



2019 Annual Report

## Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society

#### FOUR PILLARS



Professional Services



Peer Support



Education & Awareness



Community



### **Professional Services**







#### Confidential

Assist is an independent, charitable society. Confidentiality is one of its cornerstones.

#### Counselling

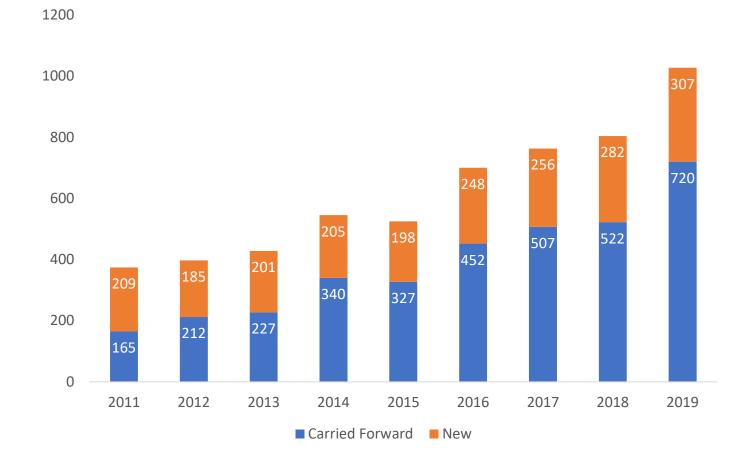
Up to 4 hours of professional services per person (lawyer, law student, family member), per issue, per year at no cost to them.

#### Forbes

Professional services are provided off-site by third party professionals off-site by counsellors from Forbes Psychological Services.

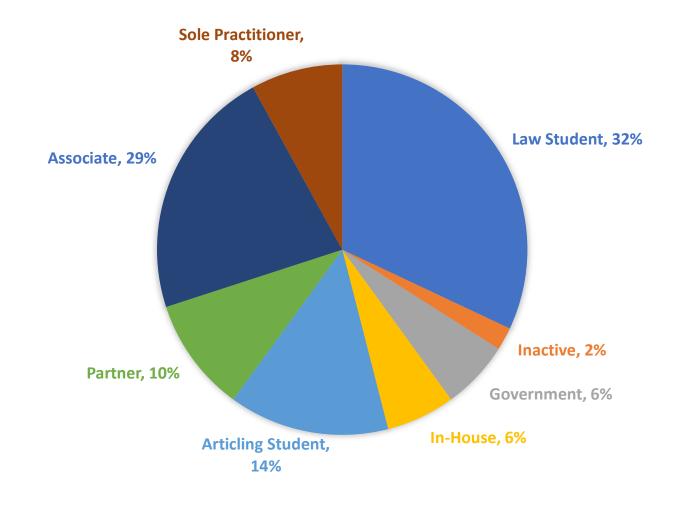


## How many people accessed counselling through Assist each year?





## What practice types accessed Assist counselling in 2019?





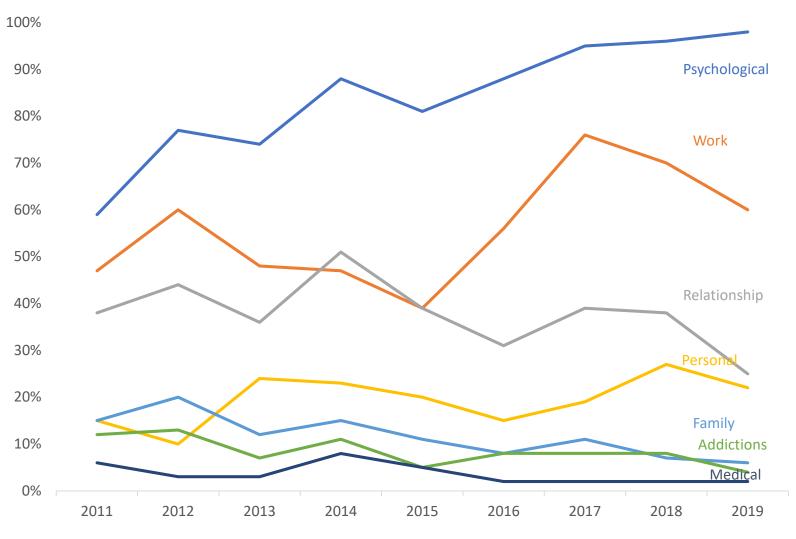
## Why did people seek Assist counselling in 2019?

