers. They provided research and writing support for ALRI's projects and reports on the *Residential Tenancies Act* and the Voice of the Child in Family and Child Protection Court Matters. Both Sawyer and Rachel provided such outstanding work that ALRI continued to employ them part-time through the academic year.

May 2024 marked Carol Burgess's 30th anniversary with ALRI. Since Carol joined ALRI as its Administrator, she has ensured that the Institute operates as a well oiled machine. Her dedication to the work of the Institute through thick and thin have made her an invaluable member of the team. The ALRI staff and Board thank her for her many years of service.

ALRI said farewell to Counsel Katherine MacKenzie at the end of March 2025. Katherine moves into another role with the Alberta Court of King's Bench. Katherine joined the Institute in 2014 as a Research Associate but quickly moved into the role of Legal Counsel. Over her 11 years with ALRI, she authored six reports in several areas of law including family, estate planning and corporate law. Beyond her publications, Katherine was an integral part of the Institute in supporting her colleagues and shaping the direction of all of its law reform projects in addition to the projects she was directly leading. ALRI wishes her the best in her new endeavours.



IN MEMORY OF DON CRANSTON KC

The Alberta Law Reform Institute honours the life and contributions of Donald Cranston KC.

For eight years, Don brought his wisdom, experience, and steadfast dedication to the Institute's mission of advancing just and effective laws. Whether serving as a Board Member or as Chair, his commitment to fairness in Alberta's justice system was reflected in ALRI's work since 2016.

Don was a thoughtful advocate who consistently sought to bring humanity into the realm of law reform. His efforts to improve the communities of Alberta extended outside the legal realm and into his work with countless non-profit service organizations.

A consummate professional, a nurturing mentor and a friend to everyone. His passing leaves a considerable absence in the legal community and beyond.

Thank you for your service, Don.

WHAT WE DO

OUR YEAR

ALRI made significant progress on its law reform project on the *Residential Tenancies Act. Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues*, Issues Paper 6 was published in March 2025. The Institute partnered with the Justice Design and Data Lab based out of the University of Victoria to enhance its data and research capacity. ALRI also briefed the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction on its latest updates on the *Residential Tenancies Act* project.

Work began on ALRI's project on the voice of the child in family court matters. The first preliminary publication has been reviewed by ALRI's professional advisory committee with potential publication in the near future.

FEDERATION OF LAW REFORM AGENCIES OF CANADA SYMPOSIUM

In May 2024, ALRI staff and counsel met with delegates from law reform agencies across Canada for the biennial symposium held by the Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada. Representatives from British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia met to share knowledge and discuss the future of law reform in their respective jurisdictions. Topics included international law reform initiatives, public engagement and consultation, impact of law reform, legal needs and literacy and conducting empirical research in law reform.

ALRI thanks the Institut Québécois de réforme du droit et de la Justice for hosting a wonderful symposium.

LAW COMMISSION OF CANADA

In February 2025, the Institute connected with its federal counterpart, the Law Commission of Canada. The University of Alberta Law Faculty hosted a listen and learn roundtable that also included the Wahkotowin Law and Governance Lodge and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. Representatives from ALRI discussed its projects on the voice of the child in family court matters and the Alberta *Residential Tenancies Act*.



OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS

(Post-publication)

BACKGROUND

The Alberta Evidence Act [AEA] currently requires that every witness first be asked to swear a religious oath to tell the truth. Only if a witness does not want to swear an oath, may the witness be allowed to make a secular affirmation, that being a solemn promise to tell the truth without any reference to God. Both an oath and affirmation have the same legal effect, however, the presiding officer administering the procedure must first confirm that the witness's objection to a religious oath is justified on grounds specified in the AEA. This is known as the object-and-justify model.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2014, ALRI recommended that the object-and-justify model be replaced with a free choice model so that a witness or deponent can simply choose either to swear an oath or to affirm without any need for objection or justification.

IMPACT

The Alberta government's Justice Statutes Amendment Act received royal assent on December 5, 2024 and included changes that largely mirrored ALRI's 2014 recommendations. People in Alberta now have the option to either make a secular affirmation or take a religious oath in court without having to explain their decision, ensuring their rights are upheld.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

(Policy options)

BACKGROUND

The Alberta *Residential Tenancies Act* establishes the rights, rules, and obligations that govern the relationship between a landlord and tenant. While individuals in Alberta routinely find themselves dealing with the law, the Act is in need of reform. The *Residential Tenancies Act* is important because it affects over 25% of households in Alberta.

