

# VALL Review

## The President's Desk

### In this issue:

<b>The President's Desk</b>	1
<b>From the Editors</b>	3
<b>Feature article: Obtaining Court Records From Across Canada</b>	3
<b>Feature article: Presenting "Outside the Box" at the 2021 CALL/ACBD Virtual Conference</b>	4
<b>Peter Bark Bursary Recipient: AALL Management Institute 2021 Course Overview</b>	5
<b>Peter Bark Bursary Recipient: Public Companies &amp; Insider Trading &amp; Capital Markets, Oh My!</b>	7
<b>Column: From the Webmaster's screen</b>	9
<b>Column: Courts on Research</b>	9
<b>Member Announcements</b>	10
<b>News from CanLII</b>	11
<b>News from InfoAction</b>	14
<b>News from Lexis</b>	15
<b>News from Westlaw</b>	16
<b>News from Quickscribe</b>	17
<b>Programming Review</b>	18
<b>Programming Survey Results</b>	21

Welcome to the Summer edition of the VALL Review and my last column as President of VALL. It has been an interesting and challenging year to be President but I am grateful for the Executive team I had working with me to keep the VALL organization running smoothly, even when it was tough. When I look back at this year I think about how the Executive had to prepare for a year with a lot of unknowns. Our goal was to continue to provide programs and keep the membership connected, without knowing how long the lockdown situation was going to last. We ended up having all our sessions online and we were lucky to get great speakers and strong attendance for the sessions and virtual coffee socials. While I am grateful for technology like Zoom which allowed us to shift our sessions online, it cannot not replace the relationship and network building that happens with in-person meetings and sharing a meal together, like our traditional in-person lunch sessions.



**Beth Galbraith**  
**VALL President**  
**2020 - 2021**

I am hopeful that the lockdown, restrictions and most difficult parts of the past year are coming to an end. We are seeing a gradual loosening of restrictions in the province, more efforts for in-person meetings and in my own office, a gradual return to full time in-office work. I have missed seeing people, having conversations, hearing people laugh and in-person training sessions. I am optimistic that we will continue to move in this direction and that the Fall will bring us a return to some of the activities that we have been missing for over a year.

I hope you enjoy this issue, which pulls together various reports from different vendors and libraries and summarizes what has been going on this year in the VALL community. I'd like to thank my VALL Executive for 2020-2021 for being a great team, it was a pleasure working with you. I'd also like to welcome the incoming president, Rebecca Tomlinson, and wish her and the new Executive all the best for the upcoming year.

Warm regards and Happy Summer!

Beth Galbraith

# VALL Review

## VALL Executive

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The *VALL Review* is the official newsletter of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries. VALL is composed of members of the law library community interested in discussing issues and sharing ideas. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent VALL policy or position. Unsolicited submissions are welcome. VALL reserves the right to edit submissions.

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## From the Editors

Jen Brubacher, Librarian | DLA Piper (Canada) LLP  
Katherine Melville, Director of Library Services | Farris LLP

When we first considered publishing a summer issue this year, we thought we could bring together a couple of vendor updates and puff the rest out if we needed to. It wasn't needed! With the collaborative "Obtaining court records from across Canada" document coming from CALL, submissions from our Peter Bark Bursary recipients, and wrap-ups of two excellent VALL events over the past few months, this issue has grown into something special. It's not much fun to write "This has been a strange year" over and over again, but frankly it has. And yet today it feels today like people in our industry have not just made it through, but are starting to thrive again.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and your summer, and that we get to see you all (virtually, or even in person!) at our events this autumn.

Jen and Katherine

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## Feature article: Obtaining Court Records From Across Canada

Sarah Richmond, Manager, Research Services | Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang LLP

As with most other law firm libraries, my library at Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP is often asked to obtain courts records (specifically, pleadings) from across Canada. Mostly, this comes about because a lawyer reads a case that is on point and would like to read the court-filed materials.

As we all know, such a task is quite simple in BC; we are so fortunate to have BC Online - Court Services Online (CSO). On occasion, we can also find the pleadings we need through our Westlaw Litigator subscription. But, on the whole, obtaining courts records from outside BC is a tricky task that typically involves phone calls to court registries, and local agents.

In recognition that we have so many knowledgeable colleagues across the country, I emailed the CALL Listserv (CALL-L@LISTSERV.UNB.CA) seeking volunteers to contribute to a "Court records searches by jurisdiction" resource. The result of that collaborative effort is a resource that guides the user on how to obtain court documents (dockets, pleadings, transcripts) by jurisdiction.

Contributors to the table were:

- BC: Susannah Tredwell (Vancouver), Yolanda Koscielski (Burnaby), Emily Nickerson (Victoria)
- Alberta: Dominique Garingan (Calgary), Helen Mok (Calgary), Jessica Steingard (Edmonton)
- Saskatchewan: Ken Fox (Regina)
- Ontario: Annette Demers (Windsor), Sabrina Adamski (Toronto)
- Quebec: Esther Bélanger (Montreal)

- New Brunswick: Tanya Davis (Fredericton)
- Nova Scotia: Jennifer Haines (Halifax), Donata Krakowski-White (Halifax), and Mary Rose Mars (Halifax) providing information from Sabrina Adamski (Toronto)
- Newfoundland and Labrador: Jenny Thornhill (St. John's), Brenda Blundon (St. John's)

The creation of this resource drew a lot of excitement and attention. In particular, the library at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law, asked for permission to post a version of the table to its website. I graduated from Windsor Law in 2011, so I was particularly glad to have its library post this resource. "Canadian Court Records/Dockets" can be found here on the Paul Martin Law Library (Windsor Law) website: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/library/390/canadian-court-recordsdockets>

As with any resource, this is an ever-changing guide. I am grateful for the opportunity to have collaborated on such a useful project for many in our profession.

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## Feature article: Presenting "Outside the Box" at the 2021 CALL/ACBD Virtual Conference

Erin Clupp, Research Librarian | Norton Rose Fulbright

Like so many events during the pandemic, the 2021 CALL/ACBD Conference had to once again take place virtually, rather than the traditional in-person gathering; although this year it was intentionally planned as such.

Unlike for many members, this year's experience at the CALL/ACBD Conference was not that different than my experience the previous year. I had only joined the legal information world and become a member of CALL/ACBD in August 2019, which was after the last in-person conference took place. My first experience at a CALL/ACBD conference was in 2020, originally planned to be in person but ultimately had to pivot to an online experience due to COVID-19. As a result, I have only ever known the CALL/ACBD Conference in its digital format.

One thing that was different was presenting at a virtual conference, which is something I have not done before, having only previously presented at in-person events. The theme of the conference was "Legal Information: Outside the Box" and the title of my presentation was *Finding and Using Archives and Non-Traditional Resources for Legal Research*, which fell under the History Meets Innovation category.

I began my session with a quick overview of fundamental archival terms and concepts, then examined the relationship between archives, recordkeeping, and the law, and explored some uses and advantages of using archives and non-traditional materials in our work as legal information professionals. I concluded by sharing some of my favourite tools and resources such as [MemoryBC](#), a searchable database of materials available at hundreds of archival repositories in BC, and [WayBack Machine](#), a tool that allows researchers to search archived webpages. If I had more time, I would have also shown the BC Government's [GATOR](#) and [Tantalis](#) database applications for Crown Land Registry documents, and the Union of [British Columbia Indian Chiefs Library & Archives page](#), which has a substantial collection specializing in BC land rights research.

