

MORE COURTHOUSE LIBRARY MESSAGES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

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- Local Courthouse libraries play a critical role in upholding lawyer competence as well as facilitating mentorship opportunities for younger or new members of the profession;
- Courthouse librarians and library staff and the collections in the Courthouse libraries throughout the province enable legal professionals to access the resources required to do their job;
- Legal research is of fundamental importance to the practice of law in Ontario;
- Common law demands that lawyers and self-represented litigants understand the law: This is the premise on which the entire legal system rests;
- It is essential that lawyers have access to legal research materials in order to adequately inform the Court of the development of the common law when arguing their case;
- Ontario's county and district law librarians and library staff have been providing both the resources and the expertise in the use of those resources to the full range of justice system participants for over 140 years;
- Sole practicing lawyers and lawyers in small towns throughout Ontario tell FOLA that their Courthouse libraries are essential and critical to their practice;
- In rural and northern communities, the role of the Courthouse library is essential to the practicing bar;
- Lawyers' ability to adequately represent clients and assist the court in an efficient, competent, and cost-effective manner depend on access to local Courthouse libraries;
- Outside of larger centres, Courthouse libraries play a crucial role in maintaining access to legal services and sustaining a vibrant local bar;
- Courthouse libraries help new lawyers access resources in the early days of their practices, they facilitate mentorship, and they support lawyer competence and professional development;
- Benchers: You must take into account the unique regional needs of the Ontario bar and the crucial role that Courthouse libraries play in supporting licensees in sole practice or small firms;
- Properly resourced Courthouse libraries are of increased importance for facilitating access to justice and legal services in rural and northern communities;
- Ontario's local Law Associations are a pillar of access to justice for the public. In regions where there are no law schools, #lawlibraries are often time the only viable, high-quality legal resource available;
- It is the role of the Law Society to mandate competency levels for lawyers and paralegals alike and with those rules must come opportunities to ensure that lawyers are kept as up to date on the law and the application of ethical rules as possible;
- The Law Society needs to provide renewed and increased funding to local Courthouse libraries in keeping with the stated objective of increased lawyer/paralegal competency and access to justice;

- Courthouse libraries provide access to professional librarian support for some of the more challenging legal issues that lawyers can face from time to time in the course of their practices;
- Courthouse libraries provide a forum for the bench and bar to communicate with each other openly about problems, and solutions to those problems, whether those problems come from the bench or the bar, again improving access to justice for the public;
- Courthouse libraries provide opportunities for shared experiences and shared solutions to stressful practice circumstances and contribute in an immeasurable way to the reduction of stress and the improvement of the mental health of the practicing bar.

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