



Legal Resource Centre Six Month Activity Report

July 1 - December 31, 2009

During the first six months of the 2009/2010 year, the Legal Resource Centre began to feel the effects of the economic situation in Alberta. The impact of the low interest rates on funders, and particularly on the revenue of foundations, has resulted in the loss of significant revenue for the LRC. Despite these recent drawbacks, the LRC has continued to provide services and information to Albertans.

Program Highlights

ACJNet

The Alberta Law Foundation has approved funding for a significant upgrade to the site. Usability studies began in December 2009. Invitations to participate on the Advisory Committee were sent to Calgary Public Library, Red Deer Public Library, Alberta Law Libraries, Portage College, Alberta Aboriginal Legal Education Centre, a law student, and Calgary Legal Guidance. Positive responses have been received from 5 participants.

Reference and Referral Services

Approximately 725 queries were answered in the first six months of the year. Family law, residential tenancies, employment and labour law were the most frequent topics.

Canadian Legal FAQs

This site continues to be one of the most popular of the LRC websites. New material is continually added as new issues and questions are raised by our users. In the last six months, staff:

- completed or updated:
 - 33 FAQs on bankruptcy changes
 - 7 FAQs on travel
- drafted (awaiting 2nd legal review):
 - 100 FAQs on Alberta Guardianship and Trustee Act
 - 80 FAQs on “How old do I have to be?” for youth

Family Violence Sites

Funding has been obtained to revise and enhance the Oak-Net site. Use of both Violet: Law and Abused Women and Canadian Law & Modern Day Foreign Brides has increased by 25% over the previous six month period.



Networking Highlights

Meetings were held with the following organizations or individuals:

- Alberta Fraud Prevention 2010
- Alberta Residential Tenancies Advisory Committee
- Alberta Safe and Caring Schools
- Alberta Senior's and Community Supports
- *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta*
- Canadian Bar Association: Civil Litigators Section
- Canadian Forum on Civil Justice
- Centre for Constitutional Studies, University of Alberta
- Centre for Family Literacy
- Conflict Resolution Day 2009
- Edmonton Law Library Association (ELLA)
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- GELA Community Bookshelf
- GELA Prison Library and Reintegration Subcommittee
- Indo Canadian Women's Association
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- Learning Solutions, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta
- Laurie Hawn, MP Edmonton Centre
- Pro Bono Law Alberta
- Provincial committees
- Public Legal Education Association of Canada
- Public Legal Education Group of Edmonton (PLEGE)
- Safespace.org
- Senior's Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE)
- The Waterford of Summerlea Senior's Group
- West End Seniors Activity Centre

Projects

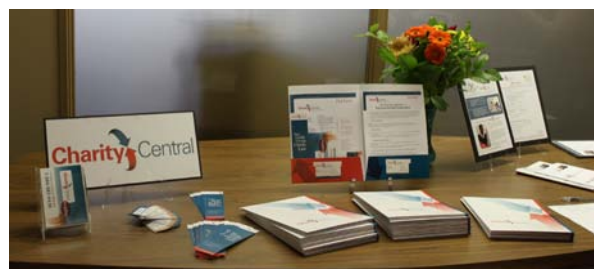
About half of the work of the LRC relates to projects funded by a variety of funding agencies. Brief descriptions of the projects are provided here.

Residential Tenancies Legal Information Program – The Alberta Real Estate Foundation has continued to fund this project.

CRA Charities Regulation Projects – The two current projects will finish at the end of March 2010. Both projects have been funded through a contribution agreement with the Charities Directorate.

Law for Alberta Classrooms Project – Over 200 links to other resources were added to the website. Twelve new LRC resources have been completed, or are in the planning stages. Feedback from teachers has been uniformly positive. This project has been funded by the Alberta Law Foundation.

Oak-Net Enhancement – This project will revise and update the content of Oak-Net as well as adding additional information about elder abuse. Justice Canada provided the funding.



Presentations

Staff conducted 16 training sessions over the six month period to about 270 people. Several more sessions are already scheduled for the spring. Presentations were done at conferences, literacy sessions, seniors groups, libraries, teachers' conventions, schools, and churches.

