

# TALKING POINTS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COURTHOUSE LIBRARIES

Ontario's 47 Courthouse Law Libraries provide vital resources and play a critical supportive role in private practice lawyers in cities and towns throughout Ontario.

Having law libraries consistently resourced (staff, materials, etc). is essential to proper functioning of the justice system, as visiting lawyers who may need to update cases mid-trial should have access to similar resources from library to library.

Having physical space for the private, practicing bar inside the courthouse is important to our members, and their Associations. This physical space is important for practical and professional reasons and must be reaffirmed in its importance to the entire justice system.

More funds, not less, are needed: Our Law Libraries have to factor in increases of between 10-12%/yr for Looseleaves alone, yet LSO funding only increases by 2%, leaving Law Society members in communities across Ontario with fewer resources for research and court purposes.

Salary budgets are well behind the average salaries for qualified library staff in other institutions. The small increases provided each year simply have not kept up and the starting salaries for positions have been following a document produced in 2011!

All lawyers, not just those practicing in large firms in major urban centres, require access to current and historical legal information in order to properly practise law and local libraries play a fundamental role in this regard.

Lawyers require constantly updated resources to provide high quality services. Law libraries offer training, guidebooks, curation of "higher quality" free sources, networking and mentoring opportunities, wellness resources, and more. Legal texts and databases are very expensive and their proper navigation is critical to ensuring the identification of relevant law. Sole practitioners and lawyers practicing in smaller firms rely on law libraries for these.

Resources supplied through bulk purchasing by LiRN affords access to valuable online information that are otherwise unaffordable to sole and small practicing lawyers. For example, services provided by Thomson Reuters (Westlaw), Lexis Nexis, and vLex alone provide services that would cost a sole practicing lawyer almost \$8,300 per year if purchased individually!

It is the regulatory mandate of the Law Society to ensure that the public is served by lawyers and paralegals with the highest standards of learning and competence. Cutting law library budgets, and thus access to resources, works against this goal.

Ontario's law libraries play a critical role in upholding lawyer competence. Law librarians and their collections enable legal professionals to access the resources required to do their job. They encourage mentorship. They maintain competence. Simply put, informed citizens and legal professionals have a better chance at understanding and interacting with the legal system. Law libraries ensure access to justice.

# LiRN RESOURCES AND COSTING PER LAWYER IF PURCHASED INDIVIDUALLY



Resource	Availability Across Network	
	2022	2021
Lexis Advance – Quicklaw	100%	100%
Hein Online (provided by the Great Library)	100%	100%
Provincial CPD Archives (Provided by the LSO)	100%	100%
<small>NEW</small> LexisNexis Practical Guidance	100%	25%
<small>NEW</small> Westlaw CriminalSource	100%	14%
<small>NEW</small> Westlaw FamilySource	100%	14%
<small>NEW</small> LexisNexis Estates and Trusts Source	100%	8%
<small>NEW</small> vLex Essentials of Canadian Law (incl. Irwin Law)	100%	2%
<small>NEW</small> vLex VINCENT AI Legal Research Assistant	100%	0%

LIRN Resource	Single User Annual Cost
Westlaw Family Source	\$1,448.00
LexisNexis Estates/ Trust Source	\$1,448.00
Westlaw Criminal Source	\$3,995.00
vLex Vincent, Canada Core & Irwin Law	\$1,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,291.00</b>

