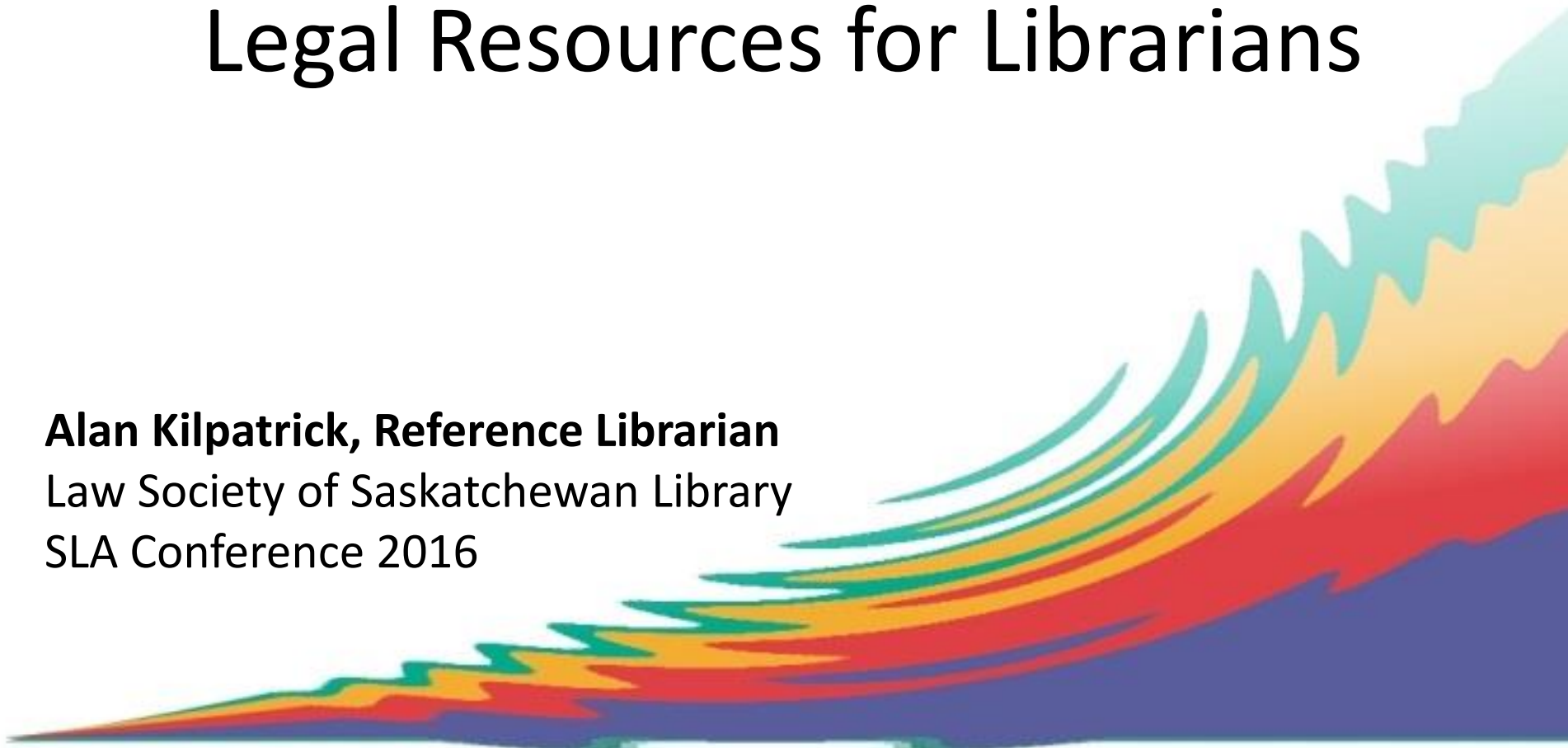


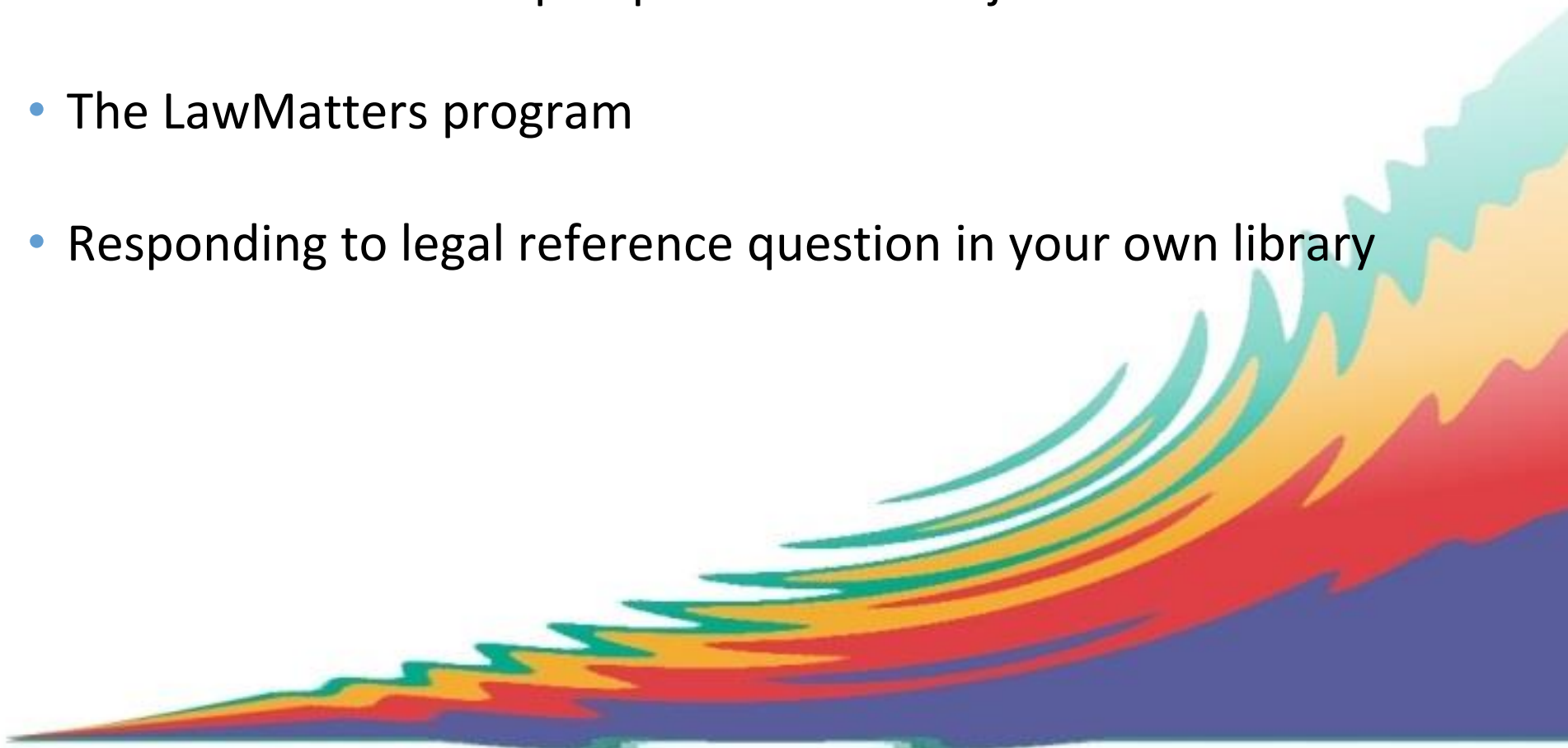
Fence at the Top of the Cliff: Legal Resources for Librarians

Alan Kilpatrick, Reference Librarian
Law Society of Saskatchewan Library
SLA Conference 2016



Overview

- Access to justice in Canada
- How can libraries help improve access to justice?
- The LawMatters program
- Responding to legal reference question in your own library