Aippersbach, C. *Introduction to Law*. Presentation to library patrons of Strathcona County. Strathcona County Public Library, September 28, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Introduction to Law*. Presentation to literacy workers of Alberta. Learning and Literacy Conference, Red Deer - October 22, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Planning for the Future: Making Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills*. Presentation to seniors at Edmonton's Virginia Park Seniors' Complex, November 6, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Planning for the Future: Making Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills*. Presentation to public at McDougall United Church Information Night, November 20, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Planning for the Future: Making Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills*. Presentation to library patrons at Edmonton Public Library, Strathcona Branch, November 26, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Planning for the Future: Making Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills*. Presentation to librarians at Edmonton Public Library, Strathcona Branch, October 6, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *Planning for the Future: Making Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives and Wills*. Presentation to seniors at Edmonton's West End Seniors' Activity Centre, December 8, 2009.

Aippersbach, C. *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Classroom: A Stepping Stone to Global Citizenship*. 2009 Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Conference. Lake Louise, October 18, 2009.

Collison, L. Legal Resources Fair, Calgary Public Library, November 4, 2009

Dreichel, T. and L. Collison. Alberta Apartment Association Trade Show, October 2009

Dreichel, T. *An Introduction to Renting: Your Rights and Responsibilities*. Edmonton John Howard Adult Learning Centre, October 2009.

Dreichel, T. *An Introduction to Renting: Your Rights and Responsibilities*. Three presentations and workshops for CALM 20 classes at Archbishop Jordan High School, December 2009.

Dreichel, T. *How to Use landlordandtenant.org to Assist Students with Rental Issues*. Informal workshop for youth workers at Boyle Street Community Services. Edmonton, December 2009.

Wurmann, K. and T. Dreichel. Education and Community Symposium held at the Edmonton Institution for Women, October 2009.

Wurmann, K. Minding Community Safety conference held at the Grierson Institution, November 2009.

Publications

Booklets from our series *The Law and You: Seniors and Older Adults* continue to be very popular. They have proven to be useful for all adults of all ages.

Aippersbach, C. Completed a three-part Powerpoint Presentation for high school students of Law 10, 20, 20. *Introduction to the Structure of Canadian Law*. To be posted to ABC LawNet, with audio addition in early 2010.

Aippersbach, C. Completed a three-part Powerpoint Presentation for grade 9 students: *Introduction to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. To be posted to ABC LawNet, with audio addition in early 2010.

Aippersbach, C. Interviewed for an article in the Alberta Magazine Publisher's Association. "Pros and Contracts". *Tiny Template – The Law Edition* (2009).

Aippersbach, C. *The Alberta Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*. LawNow Update #259.

Doyle, M. *Resources for Small Business*. LawNow Magazine. July/August 2009.

Driechel, T. *Nunavut Online*. LawNow Magazine. September/October 2009.

Driechel, T. *Renter's Rights and Responsibilities*. (low literacy document).

Driechel, T. *Renting Health Standards Quiz*. (Pending Review)

Wurmann, K. *Parliamentary Process and Constitutional Rights*. LawNow Magazine. November/December 2009.

Wurmann, K. *History and Development of Public Legal Education Librarianship - Literature Review* published in the Canadian Law Library Review (CLLR) – Fall 2009 issue

Wurmann, K. *History and Development of Public Legal Education Librarianship - Bibliography* accepted for publishing in the Canadian Law Library Review (CLLR) Winter or Spring 2010 issue.



Blogosaurus Lex

www.legalresourcecentre.ca/blog

The LRC Blog was launched in the summer of 2009 and had 29 posts and 2500 views in its first six months. It also received a 2009 Clawbie Award, tying for Best New Law Blog. Many other blogs link to Blogosaurus Lex, including:

Canadian Law Blog List – <http://www.lawblogs.ca>

University of Alberta Faculty of Law Blog – <http://ualbertalaw.typepad.com>

ABlawg.ca (University of Calgary Faculty of Law Blog) – <http://ablawg.ca>

Alberta Blogs – <http://www.albertablogs.com>

Law is Cool (written by law students) – <http://lawiscool.com>

GELA Prison Project Blog – <http://gelaprison.wordpress.com>

Ceartha (Irish human rights blog written by a law professor) – <http://www.cearta.ie>

Positive comments came from Edmonton Law Libraries Association, Law Matters (BC), Library Boy, Slaw.ca, Stem Legal and the University of Alberta Faculty of Law Blog.



Podcasting

Aippersbach, C. *Before the Work Begins: The Top Five Legal Mistakes in Starting a Small Business* LawNow column. July/August 2009.