ALRI approved its project on the *Residential Tenancies Act* as an official law reform project in early 2024.

OUTPUTS

On top of the extensive pre-project consultation, ALRI continued meeting with stakeholders throughout 2024 and 2025 to further identify common issues with residential tenancies.

ALRI published its Issues Paper, Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues in March 2025. This is the first in a series of reports summarizing issues in the law faced by tenants and landlords on a daily basis. While issues frequently involve money, there can also be broader impacts for landlords and tenants and their families. ALRI also found signs that the Residential Tenancies Act, related legislation, and enforcement mechanisms are not working as well as they could be. ALRI heard that the legislation is confusing and difficult to understand.

NEXT STEPS

Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues will guide ALRI's future project work. To further enhance data and research capacity, ALRI has also partnered with the Justice Data and Design Lab, part of the British Columbia Access to Justice Centre for Excellence at the University of Victoria.

The Institute anticipates publishing its first set of specific recommendations in mid 2025. *Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues* also discusses issues with residential tenancies that will be outside the scope of ALRI's project. ALRI hopes that publishing these issues will inform the work of other agencies with the necessary expertise and resources to address issues that ALRI is not able to.

VOICE OF THE CHILD IN FAMILY COURT MATTERS Consultation

BACKGROUND

ALRI is currently reviewing how the voice of the child is considered in family and child protection court matters. Meaningful participation by children during family law disputes has been shown to produce better outcomes for the children and their families. It also has benefits for other stakeholders including lawyers, mental health professionals, social service providers, and government.

ALRI's law reform project includes a review of whether Alberta legislation should expressly recognize the right of a child to have their voice heard in court matters that affect them.

OUTPUTS

Throughout 2024-2025, ALRI researched case law in Alberta and recruited subject matter professionals to be part of its professional advisory committee.

During its first phase of research, ALRI found that rules and procedures for representing children's views in courts lacked clarity. The options for representing children's views varied substantially depending on the circumstances at hand.

NEXT STEPS

ALRI will be publishing a resource guide in mid-2025 that practitioners could use as a reference when exploring options for ensuring children are heard in court matters related to them.

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ACCESS TO DIGITAL ASSETS BY FIDUCIARIES (Post-publication)

BACKGROUND

Individuals are increasingly storing their important personal information and other digital property online within the servers of large American companies such as Google, Facebook and Apple. The problem is that outdated laws govern who can access those assets after the owner dies or loses capacity and proving a person's legal right to access another's digital assets is a long and expensive court process. ALRI published Access to Digital Assets, Final Report 121 last year.

NEXT STEPS

This law reform project is officially completed and is in its post-publication phase. The Government of Alberta has yet to announce any plans to implement changes to the law.

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REACH AND ENGAGEMENT



1,017 LINKEDIN CLICKS/ SHARES/LIKES/ COMMENTS

1,697 YOUTUBE VIEWS



1,176 VISITS TO ACTIVE PROJECT PAGES

720 PUBLICATION VIEWS/ DOWNLOADS*

* Views/downloads of Final Reports published in the previous 10 years only. Total views/downloads of all types of reports including Reports for Discussion, Issues Papers, Research Papers, Consultation Memorandums, and supplemental documents of ALRI's complete publication library far exceeds 720.

PRESENTATIONS

GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

REACH AND ENGAGEMENT (Cont'd from previous page)



Throughout 2025, ALRI Counsel conducted in-person engagements with several groups including:

- the professional legal community
- the government
- tenants
- landlords
- stakeholder organizations
- law students

IMPLEMENTATION

67% IMPLEMENTATION RATE

33 JUDICIAL CITATIONS

The Legislature implemented ALRI's 2014 recommendations in Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 which amends the Alberta Evidence Act to allow witnesses a free choice between a religious oath or a secular affirmation.

This increased ALRI's implementation rate to 66.7%. ALRI has long had the highest implementation rate in Canada.

ALRI's publications continue to be cited in case law with 33 judicial citations including one from Ontario. ALRI's work was also referenced several times on popular legal interest and law firm blogs.

