



The *Alberta Legal Services Mapping Project* (ALSMP) is a province-wide project aimed providing an understanding of the public’s legal needs and the current state of legal service provision. <http://cfci-fcjc.org/research/mapping-en.php>

## Red Deer Judicial District – SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

The goals of the ALSMP are to:

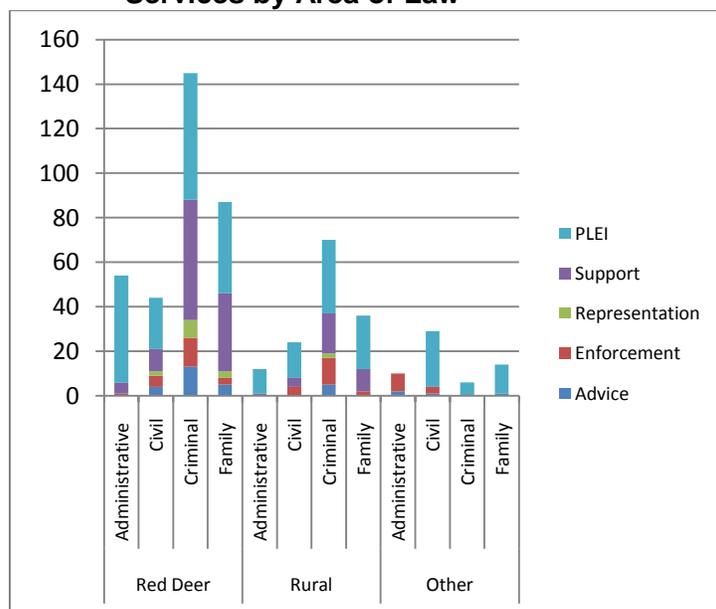
- Collect and share information about existing legal services in Alberta.
- Gain a better understanding about the characteristics of people and communities across Alberta and their legal needs.
- Identify strengths and gaps in current legal service delivery and resources.
- Strengthen relationships between legal service providers through the sharing of knowledge and expertise.
- 88 were sole purpose legal services.
- 70 offered legal as well as social or health components.
- 82 were related social and health services.

All legal services were classified by the types of service available (advice, enforcement, representation, support and PLEI) and area of law (criminal, administrative, family and civil). Again in this District, service providers stated that the effectiveness of existing services (Figure 1) could be enhanced if there was capacity to engage in increased networking and collaborations.

### The Red Deer Judicial District

- The city of Red Deer currently has a population of 90,084.
- Immigrants and non-permanent residents account for over 10.4% of Red Deer’s population.
- Filipino, Chinese, African and Latin American people comprise the largest proportions of the visible minority population in this District.
- Educational attainment rates in this District are generally lower than provincial averages.
- There are seven reserves in this District, many small communities, and many urban-based service providers travel to multiple rural communities as well. Thus there is a strong rural influence on service provision.

**Figure 1 – Services by Area of Law**



### Existing Legal Services

Of the 88 organizations and 240 services that were mapped:

## Understanding Legal Needs in the Red Deer Judicial District

The major barriers that were identified in this District include:

- Lack of public knowledge.
- Geography of the District.
- Transportation.
- Poverty.

## Gaps and Priorities in Meeting Legal Needs

Service providers and members of the public identified five categories of missing or inadequate legal services. These are:

- Housing.
- Low Income.
- Men.
- New Canadians.
- People with Family Law Needs.

## Improving Legal Service Delivery

Service providers highlighted some things they think are going well in this District. The Report details:

### Good Practices to Build On

- The Mental Health Diversion Program.
- The Poverty Law Initiative that was launched in 2007.
- Central Alberta African Centre's public transportation initiative.

### District Strengths

- Available public legal education and information (PLEI).

## Recommendations

Based on research findings we make 9 recommendations aimed at:

- supporting good practices,
- removing barriers, and

- filling gaps in legal services.

These are presented in Section 7 of the Report:

- Facilitate sharing of existing PLEI among legal as well as social and health service providers.
- Encourage the public to engage in legal education.
- Facilitate a more holistic approach to identifying legal as well as co-existing social and health needs.
- Offer enhanced supports for men with legal needs.
- Help service providers keep informed about other existing legal services and their mandates.
- Increase service provider awareness of mental health and addiction issues.
- Fill some of the gap in family law services.
- Compensate for lack of ability to meet the need for certificate services.
- Facilitate communications and understanding about police processes regarding domestic violence.

Suggestions are included in the Report for how to achieve these recommendations.