Psychological Issues (anxiety, depression)	98%
Marital/ Relationship	25%
Family Problems	6%
Addictions Issues	4%
Work Problems	60%
Harassment	4%
Medical Problems	2%
Personal Support Issues	22%

Chart. Professional Counselling Presenting Problems (2019)

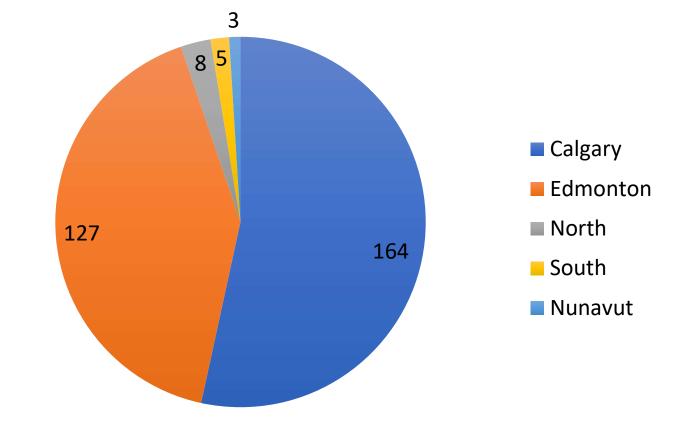


## What are the trends in Assist counselling issues?



# ASSIST

## From what regions are Assist's new cases coming?





### Peer Support







#### Confidential

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#### Participants

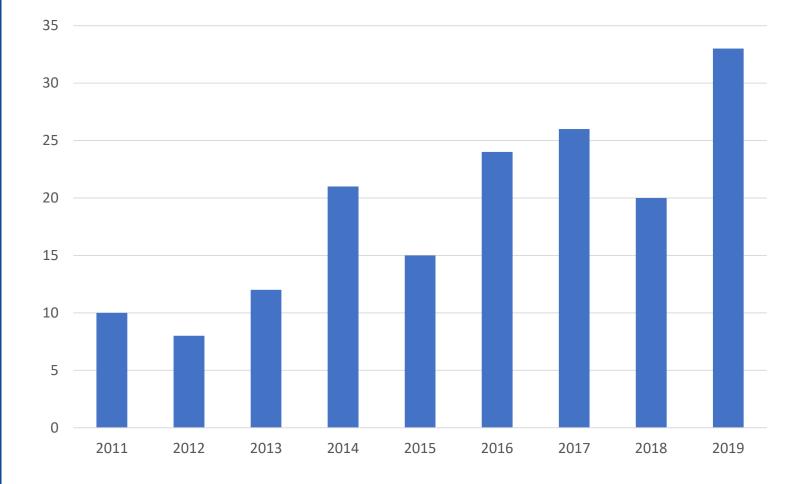
Participants are matched with a qualified volunteer who has shared a similar experience or can otherwise relate to the participant.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers are trained and provided resources so they can offer emotional, personal, or career-related support.

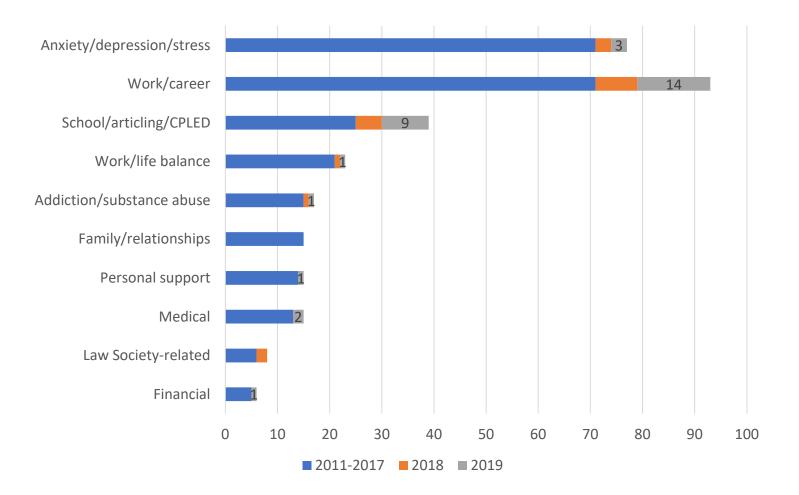


## How many peer support matches does Assist make each year?





## Why do people seek peer support through Assist?





### **EDUCATION & AWARENESS**



Reduce the incidence of addiction, mental illness and emotional distress among members of the legal profession in Alberta through preventative education and the provision of coping and professional counselling assistance.