Access to justice in Canada



Access to justice in Canada

- Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters. *Access to Civil and Family Justice: A Roadmap for Change*. Ottawa, 2013.
 - Access to justice in Canada is abysmal
 - Gaps in accessibility prevent many from accessing justice
 - “Too complex, too slow, and too expensive”

Access to justice in Canada

- Nearly 12 million Canadians will face at least one legal problem in a 3 year period
- As a result of the inaccessibility of justice:
 - Many legal needs remain unmet
 - An explosion of self represented litigants
 - Accompanying social and health problems

Access to justice in Canada

- A fence at the top of the cliff?
 - Focus on the public
 - Focus on education
 - Focus on prevention

How can libraries help improve access to justice?



How can libraries help?


- Libraries are helping improve access to justice:
 - Libraries put the public first and facilitate access to information
 - Libraries can help patrons identify credible legal information
 - Libraries can make accurate referrals to organizations that provide legal assistance

The LawMatters program

The LawMatters program

- A Courthouse Libraries BC initiative
- Estimated in 2010 that public libraries in BC receive at least 35,000 legal reference questions every year
- Works with public libraries to provide British Columbians with access to legal information
- Legal reference question training and collections development guidance

Responding to legal reference questions in your own library



Responding to legal reference questions

- How can you successfully help patrons coming to your library with legal reference questions?
 - Building legal collections
 - Making accurate referrals
 - Providing credible legal information



Responding to legal reference questions

- How can you successfully help patrons coming to your library with legal reference questions?
 - **Building legal collections**
 - Making accurate referrals
 - Providing credible legal information

- Building legal collections:
 - Law Books for Libraries
 - courthouselibrary.ca/training/ForThePublic/LawMatters
 - Law Society of Saskatchewan Library
 - lawsociety.sk.ca/library
 - (306) 569-8020
 - Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA)
 - plea.org