Overall, I would say my experience as a presenter was positive. The conference planning committee were very organized and accommodating, and were flexible to my personal needs and timeline. They communicated regularly with speakers, offered an information session and overview of the conference platform being used (PheedLoop), and checked in with us to see if we needed moderators or other supports during our presentations. The technical support person and volunteer during my session were saints. I was very anxious and we had some technical problems on my end, which only intensified my anxiety but they kept me calm, we got the issue resolved and the rest of the talk went smoothly.

While my experience was mostly positive (aside from the nerves and tech issues), there are certainly some challenges to presenting virtually vs. at an in-person event:

- For those who are nervous at public speaking, in some ways, it was less daunting to not have a room full of people to speak to. However, not having an audience to engage or connect with felt like I was speaking into a void. While the conference committee did a great job at planning an online event, it is hard to capture those in-person interactions and networking experiences between presenters and attendees.
- There was less discussion at the end or time for questions. I find it is easier to raise your hand or speak up in person than try to type something into a chat box or speak online to ask a question. There is also less room for discussion among attendees during an online session.
- While technology issues can happen with an in-person event (e.g. slides not working), you can still present and talk or have discussion with the audience while you wait or just wing it. With the online format, tech issues meant there could be no presentation and everyone is just left waiting, so it is a more all-or-nothing approach.
- Demoing a tool or resource online is always more challenging than doing so in person.

As an attendee, one of the challenges to attending a virtual conference while working from home and multitasking means it is difficult to keep dedicated time aside to attend other sessions. When you attend a conference in person, especially in another city, you can spend more time at the event networking, attending the sessions, social events, etc. and have less distractions or pressure to be working alongside the event. Ultimately, I believe you get more out of an in-person experience, but the online programming offers more flexibility and likely allows for more people to attend sessions due to travel and monetary constraints. Perhaps a hybrid conference is the future!

From what I did see of the other sessions, the conference was well attended and CALL/ACBD members had the benefit of hearing from many excellent speakers on a variety of subject areas. I look forward to next year's conference taking place in one of my favourite cities, Montreal, and hope I can attend and meet some of you in person. For those of you who attended my session, thank you for your time!

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## **Peter Bark Bursary Recipient: AALL Management Institute 2021 Course Overview - Managing Biases by Interacting, Bridging, and RESETing**

Ronit Barenbaum, Research Librarian | Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Back in March, I had the pleasure of attending the AALL Management Institute thanks to financial support from the VALL Peter Bark Bursary. This was a two-day course aimed at preparing managers to:

- thrive in uncertainty,
- confidently navigate conflict,
- build commitment to strategic goals,
- and impact culture and inspire change.

Part of the course was a fantastic session on **Excellence & Belonging in Management: Overcoming implicit bias, identity anxiety, and stereotype threat** by Aya Tavera and Jessica MacFarlane from the Perception Institute. At this session, they engaged attendees in a Stroop task, to demonstrate the Stroop effect. Participants were shown the names of colours, appearing in differing colours, and asked to name the colours as they appear, rather than read the names of colours. However, the brain defaults to reading the name of the colour, rather than identifying the actual colour, and this occurs even when attention is brought to the specific task and bias. This shows the power of the unconscious and how difficult it is to override it; it takes intentional work to do so, even when you know what to expect. This is because the brain takes 11 million bits of information per second but can only process 40 bits consciously; everything else is handled in the unconscious, which maintains both “facts” and emotions about people and the world around us, and this undermines our objectivity.

Aya and Jessica also discussed various other types of bias, and how these biases can play out and impact others, such as:

- Listener bias - mixed-gender settings, men speak more than women, people are more likely to interrupt women than men, and contributions are more likely to be acknowledge when they are made by men.
- Hair bias – white women report explicit bias against black women’s natural hair in the workplace, saying that it is less professional.

They referenced the Thomas Meyers study to demonstrate how implicit bias can affect how we evaluate information. Specifically, in this study, 60 law firms were sent an identical memo and told that the author was either white or black. The firms that were told the author was black rated the memo worse, and found more errors in the memo, than when they were told that the author was white. Moreover, implicit bias undermines belonging, such that members of minority or stereotyped groups do not openly share their identity out of fear of being stereotyped and being treated differently.

All of these biases are made more prevalent due to factors such as stress, time pressure, multi-tasking, lack of clear criteria for decision-making, ambiguous or incomplete information, and a lack of familiarity with the group – all of which is unfortunately much too common in the legal industry! Thus, the best way to override the brain’s decisions and biases is to:

- Slow down and be deliberate
- Develop clear criteria for reviews, assignments, hiring practices, etc.
- Engage in stereotype behaviour replacement by training the brain to change the automaticity with which stereotypes come up
- Counterstereotype by behaving in ways that represent the opposite of stereotypes
- Individuate people by distinguishing them from others that they share similarities with, rather than exceptionalizing them because of their differences from groups that they identify with
- Engage in perspective-taking and empathy
- Development peer-to-peer relationships across groups, as the more diverse our settings are, the more we can engage in the practice of disrupting bias

- Use processes to remove individual discretion and, instead, engage teams in decision-making, as when you are doing things alone you might not even notice that you are falling into patterns of bias

Furthermore, they differentiated interacting – hearing what others say, incorporating known information about them, asking about their personal lives, etc. – from transacting – just going through the motions of social conversation. They also identified that we typically end up bonding with people that we are, or perceive to be, similar to, but – in order to reduce biases and truly improve diversity and inclusion – we want to practice bridging, which entails connecting over lines of difference, rather than seeking sameness, and becoming comfortable with differences as a source of relationships. Thus, the more we become comfortable with bridging, the more we are able to diminish biases and build authentic relationship across group differences.

Lastly, as we battle with our unconscious in disrupting bias, we may come into situations where we have delivered a harm; in doing so, it is up to us to remain accountable and repair that harm using the RESET conversation:

- Redirect the conversation – focus on impact, rather than intent
- Emphasize your action – recognize what you've done and why it's wrong
- Skip self-justification – don't explain yourself or give excuses
- Explore accountability – hold yourself accountable for what you've done
- Thank the individual who has brought it to our attention – it is a gift to know that we've done something wrong in order to be able to right it

Consequently, even though we work in an extremely fast-paced environment, where we are constantly multi-tasking and under great stress and time pressures, I implore you to SLOW DOWN, interact with your peers, bridge your connections to build more authentic relationships, and stay accountable for your brain's unconscious actions.

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## **Peter Bark Bursary Recipient: Public Companies & Insider Trading & Capital Markets, Oh My!**

**Erin Clupp, Research Librarian | Norton Rose Fulbright**

One of the many benefits of becoming a member of a professional association, such as VALL, is the ability to apply for various funding opportunities to support our professional development. Every year, VALL invites members to apply for the [Peter Bark Bursary](#), which was created to commemorate long-time VALL member Peter Bark, and his contribution to VALL and law librarianship. The bursary assists VALL members in attending meetings or conferences of library associations, or other library-related workshops and courses.

This year, VALL approved and offered me the very generous amount of \$750.00 to use towards an online course at Simon Fraser University – [PBCO200 Public Companies: Financing, Governance and Compliance](#), which I attended from May 6-7, 2021. The course covers the fundamentals of corporate governance and securities legislation in BC and Canada, and is geared towards directors, officers, and senior managers of public companies, lawyers, accountants, and other professionals. However, many other legal information professionals have taken this course over the years, and it was

recommended to me by several members in the VALL community as an excellent crash course on all things corporate law.

In previous years, the course was held in-person and has a networking lunch as part of the event, but this year it was offered remotely via Zoom, due to COVID-19. While it is not as interactive as an in-person session (and I had to make my own lunch), the course was still very informative and I enjoyed the flexibility of the online format.

