

[Text]

Mr. Gilbert: I see. It did not come under your jurisdiction.

Mr. Jordan: It is not part of the department's services.

Mr. Gilbert: You have had other projects. Could you give me a short comment on whether they are succeeding and what they are doing, and what you hope they do? A sort of analysis.

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Mr. Lang: I may start by saying that I have been very impressed with the results of the experiments as they have begun in clearly getting legal information to people who otherwise really would not know where to turn, and often would not have the resources either and, in some cases, coming close to introducing the paraprofessional notion. Mr. Jordan, would you like to elaborate on the experiments?

Mr. Jordan: Yes. I think the chief thrust of these programs has been rather than to act as a supplement to provincial legal aid programs in the sense of simply giving additional of the services which might be obtained under the provincial program to try to extend beyond that into areas such as the training of the paraprofessional, as he seems to be called, and perhaps to carry out a number of the lesser legal services, which is a way of putting it, that are not economically viable if provided by a lawyer; to engage in community education programs so that some greater understanding of basic rights and interests will be conveyed to individuals generally.

Mr. Gilbert: How many store-front projects have you operating at the moment?

Mr. Jordan: We, this year, are funding 16.

Mr. Gilbert: Sixteen. And where are they, in large centres?

Mr. Jordan: Yes. There is one in Vancouver, the Vancouver Community Legal Services Society which is in the city; in Alberta, the Calgary Community Legal Guidance Services and the Edmonton Student Legal Services; in Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Legal Assistance Clinic Society and the Valley Legal Assistance Clinic Society; Manitoba has none because they have largely incorporated this kind of activity into the provincial plan as an equal part of that; in Ontario, in this fiscal year we are funding at the University of Ottawa the Parkdale Community Legal Services; Problem Central which is another service in Toronto, the Queen's University Student Legal Aid Society and a Correctional Law and Legal Assistance Seminar operated also out of that law school, the Law Students Community Services of the University of Western Ontario and the Windsor Community Legal Services; in Quebec, we only have one this year again largely because the ones we have been funding in the past have been incorporated into the Quebec Legal Services Commission. The one that we are presently supporting there is the Clinique Juridique Populaire de l'Outaouais and it, too, is being incorporated into the Quebec Legal Services Commission.

Mr. Gilbert: Do you have lawyers in charge of these projects?

Mr. Jordan: Yes. One of the criteria we apply to the projects that apply for funding is that they must have adequate professional legal supervision, otherwise they will not qualify for financial assistance.

[Interpretation]

M. Gilbert: Donc elle ne relevait pas de votre compétence.

M. Jordan: Non, cela ne relevait pas du ministère.

M. Gilbert: Cependant, vous avez eu d'autres projets. Pourriez-vous me dire brièvement où vous en êtes et ce que vous comptez faire?

M. Lang: Je dirais tout d'abord que je suis très impressionné par les résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent à la suite de ces expériences, expériences qui ont permis de fournir des renseignements juridiques à des personnes qui normalement n'auraient pas eu les moyens d'en obtenir. Monsieur Jordan, voudriez-vous donner plus de détails au sujet de ces expériences?

M. Jordan: Certainement. L'objet principal de ces programmes n'est pas de suppléer aux programmes provinciaux existants en matière d'assistance juridique, mais de se lancer dans d'autres domaines tels que la formation d'auxiliaires de professions comme on les appelle ainsi que de services juridiques mineurs qui ne seraient pas rentables pour les avocats et également de fournir des programmes éducatifs de façon à permettre aux citoyens de mieux comprendre leurs droits et intérêts fondamentaux.

M. Gilbert: Quel est le nombre actuel de ces projets communautaires?

M. Jordan: Nous en finançons 16 pour l'année en cours.

M. Gilbert: Seize. Et se trouvent-ils dans les grandes villes?

M. Jordan: Oui. Il y en a à Vancouver, notamment la Vancouver Community Legal Services Society, dans l'Alberta, la Calgary Community Legal Guidance Services et la Edmonton Student Legal Services; dans la Saskatchewan, la Saskatoon Legal Assistance Clinic Society et la Valley Legal Assistance Clinic Society; le Manitoba n'en a pas, ses services faisant partie du programme provincial; nous finançons cette année dans l'Ontario la Parkdale Community Legal Services de l'Université d'Ottawa; Problem Central à Toronto, la Student Legal Aid Society à l'Université Queen's ainsi que la Correctional Law and Legal Assistance Seminar qui est toujours dans le cadre de la faculté de droit de cette même université, la Law Students Community Services de l'Université Western Ontario et la Windsor Community Legal Services; nous n'avons qu'un programme de ce genre au Québec cette année, ceux que nous avions financés dans le passé ayant été pris en charge par la Commission des services juridiques du Québec. Nous finançons actuellement la Clinique juridique populaire de l'Outaouais qui sera également prise en charge par la Commission des services juridiques du Québec.

M. Gilbert: Ces services sont-ils dirigés par des avocats?

M. Jordan: Oui. Un de nos critères de financement est justement que ces services soient dirigés par des juristes compétents sans quoi ils n'ont pas droit à l'aide financière.