APRIL

- Hoellwarth v. Vital Statistics Alberta Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Maruzs Estate (Re)
- Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Powell Estate (Re) Alberta Court of King's Bench

MAY

- Board of Trustees of the Nova Scotia Public Service Long Term Disability Fund v. Garnier Nova Scotia Supreme Court
- Lesenko v. Wild Rose Ready Mix Ltd. Alberta Court of King's Bench
- An Electronic Change is Gonna Come: Recommendations for the Alteration and Revocation of Electronic Wills
- ABLawg.ca
- · Reform of Occupiers' Liability Law in Saskatchewan
- Law Reform Institute of Saskatchewan

JUNE

- Lesenko v. Wild Rose Ready Mix Ltd. Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Ehli v. Lamanator Coatings Ltd.
- Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Pederson v. Pederson Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Great North Equipment Inc. v. Penney Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Anti-SLAPP laws in Ontario: Recent Trends and Lingering Uncertainties Justin Safayeni, Stockwoods LLP, Toronto Law Journal

JULY

- Law Society of Alberta v. Higgerty Alberta Court of King's Bench
- H2 Canmore Apartments LP v. Cormode & Dickson Construction Edmonton Ltd. Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Proposals for Amendments to The Sale of Goods Act, Final Report Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan

AUGUST

- Wesley v. Alberta
- Alberta Court of Appeal
- Tornqvist v. Shenner
 Alberta Court of Appeal
- Seeking Solutions
- UofA Law Faculty Website, Doug Johnson
- In Support of a New Alberta Act for Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets ABLawg
- Review of the Real Property Act 1886 (SA)
 University of Adelaide
- Litigation over lost will depletes "very modest" estate
 Laredo Law Blog

SEPTEMBER

- S 2 0
- Houle Estate (Re)
- Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Testamentary Responsibility The Edinburgh Law Review, Braun, A
- O debtor, where art thou? Updates to the debtor location rules under Alberta's
 Personal Property Security Act
 Dertage Low Place
- Dentons Law Blog

OCTOBER

- Morawetz v. Alberta (Director of SafeRoads) Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Schneider v Homenick
 Alberta Court of Appeal
- Fresh Kick at the Reform Cat:" Familial Relationships in the Succession Law Reform Act

Canadian Bar Association, Mikayla Castagna

NOVEMBER

- Kuc v. Head
- Alberta Court of Appeal

 Privileged Wills: Are They Still Relevant?
- Hull and Hull Blog, Suzana Popovic-Montag

DECEMBER

- A Reminder of the Transition Deadline: New Year, New Debtor Location Rules
 Under Alberta's PPSA
 Wildebeer Debter
 - Wildeboer Dellece LLP Blog

JANUARY

- St. Pierre v. Black Estate Alberta Court of King's Bench
- JL Energy Transportation Inc. v. Alliance Pipeline Limited Partnership Alberta Court of Appeal

FEBRUARY

- Edmonton (Hakka Tsung Tsin Assn.) v. Demei Alberta Court of King's Bench
- O'Reilly v. O'Reilly Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Huether v Sharpe Ontario Court of Appeal



- McCulloch v. McCulloch Alberta Court of King's Bench
- Christenson v. Kelly Alberta Court of King's Bench

OUR FUNDING

The work of law reform would not be possible without the ongoing financial support of our key funders. In 2024-2025, Institute funding was committed from the following sources:

Alberta Law Foundation Alberta Justice University of Alberta

\$824,000 \$500,000 \$60,000

Traditionally, the majority of ALRI's funding has come from the Alberta Law Foundation with another substantial portion coming from Alberta Justice.

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Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Alberta Law Reform Institute

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Law Reform Institute (the Institute), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Institute in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, in the Annual Report. The Annual Report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the Annual Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Alberta Law Reform Institute (continued)

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Institute or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Institute's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Institute's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KBH

Edmonton, Alberta July 3, 2025

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Chartered Professional Accountants

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025

		2025	2024
ASSETS			
CURRENT			
Cash	\$	510,369	\$ 774,058
Restricted cash (Note 4)		143,326	102,574
		653,695	876,632
EQUIPMENT (Note 5)		4,189	5,707
INVESTMENTS (Note 6)	_	1,675,916	 1,538,973
	5	2,333,800	\$ 2,421,312
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)	\$	375,691	\$ 604,252
Grant funding repayable		42,091	47,716
Deferred contributions (Note 4)		143,326	 102,574
		561,108	 754,542
NET ASSETS			
Invested in equipment		4,189	5,707
Restricted reserve fund (Note 8)		1,715,661	1,604,572
Unrestricted		52,842	 56,491
		1,772,692	1,666,770
	\$	2,333,800	\$ 2,421,312

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

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Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2025