The diverse panel of speakers came from many backgrounds including private law firms, the BC Securities Commission, and the TSX Venture Exchange, and consisted of legal, finance, and communications professionals. It was certainly an advantage to have speakers from public and private spheres, as well as a mix of working professionals and academics, to bring varied perspectives on the topic. I'm pretty sure I was the only librarian in the list of attendees though!

This jam-packed course was held over two days, and consisted of eight modules on various topics covering securities and corporate law:

1. Corporate Law and Corporate Governance: provided an overview of what constitutes a "company", governance structures, board composition, understanding the powers, functions, and fiduciary duties of directors and officers, and liability risks
2. Regulation of Capital Markets: provided an introduction to securities legislation, regulatory instruments, the role of provincial securities commissions and the CSA, and explained prospectuses, public offerings vs private placements, exemption requirements, and hold periods
3. Material Changes and Timely Disclosure: understanding what constitutes a material change, the filing requirements for disclosure, civil liability
4. Shareholder Communications: understanding requirements for conducting shareholder meetings, fostering investor relations
5. Financial Reporting: provided an overview of the requirements for Interim and Annual Financial Statements, Management's Discussion & Analysis (MD&As), and administrative penalties such as Cease Trade Orders (CTOs)
6. TSX Venture and TSX Filing Requirements: overview of financings, options, acquisitions and dispositions, and filing tips
7. Trading: explained how the market operates, provided an overview of different markets (e.g. lit, dark, etc.)
8. Insider Obligation: covered insider reporting, insider trading prohibition, and consequences for doing so

While I learned something new from each of the sessions, the most useful for me were probably the modules on Corporate Law and Corporate Governance, Regulation of Capital Markets, and Financial Reporting, which helped me better understand the organizational structure, liability risks, and legislative requirements governing public companies. These topics would most likely have the most direct benefit to my work as a legal researcher. My favourite overall sessions were definitely the modules on Trading, where I learned about the difference between lit and dark markets, and on Insider Obligations where we heard nitty-gritty details about insider trading (maybe not as entertaining as watching *The Wolf of Wall Street*, but definitely more informative).

Due to the course being geared towards directors and lawyers, some of the topics went into a bit too much prescriptive detail than I would be interested in knowing and found a little dry (e.g. the granular details of what to include in Continuous



Disclosures reports, or the precise messaging to use for shareholder communications). However, this was no fault of the speakers or organizers, I was just not the target audience for those particular sessions.

After the completion of the course, we were given access to all the course materials including slide decks for each of the modules, and other handouts prepared by the speakers, which have been very useful to refer back to.

The course is being offered online again in October 2021, and for anyone wanting to brush up on their securities and corporate law knowledge, I would highly recommend it, as it's a lot of bang for your buck. For any lawyers seeking credits, the Law Society of British Columbia has approved this course for its members' professional development.

I would like to thank the VALL Executive for approving me for the Peter Bark Bursary to allow me to attend this excellent course, and for supporting my professional development as a legal information professional.

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## Column: From the Webmaster's screen

Joni Sherman, Library Technician | Department of Justice

Now that the Summer Olympics are over, I, too, am passing the baton to VALL's new Web Editor, Kurtis Kolthammer.

After working years at Thierry Chocolate Patisserie and getting his diploma in Game Development & Design, Kurtis found his true passion in Library Technician Studies at Langara College. From there he worked at Lawson Lundell for a short contract and then at UBC as a Rights & Permissions Assistant. He now works at Fasken where he has been thoroughly enthralled with the Law Library world. Outside of work, he is an avid gamer, enjoying live tabletop D&D sessions and MMOs such as Guild Wars 2 and Final Fantasy XIV. He reads everything by Brandon Sanderson and the walk along Iona Jetty is his favourite with the ocean on each side and the planes flying overhead.

I will be staying on the VALL Executive, assisting Kurtis through his first year in this role. The last several years have been a great learning experience for which I am grateful and have greatly enjoyed.

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## Column: Courts on Research

Sarah Richmond, Manager, Research Services | Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang LLP

### Courthouse libraries and access to justice in the time of COVID-19

[Owners of Strata Plan NW 499 v. Louis, 2021 BCSC 977](#)

As law library professionals well know, law libraries (particularly courthouse libraries) play a critical role in access to justice. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has understandably created barriers to one's physical access to the library space. In a recent BC Supreme Court case involving a petition by a Strata Plan seeking payment for arrears in strata fees (and ultimately an order for sale of the condominium unit), a respondent filed an application seeking a general adjournment of the petition

until, among other things, the BC Courthouse Library Society's branches have been re-opened to the public for at least 60 days.

The Honourable A. Walkem considered the access to justice issues in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, and noted that the "COVID-19-related public health measures have imposed difficulties and forced people, including the courts, to find new ways of proceeding" (para 35).

In the end, the Court balanced the interests of the Strata Plan petitioners and the respondent. The Court held that "waiting until the courthouse libraries opened would not be appropriate or fair in the circumstances. There are other legal research and information sources available" (para 54). The judge ordered that the matter be set down for a two-day in-person trial, as soon as possible.

Whether or not the respondent's request for an adjournment based on the closure of the courthouse law library was a "ploy to prevent the issue of [the respondent's] arrears in strata fees from being addressed" (para 36), as alleged by the Strata Plan, the Court was clear that online legal research tools, such as CanLII.org and the BCSC website, remain available (para 39).

The Courthouse Libraries also has its [COVID-19 safety plan](#) and [Library service updates](#) on its website, which includes contact information on how to call and email librarians for help with legal information questions and requests for information. The Courthouse Library website states: "We can search for cases, precedents, legislation, articles, and expert commentary in our print and digital collections. During this extraordinary time, we're waiving our document delivery fees for legal information resources."

Speaking as a law firm librarian, I am so grateful to the Courthouse Libraries BC staff for its continued excellent service during these challenging times.

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## Member Announcements

We have seven new members this season.

**Liz Blackburn** is the Manager of Regional Libraries at Courthouse Libraries BC and is based in Victoria Courthouse Library. She is very excited to join the VALL community now that remote participation makes more sense than ever. Liz received her MLIS from UWO in 2007 and after several years away overseas and at library school, she returned home to Vancouver Island and started at CLBC in Spring 2008. In addition to her role as manager, Liz chairs CLBC's Collection Development team and manages the print collection budget.

**Josh Chan** is a new Outreach & Legal Reference Librarian at the Vancouver Courthouse Library in downtown Vancouver. He graduated with an MLIS from the UBC iSchool in 2020 and enjoys providing reference, research, and community outreach services to clients of Courthouse Libraries BC (CLBC). New to the world of law librarianship, he is looking forward to learning more about best practices for doing legal research (especially legislative research!). Outside of CLBC, he is also

an active participant in BCLA. In 2020 he published a research paper called *Beyond Tokenism: The Importance of Staff Diversity in Libraries*. Freely available in Volume 12, Issue 1 (2020) of the BCLA Perspectives journal, this article contextualizes the harmful practice of tokenism, including suggestions for how to overcome it. This paper led to a BCLA panel presentation in May 2021 called *Colorful Perspectives*, which was the first-ever panel consisting of librarians of colour who spoke candidly about their experiences with racism in the library profession. Lastly, Josh is also a member of the newly formed BCLA Anti-Racism Committee.

**Chantal Lyons-Stevenson** joined Harper Grey LLP as a Librarian in April 2021. She is new to law librarianship, having previously worked in academic libraries and non-profit organizations. Chantal received her MLIS from the UBC iSchool in 2020. She looks forward to learning more about law libraries – in particular, health law – and being a part of the VALL community.

