

## LiRN 2022 Budget

### Approach: Operational Budget and Transitional Budget

LiRN is submitting an Operational Budget and a draft Transitional Budget for 2022. LiRN is also exploring funding from other organizations as part of our plan for this year.

The Operational Budget allows for the continuation of the network at current service levels.

Our data shows that this funding level leaves our library users – mostly small and sole practices – behind in terms of electronic resources that are considered core offerings in other provinces and larger firms.

It also results in uneven access to these resources across the province, as larger and urban-based libraries can invest in more electronic products than smaller libraries can afford.

### Transitional Budget

The Transitional Budget addresses the challenge of uneven access and facilitates projects that will allow us to:

- Offer equity of access to users across the province; and
- Evolve the services offered to meet user needs and expectations in an increasingly digital environment.

These goals are in line with LiRN's mandate, which includes establishing a platform that provides effective access to information and supports standards of competence for lawyers and paralegals. They also align with the Law Society's (LSO) strategic plan objective of ensuring competence and quality of service and access to justice.

Ontario lawyers have access to Quicklaw through LiRN, HeinOnline through the Great Library, and the LSO's CPD archives. Lawyers in British Columbia, Alberta, and Québec have centralized access to WestlawNext, Irwin Law Titles (DesLibris), and many other databases.

Number of Centrally Available Electronic Resources			
Ontario	BC	Alberta	Québec
3	13	18	25

(See [Appendix A](#) for a detailed breakdown of centralized electronic resources in Ontario, BC, Alberta, and Québec.)

There is also a lack of equity among Ontario lawyers. Resources like WestlawNext are commonplace in larger firms. Within the LiRN network, libraries in larger, urban centres have more resources to invest in additional electronic resources that are cost-prohibitive to smaller libraries.



Legal Information and Resource Network

Percent of Libraries with of Additional Electronic Resources in Ontario				
Resource	Overall	Regional Libraries (5)	Area Libraries (15)	Local Libraries (28)
WestlawNext	19%	60%	33%	4%
O'Brien's Online	35%	80%	33%	29%
Westlaw CriminalSource	14%	40%	26%	4%
Westlaw FamilySource	14%	40%	26%	4%
Westlaw EmploymentSource	8%	40%	13%	0
Westlaw Other	19%	60%	33%	4%
RangeFindr	25%	40%	33%	18%
Divorcemate	37%	80%	40%	29%
TR Proview	25%	80%	33%	11%
Lexis Nexis Practice Advisor	25%	60%	33%	14%

The funds for these resources may come from the LiRN grant and in some cases from association funds such as membership fees.

LiRN will take a measured and project-based approach to redressing this disparity by developing a central suite of core electronic resources over the next two to three years.

In Year One, we will invest in the highest priority resources and roll them out across the province in 2022. This will be accompanied by training and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that library staff understand and can teach their patrons to use each new resource and patrons know what is available to them. In subsequent years, we will add additional resources to complete the core suite.

As electronic resources are added, we will work with libraries to reduce print where it is available electronically wherever possible. A key element of this approach is to establish metrics on the use of these resources. The first-year data results will not give a full picture of usage given the timing of the roll out. By the second year LiRN will have actionable data.

The amount in the draft Transitional Budget is, of necessity at this stage, an estimate. It is based on:

- Early discussions with vendors
- Current spend by network libraries
- Reference to what other jurisdictions are spending, where we were able to access that information.

As the amount requested in the transitional budget is based on preliminary estimates, LiRN is requesting up to \$900,000, with the amount of funding to be based on final negotiated agreements to procure digital resources and the related information technology infrastructure.

Our goal by the end of Year One (2022) is to secure 100% access across the network for certain core electronic resources, up from the current 19% – 37% access. The balance of the Transitional Budget covers the need to update computer equipment across the network and the creation of salary bands for network librarians. The data shows that 15% of the network's computers were acquired prior to 2014. Some do not have web cams and cannot handle the increased reliance on digital resources and remote



Legal Information and Resource Network

hearings. Although network library staff are not LiRN employees, creating appropriate salary bands for library staff will assist association employers in determining appropriate compensation.

## Operational Budget

The operational budget is focused on bringing county library funding to pre-pandemic level with a small retroactive increase for 2021 and an increase for 2022, maintaining basic operations of LiRN. It also incorporates staffing that was funded in 2021 through LiRN's general fund balance.

In 2021, the LSO grant was subject to a 10% cut due to the then-unknown financial effects of COVID-19 on the Law Society and its members. This grant reduction was supplemented by \$455,580 (approximately 6%) from LiRN's general fund balance in order to minimize the impact of the cuts on library users.