## Walk For Wellness 2019

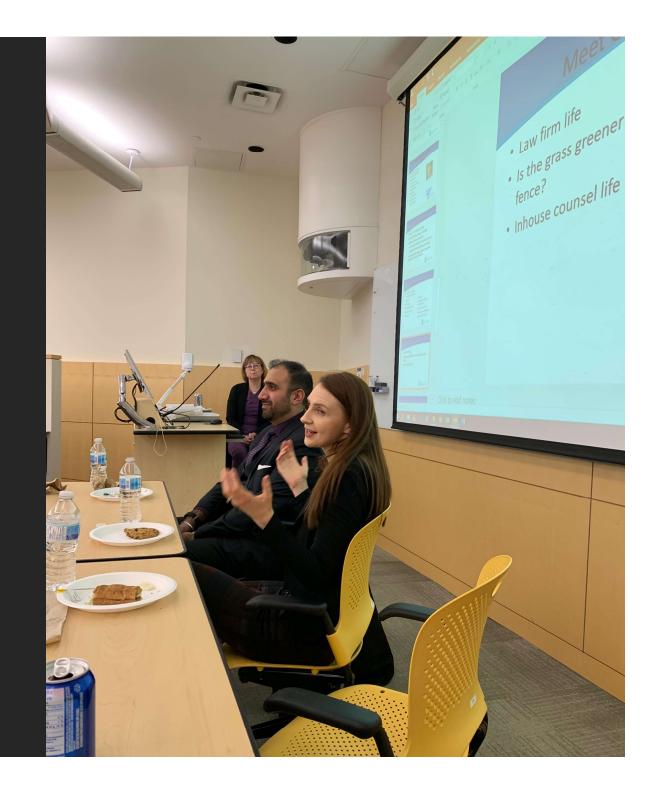






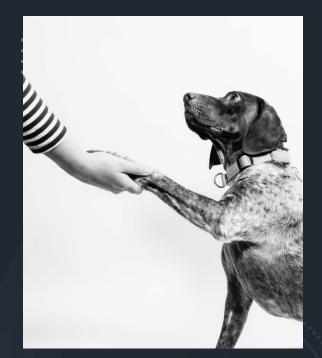
## Hand to Hand November 26, 2019

### University of Calgary Law Student Presentation





### ASSIST BOOTH AT THE LAKE LOUISE REFRESHER



#### Community

In our Drop-in Coffee Circles, we invite lawyers to become part of our community to help the legal community combat loneliness and isolation which are linked to poor mental health.



#### Well-Being

Assist promotes physical and mental well-being. Free yoga classes are taught by a judge and a lawyer in Calgary.

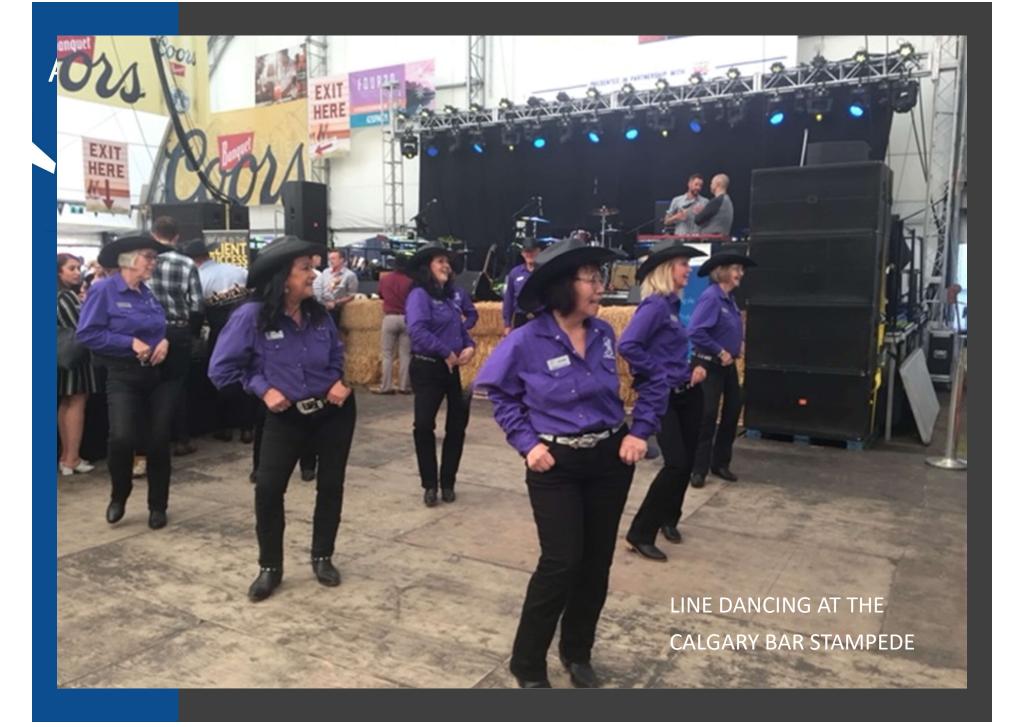


#### **Common Interests**

We have an Edmonton and a Calgary group supporting new parents. We will expand into other transition points and situations as need arises.

## ASSIST COMMUNITY







### **PURPOSE**

#### Mission

Enhancing the immediate and long-term well-being of Alberta lawyers, articling and law students, and their families through confidential and non-judgmental psychological assistance, peer support, education and community.

#### Vision

To prevent stress in life and law from becoming distress, prevent distress from turning into crisis, and prevent crisis from becoming terminal or long-term debilitation.