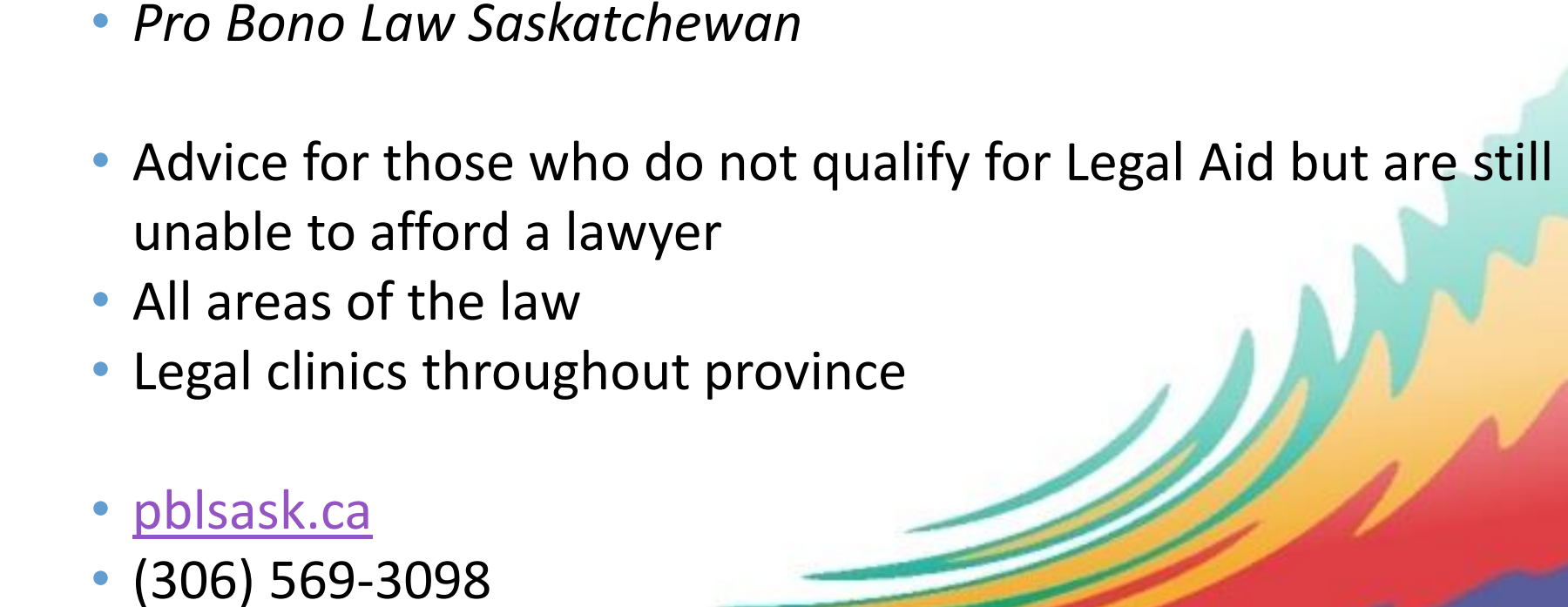
Responding to legal reference questions

- How can you successfully help patrons coming to your library with legal reference questions?
 - Building legal collections
 - **Making accurate referrals**
 - Providing credible legal information



- Making accurate referrals:
 - Legal Aid Saskatchewan
 - Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan
 - Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC)
 - Family Law Information Centre
 - Family Matters

- Making accurate referrals:
 - *Legal Aid Saskatchewan*
 - Legal assistance for low income individuals
 - Family and criminal law only
 - Only those who meet the financial criteria are eligible
 - legalaidsk.ca
 - (306) 787-8760

- Making accurate referrals:
 - *Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan*
 - Advice for those who do not qualify for Legal Aid but are still unable to afford a lawyer
 - All areas of the law
 - Legal clinics throughout province
 - pblsask.ca
 - (306) 569-3098
- 

- Making accurate referrals:
 - *Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (Classic)*
 - Student-run clinic
 - Saskatoon residents only
 - Walk-in and legal advice clinics
 - classiclaw.ca
 - (306) 657-6100

- Making accurate referrals:
 - *Family Law Information Centre*
 - Free family law information for anyone regardless of income
 - Self-help kits and court document assistance
 - Drop-in consultations available
 - justice.gov.sk.ca/Family-Law-Information-Centre
 - (306) 787-5837

- Making accurate referrals:
 - *Family Matters*
 - Helping Saskatchewan families going through divorce
 - Information, resources, and assistance
 - Free of cost
 - saskatchewan.ca/family-matters
 - 1-844-863-3408

Responding to legal reference questions

- How can you successfully help patrons coming to your library with legal reference questions?
 - Building legal collections
 - Making accurate referrals
 - **Providing credible legal information**

- Providing credible legal information:
 - Law Society of Saskatchewan Library
 - Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA)
 - Family Law Saskatchewan
 - The Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII)

- Providing credible legal information
 - *Law Society of Saskatchewan Library*
 - Research assistance for the public in person, on the telephone, or by email
 - Help the public learn how to search legal resources
 - Suggest resources for further research
- lawsociety.sk.ca/library
- (306) 539-8020

- Providing credible legal information
 - *Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA)*
 - “Exists to educate, inform and empower through law-related education”
 - Plain language legal information for Saskatchewan residents
 - Keyword searchable or browseable by topic
 - plea.org
 - (306) 653-1868

- Providing credible legal information
 - *Family Law Saskatchewan*
 - “Everything you need to begin or respond to a family law proceeding in Saskatchewan”
 - Plain language family law information
 - Simple court form wizard
 - familylaw.plea.org
 - (306) 653-1868

- Providing credible legal information
 - *The Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII):*
 - Free access to Canadian court cases
 - Easily accessible and fully searchable
 - More than a million court cases and thousands of statutes
 - Canlii.org
 - [CanLII Tutorial Videos](#)
 - [CanLII Presentation](#)

Thank you

If you any questions, please feel free to contact me:

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