The requested amount would put LiRN back to the position it would have been in absent the pandemic with an additional 3% to cover LiRN staffing, library staff salary increases, and the increasing cost of library resources. LiRN staffing was a new budget item in 2021 and was funded through LiRN's general fund balance, but funding for two staff positions now form part of the overall grant request.

## Appendix A

### Centrally Available Electronic Resources

Centrally Available Electronic Resources				
Resource	Ontario	BC	Alberta	Québec
Lexis Advance – Quicklaw (provided by LiRN in Ontario)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hein Online (provided by the Great Library in Ontario)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provincial CPD Archives (free in Ontario)	✓	✓	✓	✓
WestlawNext Canada	no	✓	✓	✓
O’Brien’s	no	✓	✓	no
LawsSource	no	✓	no	no
CriminalSource	no	No	✓	✓
EmploymentSource	no	No	✓	no
Estates & TrustsSource	no	No	✓	no
FamilySource	no	No	✓	no
InsolvencySource	no	No	✓	no
Irwin Law Titles (DesLibris)	no	✓	✓	✓
Canadian NewsStream	no	✓	no	no
ICLR Online	no	✓	✓	no
LLMC Digital	no	✓	no	no
Rangefindr	no	✓	✓	no
Canadian Environmental Law Guide	no	No	✓	no
Directors’ Liability in Canada	no	No	✓	no
Emond’s Criminal Law Series	no	No	✓	no
vLex Justis	no	No	✓	no
QP Source Professional (Alberta-specific resource)	no	No	✓	no
Quickscribe (BC-specific resource)	no	✓	no	no
Homegrown electronic resources	no	✓	no	✓
La reference (secondary source collections)	no	No	no	✓
LegalTrac (index of legal journals)	no	No	no	✓
Lexbase (encyclopedia of French law)	no	No	no	✓
Notarial Library	no	No	no	✓
IntelliConnect	no	No	no	✓
Recherche juridique (SOQUIJ)	no	No	no	✓
Taxnet Pro	no	No	no	✓
Loi et règlements sur les régimes complémentaires de retraite	no	No	no	✓
Tableau des modifications et Index sommaire	no	No	no	✓
AliForm	no	No	no	✓
Decisia	no	No	no	✓
SAG Plus	no	No	no	✓
Sentar	no	No	no	✓
Mtre Francine Payette’s forms	no	No	no	✓
JurisÉvolution	no	No	no	✓
JuriFamille	no	No	no	✓
CRAC - Business register research across Canada	no	No	no	✓
Dictionnaire de droit québécois et canadien by Mtre Reid	no	No	no	✓

## **LIRN INC. 2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET**

The Operational Budget allows for the continuation of the network at current service levels.

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Law Society Grant	<b>8,542,130</b>	7,217,194	8,019,094
Use of General Fund Balance	-	455,580	88,719
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>8,542,130</b>	<b>7,672,774</b>	<b>8,107,813</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Grants</b>			
Library System (Attachment A)	<b>7,217,130</b>	6,393,274	7,060,663
Special Needs	-	48,000	48,000
<b>Centralized Services for Libraries and Library Users</b>			
Electronic Products	<b>385,000</b>	375,000	363,250
County Library Benefit Plan	<b>280,000</b>	270,000	276,000
Insurance - Counties	<b>110,000</b>	103,000	98,000
Publications County Libraries	<b>40,000</b>	50,000	90,000
COLAL, Professional Development, and Meetings	<b>75,000</b>	40,000	38,500
Courier and Postage	<b>20,000</b>	20,000	21,300
<b>LiRN Administration</b>			
Staff & Related Expenses	<b>315,000</b>	225,000	-
Office Expenses	<b>30,000</b>	34,500	38,600
Board of Directors & Governance Support	<b>30,000</b>	34,000	33,500
Administrative Financial Services	<b>30,000</b>	30,000	40,000
Travel	<b>10,000</b>	-	-
Transitional		50,000	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,542,130</b>	<b>7,672,774</b>	<b>8,107,813</b>

## **LIRN INC. 2022 TRANSITIONAL BUDGET**

The Transitional Budget allows the network to improve service levels and facilitate a library network that:

- Offers equity of access to users across the province; and
- Evolves the services offered to meet user needs and expectations in an increasingly digital environment.

	<b>2022 Budget</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$</b>
Law Society Grant of up to:	<b>900,000</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>900,000</b>

### **Transitional Expenses**

Additional Centralized Electronic Products

IT Infrastructure - Consultant, Equipment and Software Upgrades

Training and Consultation Supporting Transition

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>900,000</b>
-----------------------	----------------