**Amanda Prince** joined Bull Housser and Tupper LLP as a legal assistant in 2007, after having worked in several small firms doing primarily ICBC law and insurance defence. She accidentally stumbled into a position in the firm library in 2010 and spent 3 years there, until being recalled to her position as a legal assistant. Amanda happily rejoined the now Norton Rose Fulbright LLP library team in 2019 as a library assistant. She is currently working towards completing a paralegal certificate through VCC.

**Tori Shewchuk** joined the Fasken library team as a Knowledge Services Technician in May after doing her final practicum with Marnie and Kurtis. She started my practicum in March and had such a wonderful experience, and as it turns out so did they! When they offered her a full-time position the only option was to emphatically say yes. She has a bachelor's degree in Linguistics from the University of Victoria and a diploma in Library & Information Technology from Langara. She became interested in law libraries shortly after entering Langara's Library Tech program and is very excited to be starting her career at Fasken in what she describes as her dream job.

**Rachel Wertheim** is a Research Specialist at the Vancouver office for Dentons Canada LLP. After previously working as a paralegal in Washington, D.C., Rachel moved to Vancouver to study at the University of British Columbia in 2018. She graduated in 2020 with a dual Master's in Library Science and Archival Studies. She looks forward to learning more about law librarianship and getting to know the VALL community.

We'd also like to welcome **Harman Arora** from the Courthouse Library.

The new VALL Membership Directory is available [at our website](#).

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## News from CanLII

Alex Tsang, Document and Information Coordinator | CanLII

From the expansion of our primary law and legal commentary collections to the development of new and improved research tools, a lot has been happening at CanLII over the past year! Here is a short post to catch you up on all the recent changes.

## Primary Law

CanLII continues to do historical scanning projects to increase the scope of our case law collection. Here are the results of some of those projects over the past year:

- A grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario allowed us to provide [access to 4,800 Reports of Family Law decisions](#) dating from 1968 to present on CanLII.
- Thanks to a grant from the Alberta Law Foundation, over [5,500 previously missing decisions](#) from *Alberta Reports*, *Alberta Law Reports*, and *Western Weekly Reports* have been added to CanLII.org.
- Funded by the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan, we have completed a [project to add the annual and revised statutes](#) for the Province of Saskatchewan to CanLII with coverage going back to 1906.
- Due to a grant from the Law Foundation of Prince Edward Island, we were able to add [553 previously missing decisions](#) from the *Newfoundland & Prince Edward Island Reports* to the CanLII database.
- Courtesy of the Manitoba Law Foundation, we have completed a [project to add the annual statutes](#) for the Province of Manitoba to CanLII back to 1988.
- We now have [primary law covering 70 years for the province of New Brunswick](#). The annual statutes database now goes back to the Revised Statutes of New Brunswick of 1952, which included 255 consolidated statutes and 2562 annual statutes. We also added 650 decisions published in the *Maritime Provinces Reports* between 1929 and 1968 that were missing from CanLII and that have been cited in the CanLII database.
- CanLII is also excited to announce the acquisition of over [3000 decisions previously published in the Canadian Human Rights Reporter](#) from 1980 to 2020.

## Commentary

Now totaling over 17,000 documents, CanLII's commentary section has continued to grow with resources written by authors from various backgrounds. Since the launch of the CanLII Authors Program, we have received submissions from lawyers, legal scholars, and graduate students in law, who see the value in open legal commentary. You can visit our [CanLII Authors Program](#) page to learn more, or you can explore what's already on CanLII [here](#). To help you find the commentary you need, an additional filter feature was added to CanLII to [search commentary by subject area](#).

## Journals

Below is a list of journals added since Spring 2020. You can see the full list of journals on our website [here](#).

- *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law*
- *Canada-United States Law Journal*
- *Canadian Journal of Family Law*
- *Lex Electronica*
- *Osgoode Hall Review of Law and Policy*
- *Queen's Law Journal*
- *Revue générale de droit*
- *Supreme Court Law Review*

We also continue to be grateful to the number of [university presses that have published legal scholarship under Creative Commons](#) (CC) licenses, allowing platforms like CanLII to share this content with a wide audience. We encourage content creators to follow the lead of these university presses and consider whether making public legal scholarship openly accessible through avenues like Creative Commons licensing is right for them.

## Books

The publication of [The CanLII Manual to British Columbia Civil Litigation](#) last December was a major highlight of 2020 and the culmination of over a year's worth of work from both us and our volunteer authors and editors. Since its release, it has received positive reception from the legal professional community and from advocates for access to justice. Most recently, it was conferred the CALL/ACBD Hugh Lawford Award for Excellence in Legal Publishing, an award that acknowledges work that is done by publishers to provide the legal profession with high quality materials for use in understanding and researching the law.

Other major resources that CanLII has recently published include [Domestic Violence and Access to Justice](#) by Jennifer Koshan, Janet Mosher and Wanda Wiegers, the [Annotated Accessible Canada Act](#) created by the Law Disability & Social Change Project, and our first course readings ebook, [An Introduction to Civil Procedure: Readings](#) by University of Windsor Faculty of Law Professor Noel Semple.

Over the past year, CanLII's [collection of ebooks](#) containing selected content from Slaw.ca has also continued to grow. Each ebook contains a set of selected columns from a Slaw.ca contributor that have been edited and formatted for display on CanLII. The series now encompasses 32 volumes that feature legal writing on a wide variety of subjects.

We have also announced the launch of an in-house publishing program and have been inviting [book proposal submissions](#) that could strategically meet the needs of researchers on CanLII. Several of these projects are currently being produced and we are excited to be able to bring those to you soon!

You can search through CanLII's entire book collection [here](#).

## CanLII Connects

We are grateful to the writers on CanLII Connects who make it faster and easier for legal professionals and the public to access high-quality legal commentary on Canadian court decisions. If you have professional competence in legal analysis and would like to join CanLII Connects to share your insights, we encourage you to register [here](#).

## Other News

Through our partnership with Lexum, CanLII has continued to develop and add new features to our platform. Since mid-2020, these have included:

- A [blue sidebar](#), or "heatmap", on the right side of your screen to give you a quick view of where the most relevant parts are in your case or statute of interest.
- '[Dark Mode](#)' which modifies CanLII's website display to have a dark background which can be easier on the eyes

- [“Reading Pane” mode](#) which allows you to see the full contents of the documents in your search results without leaving the page.
- [Improvements to CanLII’s Legislation Comparison Tool](#)
- Improved noteup and case history.
- ‘Yellow jalapeño’ notifications for “unfavorable mentions” of a case you are noting up.
- Linking to legislation is more accurate.

You can read more about some of these changes in [this blog post](#).

We are excited to report that a new [artificial intelligence generated classification has been rolled out for Saskatchewan case law](#). This project used state-of-the-industry machine learning techniques to automatically generate case law classification by practice area for decisions from the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, Queen’s Bench, and Provincial Court. It has been applied to the cases that are published on CanLII.org now and into the future.

We also recently announced the winner for the second annual Martin Felsky Award, a contest celebrating excellence in Canadian open legal commentary on the subjects of legal research and legal technology. This year’s award went to Erwan Jonchères and Soleïca Monnier for their article titled “La blockchain comme outil probatoire : une analyse au regard de la LCCJT”, originally published in [Lex Electronica](#), an online journal published by the Centre de recherche en droit prospectif at the Université de Montréal. Erwan and Soleïca particularly impressed the judges with their vision for the future of blockchain technology in law and their quality of research. You can read the winning article on CanLII [here](#).