		2025		2024
REVENUE				
Grants (Note 9)	\$	1,316,700	\$	1,291,977
Investment income (Note 10)	Ψ	151,177	Ψ	141,111
		1,467,877		1,433,088
EXPENSES				
Amortization		1,518		2,099
Audit		15,692		14,438
Bank charges		262		104
Board expenses		4,336		2,636
Communication		2,032		1,480
Consultation		10,553		3,849
Equipment rental		2,219		2,839
Insurance		5,127		4,767
Investment management fees		11,802		10,634
Library		267		1,462
Meetings and seminars		350		1,992
Memberships, dues and subscriptions		14,310		14,793
Printing and copying		2,519		2,055
Professional development		5,329		5,747
Salaries and benefits		1,250,645		1,195,241
Supplies and materials		15,383		13,849
Telephone and fax		4,217		5,891
Travel (staff)		11,745		11,851
		1,358,306		1,295,727
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$	109,571	\$	137,361

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	-	2024 Balance	ге	Excess efficiency) of venue over expenses	Interfu transf		d cont	ansfer to eferred tributions Note 4)		2025 Balance
Invested in equipment	\$	5,707	\$	(1,518) \$		-	\$	-	\$	4,189
Restricted reserve fund		1,604,572		108,024		3,065	ł	-		1,715,661
Unrestricted	_	56,491		3,065		(3,065)	(3,649)	52,842
	\$	1,666,770	\$	109,571 \$		-	\$	(3,649)\$	1,772,692

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Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31, 2025

		2025		2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES Excess of revenue over expenses	s	109,571	\$	137,361
Items not affecting cash:	3	107,371	Ð	157,501
Amortization of equipment		1,518		2,100
Unrealized gain on investments		(17,107)		(58,109)
		93,982		81,352
Changes in non-cash working capital:				
Prepaid expenses		-		4,252
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(228,559)		277,386
Grant funding repayable		(5,625)		27,580
Deferred contributions		37,101		36,803
		(197,083)		346,021
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	_	(103,101)		427,373
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of investments		(174,617)		(121,203)
Proceeds on disposal of investments		54,781		51,961
Cash flow used by investing activities		(119,836)		(69,242)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW		(222,937)		358,131
Cash - beginning of year		876,632		518,501
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$	653,695	\$	876,632
CASH CONSISTS OF:				
Cash	\$	510,369	\$	774,058
Restricted cash		143,326		102,574
	\$	653,695	\$	876,632

ALBERTA LAW REFORM INSTITUTE Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The Alberta Law Reform Institute was established in 1968 by the Attorney General of Alberta, the Governors of the University of Alberta and the Law Society of Alberta.

The objectives of the Institute are:

- (a) the consideration of matters of law reform with a view to proposing to the appropriate authority the means by which laws of Alberta may be made more useful and effective; and
- (b) the preparation of proposals for law reform in Alberta, with respect to both the substantive law and the administration of justice.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Institute is not subject to taxation.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Estimates made by management include:

- The assessment of the refundable portion of Alberta Law Foundation grant revenue and the deferred portion of grants from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.
- The assessment of the useful lives of equipment. This assessment has an impact on the amortization and net book value of the assets recorded in the financial statements.

Financial instruments

Initial measurement

The Institute initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. Financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involved parties whose sole relationship with the Institute is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost.

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. If it does, the cost is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. Otherwise, the cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Institute in the transaction.

(continues)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Subsequent measurement

The Institute subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses in the period incurred.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, and restricted cash. Financial assets measured at fair value include pooled investment funds. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities and grant funding repayable.

Impairment

For financial assets measured at cost, the Institute determines whether there are indications of possible impairment. When there are, and the Institute determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows, a write-down is recognized in excess of revenues over expenses. If the indicators of impairment have decreased or no longer exist, the previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement. The carrying amount of the financial asset may be no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess of revenues over expenses.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs attributable to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value and to those originated or exchanged in a related party transaction are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses in the period incurred. Transaction costs related to financial instruments originated or exchanged in an arm's length transaction that are subsequently measured at amortized cost are recognized in the original cost of the instrument. When the instrument is measured at amortized cost, transaction costs are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses over the life of the instrument using the straight-line method.

Cash

Cash includes cash held with banks. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash (see Note 4).

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization and is amortized over its estimated useful life at the following rates and methods:

Computer Office furniture and equipment 30% declining balance method 20% declining balance method

(continues)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Collections

The Institute maintains a library of research material and publications. Collections are expensed on acquisition.

Revenue recognition

The Institute follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year. Because of the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Institute is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the Institute's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2025.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Institute is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its grant providers and from obligations associated with its accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Institute mitigates this risk through annual budgetting based on committed revenues and planned use or contributions to the restricted reserve fund.