## Funding



#### Law Society of Alberta

The Law Society of Alberta is Assist's primary funder. The Law Society funded approximately 81% of our 2019 operations.



#### Contributions

Assist supplements its funding with generous donations from the Canadian Bar Association, Calgary Bar Association, firms, and individuals, as well as inkind gifts

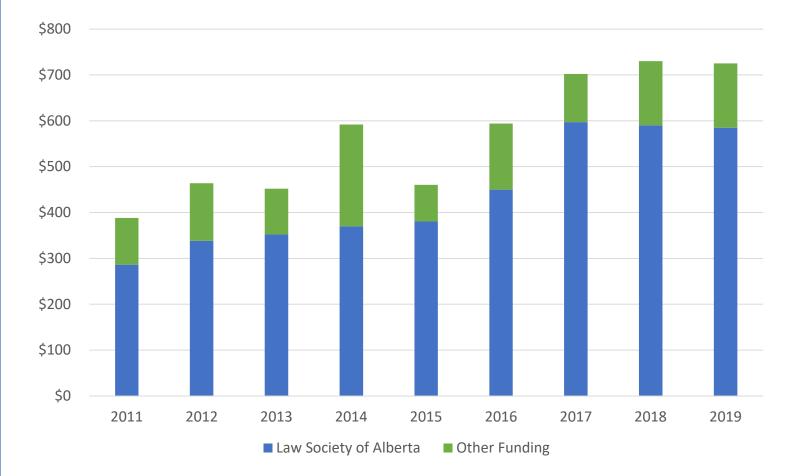


#### Fundraising

Assist is a registered charity and raises funds within the Alberta legal community. In 2019, Assist's main fundraisers were the Law Firm Three-Year Donation campaign and our Hand to Hand Event.

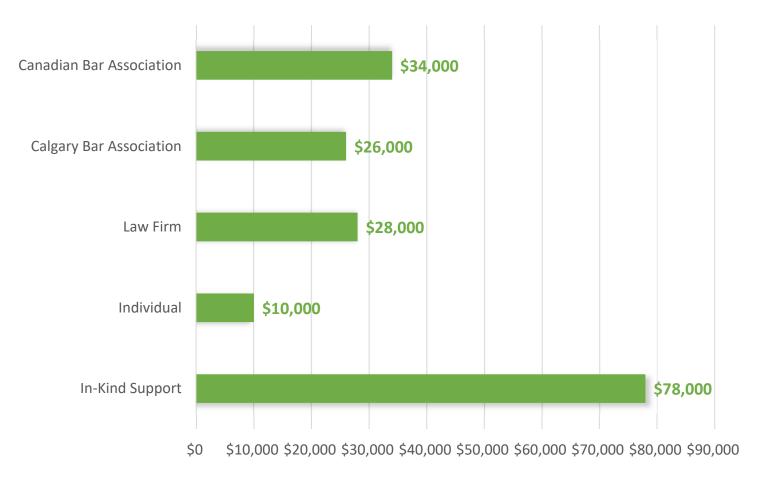


## How is Assist funded?



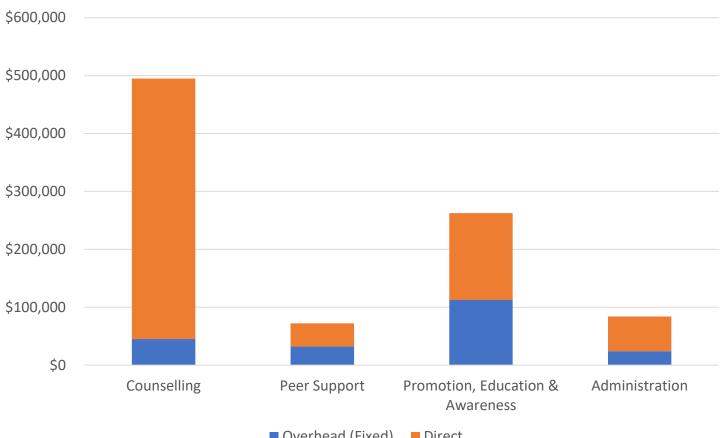


## How did Assist supplement its Law Society funding in 2019?





## How did Assist spend its funds in 2019?



Overhead (Fixed) Direct

## People



- Assist is led by a committed Board and experienced staff.
- Assist is supported by countless dedicated volunteers
- Assist's work is made possible by generous funders and contributors



### THANK YOU!!!

Law Society of Alberta for continued funding JSS Barristers for generous use of office space and services Canadian Bar Association for financial and in-kind support MNP LLP for pro bono financial review services Frontier Solutions for pro bono IT services Icona for the dream website Field LLP for Board/AGM facilities ToppanMerrill for our printing needs And all of our volunteers, donors, and supporters

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