Finally, we are happy to announce that [Alex Tsang has joined the CanLII team as Document and Information Coordinator](#). Alex started at CanLII as a practicum student in June 2020, and he has been working with us part time since then to improve our commentary collection and build engagement through CanLII’s social media and blog. Alex has now completed his diploma of Library & Information Technology at Langara College in Vancouver and has joined us full-time. He is skilled at preparing documents for digital publication and knowledgeable of the standards needed for digital collections.

To stay informed on the latest CanLII news, be sure to read and follow our [blog](#).

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## News from InfoAction

Patti Wotherspoon | InfoAction

Our current manager, Jade Reed, has been recently appointed as the Manager of VPL’s Information Services. This is great news for Jade and VPL as a whole, not so great for Infoaction... However, we’re currently in the recruitment process for a new Manager and hope to have someone in place by the end of summer. Apart from that, we’re still carrying on with business as usual. InfoAction’s physical offices are not yet open, but we are providing research services remotely and are busier than ever. Members of the VALL community may also be interested to know that there is a plan to re-open the Library’s Special Collections division in early July.

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## News from LexisNexis

Eric Wai, Director, Client Relationships | LexisNexis Canada

LexisNexis Canada remains committed to our customers, to innovation and to the rule of law. Here are some recent events, resources and new products we have developed to support Canadian lawyers, law libraries, and legal organizations. To learn more, please contact your LexisNexis Canada representative or visit [www.lexisnexis.ca](http://www.lexisnexis.ca).

### Masterclass Panel Discussion Series - Tech & Litigation: Shifting Paradigms

We are excited to introduce our new Masterclass webinar discussion series - Tech & Litigation: Shifting Paradigms. Commencing in July and continuing through 2021-22, each event in the series will feature Canadian and global experts discussing topics at the intersection of law and technology.

The series was launched on July 7 with a session on “The impact and transformative influence of AI on the legal industry”. Our panel for that conversation included: Paul-Erik Veel of Lenczner Slaght, Angela Swan of Osgoode Hall Law School, Greg Lambert of Jackson Walker, Shelby Austin of Arteria AI and Dr. Lachlan Caunt of the Better Justice Lab.

In case you missed the July webinar, the video recording is now available [here](#). [Registrations are now open](#) for the next event on September 29 on the topic of: “Technology assisted legal spend management and how legal departments can better administer outside counsel”.

### Product Adoption and Learning Resources

With the challenges of the past year came new opportunities. Our Product Adoption and Learning Team, which usually visited your offices to train students, lawyers, and librarians, have shifted their work to a virtual learning environment. As we move towards more office re-openings, the team will continue to offer a broad range of virtual, online and in-person training options, providing customers with training whenever, wherever, and however you may need it.

In addition, the Product Adoption and Learning Team has created a collection of new online resources: short training videos; step-by-step tip sheets; quick reference guides and in-depth comprehensive user guides. We invite you take a few moments and explore our redesigned [Documentation and Training Resource Page](#).

### Context - Court & Judge Analytics

The latest legal technological development from LexisNexis, Context is the first and only case law language analytics solution in Canada. Context applies powerful technology to our Lexis Advance Quicklaw case law database to reveal:

- how many cases like yours have been previously heard by a specific court, how the court ruled, and what arguments succeeded
- the opinions most cited by your specific judge in cases similar to yours, and
- the precise case law language your judge has relied on in prior decisions.

Context empowers litigation lawyers to tailor their arguments and strategy based on data-driven insights. Watch [this short video](#) showcasing a Context use case scenario in the British Columbia jurisdiction.

### **LexisNexis Digital Library**

LexisNexis has teamed up with OverDrive, the worldwide leader in e-Lending solutions, to create LexisNexis Digital Library. With LexisNexis Digital Library, those who prefer a book-like research experience can access their library's collection wherever their work takes them.

The LexisNexis Digital Library is a great solution for efficiently circulating eBooks in legal libraries. We are excited to deliver a streamlined web interface together with a new smartphone app that supports offline reading. Watch [this 2 minute video](#) and learn about Digital Library, the next generation in law libraries.

### **CaseMap Cloud**

Organizing and managing a litigation file can be a challenge, even on a relatively straightforward case. CaseMap Cloud is a fact management and case analysis solution that allows you to gather and analyze all your documents, evidence and data in one place, build your case chronologies, document indices and deposition summaries, and collaborate with teams across multiple offices. All your data is secure and backed up for peace of mind. Reimagine the way you organize and analyze litigation evidence with [CaseMap Cloud](#).

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## **News from Thomson Reuters**

Lavern Walters, Marketing Manager, Legal Solutions | Thomson Reuters



Get ready to boost your productivity and efficiency. The new Westlaw Edge Canada will keep you at the forefront of innovative legal technology that improves how you work. With Westlaw Edge, you can:

- Know you are citing good law
- Get quick answers to common legal questions
- Easily locate relevant material across content sets
- Find decisions that meaningfully interpret legislation
- Seamlessly flag important paragraphs for decision makers
- Navigate content efficiently

Be the first to see how you can expedite research tasks that were once incredibly complex and time-consuming. [Learn more here.](#)





Now you can access authoritative texts and annotations from leading experts with Westlaw's powerful search capabilities, integrated content, research management tools and exclusive editorial enhancements, all in one place. The following Text and Annotations collections are available on Westlaw Edge Canada and Westlaw:

- Corporate Commercial
- Real Property
- Litigation – Specialty Practice and General
- Municipal and Construction
- Professions
- Privacy

[Learn more about Topical Texts and Annotations on Thomson Reuters Westlaw.](#)

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## News from Quickscribe

**Mike Pasta, CEO** | Quickscribe Services Ltd.

### Accuracy – A Peek Under the Hood

Over the past 35 years, Quickscribe has gained a reputation for delivering accurate legislation services.

Quickscribe recently developed a new administrative tool that will add to an already stringent multi-layer quality control process.

The new tool compares and highlights any discrepancies between the documents/laws on Quickscribe to those on the BC government sites. In fact, through this new process we have already uncovered several errors on the government sites which we intend to bring to their attention.

QS is now running all previously published legislation through this new process and hopes to have everything completed by early fall. The tool will continue to be used as part of the ongoing proofing protocol for all new amendments.

Quickscribe wanted to share this exciting development with you, so you can rest assured that you have access to accurate, reliable material you can depend on.

In other news, Quickscribe is very close to launching the new Supplemental Notes feature, which will offer helpful historical information about each section of law. Stay tuned...

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## Programming Review

Erin Clupp | Norton Rose Fulbright  
Jason Wong | McCarthy Tetrault LLP

### April: US Law 101 with Adam Lederer

Some of us may have learned our US legal research skills starting with the Saturday morning melodies of “[School House Rock](#)”, with others have been informed by what is covered in the news and pop culture. Regardless, what is evident is that conducting legal research in the US is an entirely different process to us Canadians, which is why VALL was very grateful to have Adam Lederer – the Manager of Library Services at Norton Rose Fulbright in New York City – provide a succinct and clear explanation of the essential components of US legal research, including overviews of each of the three branches of government.

Complexity aside, Adam made the session lighthearted and easy to follow, and it was heartening to know that what is frustrating to us on this side of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel is just as frustrating for even the seasoned locals (It’s not just you: PACER is actually that confusing and infuriating!).

The full recording of the session is available [on the VALL YouTube page](#).