Market risk

Market risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments traded in the market.

The Institute is exposed to market risk from its investment in pooled investment funds. The pooled investment funds are recorded at market value at March 31, 2025. These investments are subject to volatility in the financial markets. Risk and volatility of investment returns are mitigated through diversification of investments.

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk to the Institute's earnings that arise from fluctuations of foreign exchange rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. The Institute is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk on investments held in U.S. dollars. The Institute does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk.

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

4. RESTRICTED CASH AND DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

		2025		2024
Continuity of deferred contributions				
Opening balance	\$	102,574	\$	60,344
Expenses		(2,120)		(4,330)
Transfers from unrestricted fund for staff professional				•
education		3,649		5,427
Deferral of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General revenue		27,329		29,637
Interest earned on Alberta Justice and Solicitor General funds		11,894		11,496
	<u>\$</u>	143,326	\$	102,574
Deferred contributions are comprised of: Funds restricted for staff professional education	\$	10,645	\$	9,116
Deferred Alberta Justice and Solicitor General revenue	0	132,681	~	93,458
		10-3001		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	\$	143,326	\$	102,574

5. EQUIPMENT

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		Cost	coumulated nortization	2025 Net book value
Computer	S	169,919	\$ 167,283	\$ 2,636
Office furniture and equipment		43,113	41,560	 1,553
	S	213.032	\$ 208,843	\$ 4,189

			Cost		ccumulated mortization	 2024 Net book value
	Office furniture and equipment 43,113 41	166,153 41,172	\$ 3,766 1,941			
		<u>\$</u>	213,032	\$	207,325	\$ 5,707
6.	INVESTMENTS					
					2025	 2024
	Pooled investment funds			\$	1,675,916	\$ 1,538,973
	All investments are held in the restricted reserve fund.					

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

7.	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		2025	_	2024
	Salaries and benefits payable Other trade payables	\$	355,666 20,025	\$	588,027 16,225
		\$	375,691	\$	604,252

8. NET ASSETS - RESTRICTED RESERVE FUND

The restricted reserve fund receives revenue from unrestricted surpluses and sources other than operating grants or project grants. The primary purpose of these funds is to provide for an orderly wind down and to meet contractual obligations to staff, including severances, should the need arise. The Board has the discretion to approve the use of restricted reserve funds surplus to wind down requirements to stabilize operations in the event of funding variations.

9. GRANTS

	 2025	2024
Alberta Law Foundation - current year grant Alberta Law Foundation - refundable portion of current grant Alberta Justice and Solicitor General	\$ 824,000 (42,091) 500,000	\$ 805,000 (47,716) 500,000
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General - deferred portion of current grant	(27,329)	(29,637)
University of Alberta	60,000	60,000
Revenue from restricted contributions	 2,120	4,330
	\$ 1,316,700	\$ 1,291,9 <u>77</u>

The Institute has beneficial relationships with the above noted organizations.

10. INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)

		2025	2024
Investment income Unrealized gain (loss) on investments Realized gain on investments	\$	120,909 17,107 13,161	\$ 77,616 58,109 5,386
	<u>\$</u>	151,177	\$ 141,111

All investment income is earned by the restricted reserve fund.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The University of Alberta provides office facilities and services at a cost of \$1 to the Institute.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

ALBERTA LAW REFORM INSTITUTE Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

12. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Institute receives 58% (2024 - 59%) of its operating revenue from Alberta Law Foundation, 38% (2024 - 37%) from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and 4% (2024 - 4%) from the University of Alberta.

OUR SUPPORTERS

In addition to our key funders, office space and support in kind is provided by:

- The University of Alberta
- The University of Calgary

We have always contended that law reform is an interactive process. Our work would not be possible without the commitment of subject matter experts who volunteered their time to consultation and advisory groups. The contributions of the following organisations in keeping their members and stakeholders up-to-date on our work are much appreciated:

- Law Society of Alberta
- Canadian Bar Association, Alberta Branch
- Legal Education Society of Alberta

Finally, we would like to thank the judges, authors and social media users who refer to our reports in the course of their work.



CONTACT US

All of our reports are freely available electronically on our website. We encourage you to contact us. The Your Views section on our website was designed to let you choose to be added to our electronic mailing list or provide comments on the current projects we are working on. You can also use this option to suggest an area for review that we are not currently addressing.

You can also follow us on social media for the latest on our projects and developments in Alberta law.

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