Collison, L. Interview with San San Sy on Canadian Law for Modern Day Foreign Brides website. Aired on Adamant Eve July 10, 2009.

Driechel, T. *Online Law: Nunavut Online*. LawNow column. September/October 2009.

Mitchell, T. *Bench Press*. LawNow. July/August 2009.

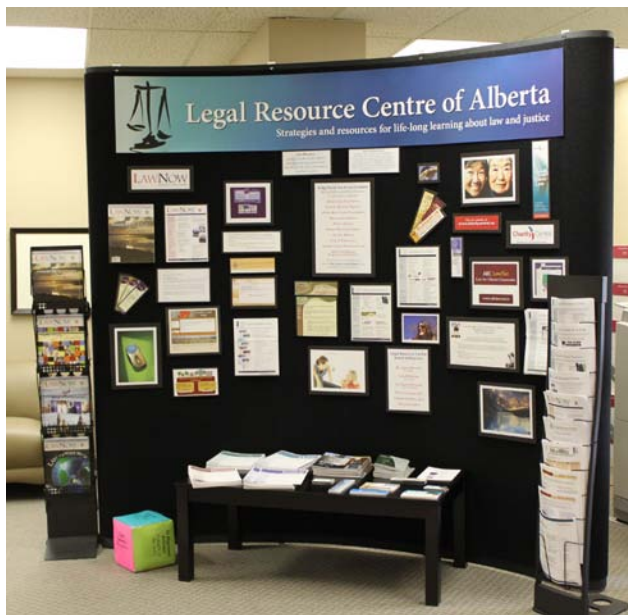
Wurmann, K. *Online Law: Parliamentary Process and Constitutional Rights*. LawNow column. November/December 2009.

Information Distribution

- Over 4500 items were distributed in response to requests or at presentations. Many of these were repeat requests.
- Items went to post-secondary institutions, seniors homes, libraries, law offices, schools, community organizations, non-profit groups, and individuals.
- Over 280,000 visitors used the Legal Resource Centre sites during the six months. Overall, the number of users of LRC websites is up by 12% over the same time last year.
- The number of website visitors using alternative access methods (iPhone, Blackberry, PS3, iPod) increased dramatically.
- The LRC corporate site has shown a dramatic increase in traffic since the blog and podcasts have been added.

Volunteers

In the last six months, the work of the Legal Resource Centre was supported by 70 volunteers. They included university and college students, academic, lawyers, and teachers.

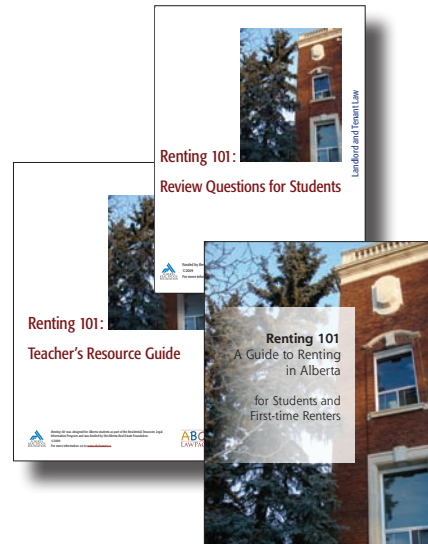


Recognition

The new Blogosaurus Lex won a Clawbie Award as one of the best new law blogs.

The LRC Community Programmer, Tanya Driechel, was named as one of Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 by *Avenue Magazine* – in part for her work in providing legal information to landlords and tenants.

Alberta Education accepted *Renting 101: A Guide for Students and First Time Renters*, and the corresponding Teacher's Guide and Student Booklet, to become official support resources for Career and Technology Studies, Health, Recreation & Human Services and Legal Studies high school classes in Alberta.



Feedback and Support

Thank you very much for sending me the 1,000 landlordandtenant.org bookmarks. They arrived last Friday and I really appreciate you doing this. My on-hand stock was dwindling so this is really helpful. The website is extremely well done and provides so much information for both landlords and tenants. We refer members and non-members to the site and encourage them to use it if they have any questions. The bookmarks form a part of our handout material here in the office and at the events we host throughout the year.

Thank you so much for your quick response. This was exactly what I needed! I appreciate your time and consideration! This is a great help! Have a great day!

These are great resources too. Thanks so much!

Thank you very much for responding so quickly to my request

Thank you for your kindness in responding to my inquiry and pointing me in the right direction.



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