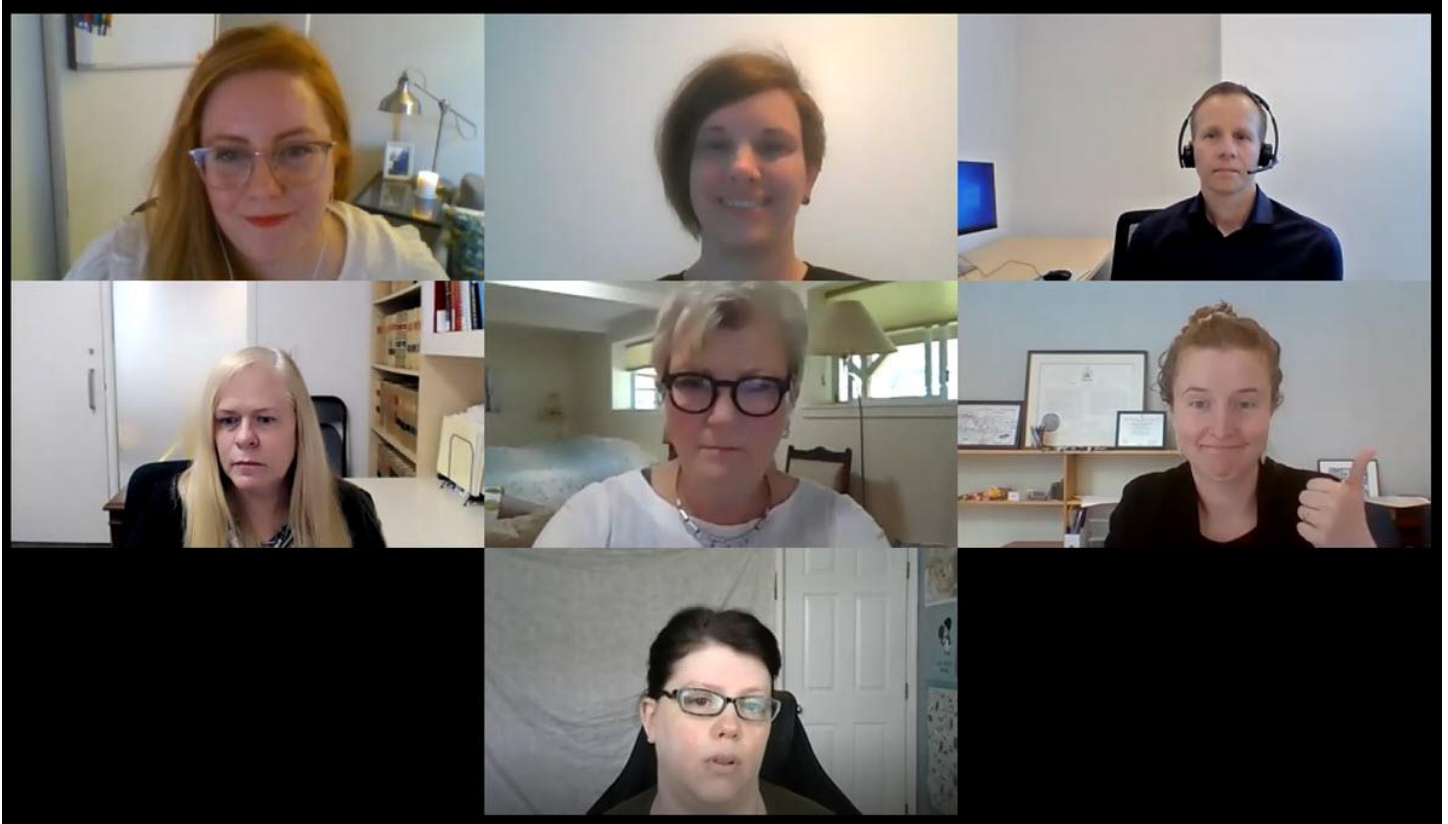
### June: Towards the Light: Transitioning to the Post-Pandemic Reality

Traditionally, our year-end luncheon would be an in-person gala to mark the end of another programming year and the promise of summer respite. While last year’s event was hastily transitioned into a virtual format, this year’s was entirely planned and executed with this format in mind, showcasing VALL’s programming evolution over the course of a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a fitting bookend for the 2020-2021 programming year.

Our event was a panel entitled Towards the Light: Transitioning to the Post-Pandemic Reality, where we invited leaders from four institutions representative of VALL’s major membership constituencies to reflect upon significant developments of this shared pandemic experience, and their thoughts on what and how a transition to a new post-pandemic reality may look like for their institutions and our community.

Before an audience of 33 members, we were very fortunate to have several prominent members of the legal information profession and the VALL community participate as panelists for the event:

- Bronwyn Guiton – Director, Library and Research Services of the Attorney General Law Library, BC Ministry of Attorney General (Victoria, BC)
- Debbie Millward – Manager, Information Resources at the business law firm Lawson Lundell LLP (Vancouver, BC)
- Caroline Nevin – Chief Executive Officer of the Courthouse Libraries BC (Vancouver, BC)
- George Tsiakos – Head of the UBC Law Library and Adjunct Professor at the Peter A. Allard School of Law (Vancouver, BC)



**Top, left to right: Rebecca Tomlinson, Erin Clupp, George Tsiakos  
Middle: Debbie Millward, Caroline Nevin, Bronwyn Guiton  
Bottom: Beth Galbraith**

The panel covered topics such as library operations, touching upon themes of service and access, collections and space, projects and partnerships, people and staffing, as well as the impact the pandemic has had on mental health and wellness of legal information professionals. We asked our panelists how they and their organizations are supporting their staff during this period of great upheaval and change. The discussion also opened up a dialogue on diversity, inclusion, and equity within the profession and how the pandemic has acted as a catalyst for social change. We hope some of these conversations will carry on beyond the pandemic within the VALL community and beyond.

Despite the different backgrounds, stakeholders, and drivers of the four representative institutions, one of the common threads of our collective pandemic experience was the spirit of “inadvertent piloting”, where new and novel ways of doing things were tried out of necessity, and despite the trepidation, the results were almost always promising!

In addition to our four guest panelists, our current President Beth Galbraith gave opening remarks and spoke to the impact that the pandemic has had on professional associations such as VALL, and our current Vice President and incoming President Rebecca Tomlinson acted as MC for the event. Programs Co-Chair Erin Clupp moderated the panel questions, and Co-Chair Jason Wong acted as our mission control, ensuring that the event ran smoothly and efficiently. We concluded the event with a brief Q&A session from the audience and Rebecca finished with some closing remarks.

In case you missed it, a link to [a recording of the event can be found here](#).

We would like to once again thank our panellists for agreeing to speak at our end-of-year event, as well as thank all our members for their support and participating in our virtual programming throughout the year. We look forward to hopefully meeting again in person next year!

Stay safe, healthy, and well!

Jason Wong & Erin Clupp  
Co-Chairs Program Committee

## Appendix – Resources

Throughout the panel, some of our panellists and attendees shared some useful resources in the chat that we collected in order to include here:

- Bronwyn Guiton shared several links including a recommended book scanner:  
<https://www.czur.com/product/m3000pro>
- An article entitled “The Back to the Office Maximum”: <https://annehelen.substack.com/p/the-back-to-the-office-maximum>
- Two articles about how supervisors can lead on mental health by actively modelling self-care:  
<https://warzel.substack.com/p/its-time-for-a-summer-slowdown> and <https://annehelen.substack.com/p/against-feel-free-to-take-some-time>
- Caroline Nevin highlighted her recent Lawbster post, which shared the results of a recent AALL survey regarding their members’ return to the office plans: <https://www.lawbster.net/content/9457/curious-about-what-others-are-doing-wrt>
- VALL Member Lingbo Yan recommended the Visible Minority Librarians of Canada (VIMLOC) group:  
<https://vimloc.wordpress.com/>

### VALL Review Newsletter Article Content Submission Guidelines

Please take a look at the guidelines below and contact the VALL Review Editors if you have any further questions. You do not have to be a VALL member to write for us. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the VALL Review as long as you meet the guidelines below. Thanks for your support and interest!

#### Purpose of VALL Review

- To provide short news and articles on library information and knowledge management developments of interest to VALL members with a priority focus on legal information and related issues concerning the legal sector.
- To highlight resources of interest to VALL which would be useful to the legal community and for professional library staff development.

**Authors** are advised to submit their draft articles that meet the minimal criteria:

- 1) In Microsoft Word, plain text or RTF.
- 2) Maximum of up to 800 words for full articles.
- 3) Single spaced with paragraphs.
- 4) Functional URLs and corresponding footnote bibliographic information for further reading.
- 5) Identification of author, their official position title and parent organization.

**Publishers and vendors** should only highlight for submission any new product developments that the vendor has not yet publicly released or that the vendor would like feedback from its customers. (Note: If a vendor has already released public marketing information to all customers on its corporate web site, VALL Review editors will exercise rights to determine if there is sufficient space to include the submitted information, in light of other VALL content publishing priorities.)

## 2020-2021 PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS SURVEY REPORT

Prepared by Beth Galbraith, Past President, on behalf of the 2020-2021 VALL Executive

### INTRODUCTION

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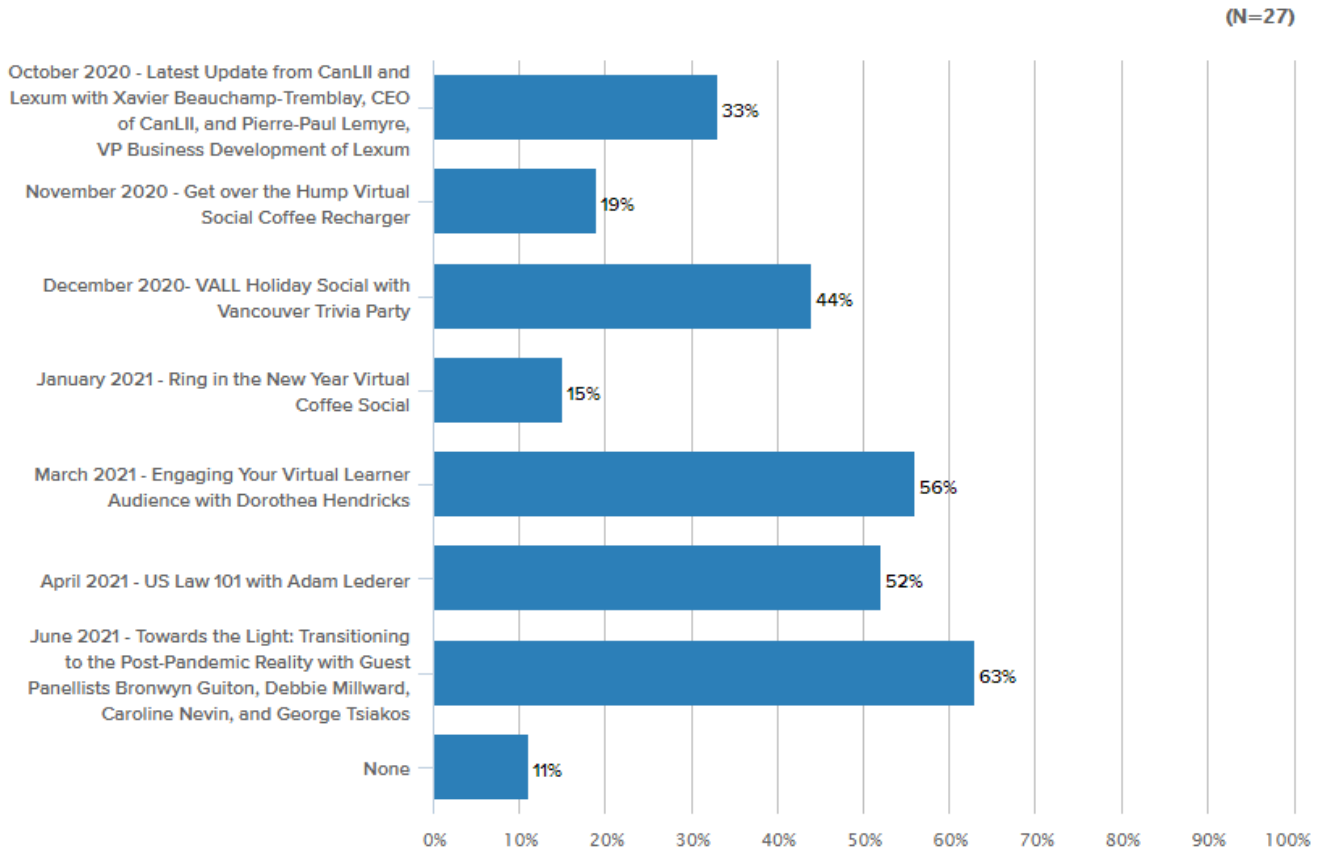
The Vancouver Association of Law Libraries is pleased to present the annual results for the Programming Feedback & Suggestions survey for the years 2020 - 2021. This survey captured event attendance by the VALL membership, and collected data for upcoming 2021 - 2022 events. Data was captured between July 12, and July 21, 2021 using the online survey service SoGo Survey.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 27 members responded to this 2020-2021 survey, up from 23 respondents for the last year's survey
- We asked a number of questions this year related to online event programming and comfort levels for returning to in-person events
- There is a high response to the question about continuation of work from home plans or a combination of work from home and in-office schedules which may make continued online programming a strong possibility for the 2021-2022 year.
- There were no responses to the VALL Review question asking for article suggestions or volunteers to write for the Review.

## RESPONDENTS' EVENT ATTENDANCE DURING 2020-2021

### 1. Which of the following VALL virtual events did you attend last season?



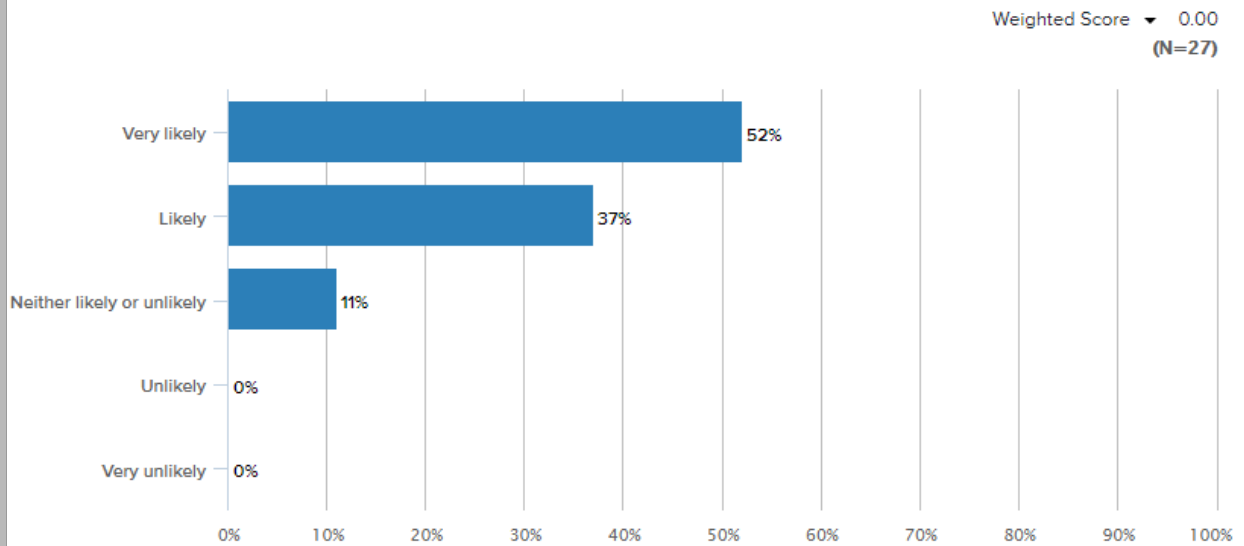
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### TOP RESULTS

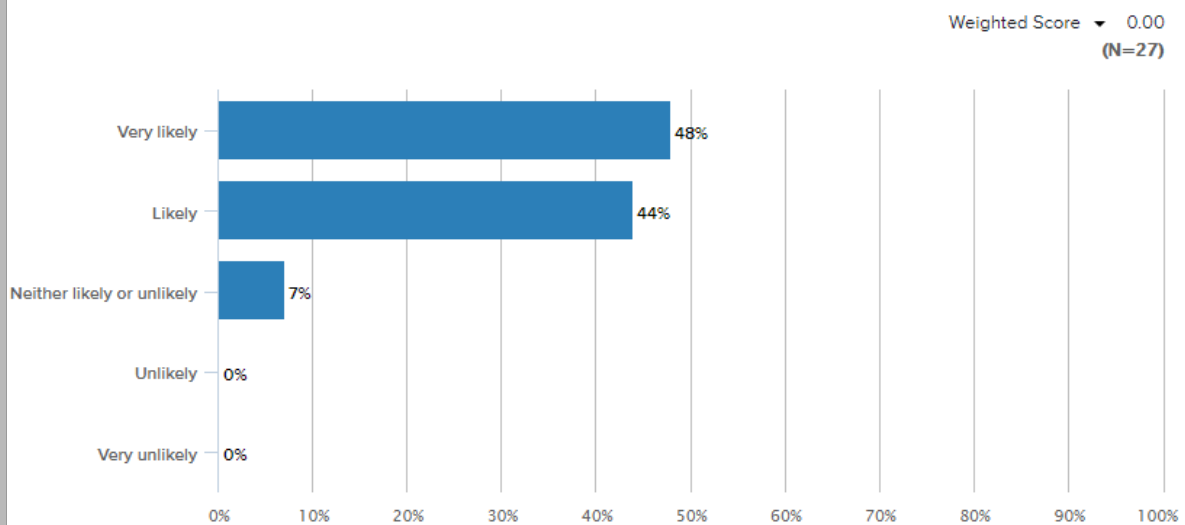
- The two coffee socials had the lowest attendance but considering the social nature and time of the event, they are still considered successful events with positive responses from attendees.
- Substantive events, especially in 2021 had the highest attendance rates. The June panel event with multiple speakers on the topic of COVID-19 and how different types of libraries were managing the changes, was the highest attendance event based on the survey.

## ONLINE PROGRAMMING

2. How likely are you to attend **VALL** virtual webinars and virtual socials once pandemic restrictions are lifted and in-person events are allowed?

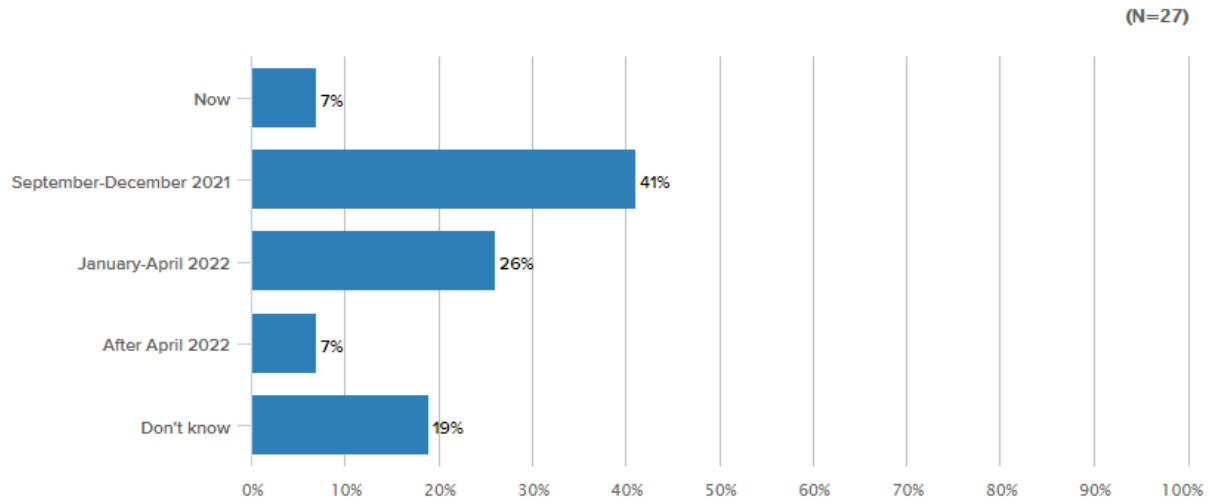


3. How likely are you to attend hybrid events? A hybrid event is an event that would allow in-person attendance and the ability for others to attend remotely or live-stream the event, at the same time.



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When do you envision yourself being comfortable attending an in-person VALL event?



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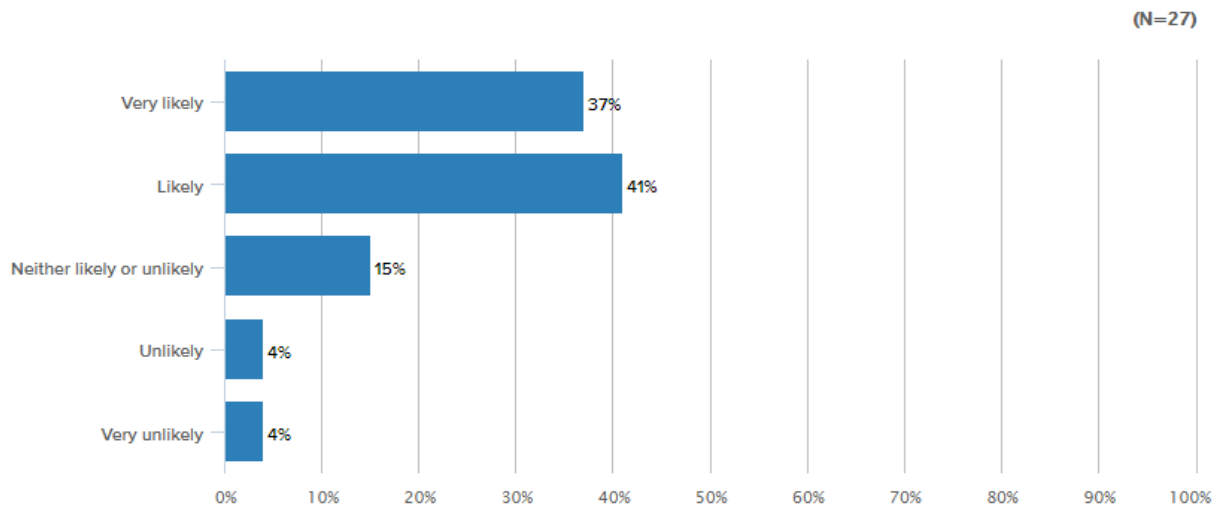
TOP RESULTS

- Members are interested in returning to in-person events but there is still a strong interest in attending virtual events.
- There is also an interest in hybrid events, where members can attend in-person or live stream the event. This needs to be explored further.
- Members would be comfortable attending in-person events September to December 2021 (41% of respondents) or January – April 2022 (26% of respondents)



## WORKING FROM HOME

Many of us have been working from home during the pandemic or working a hybrid of part time at home and part time in the office. How likely is it that your organization will continue work from home or hybrid work policies?



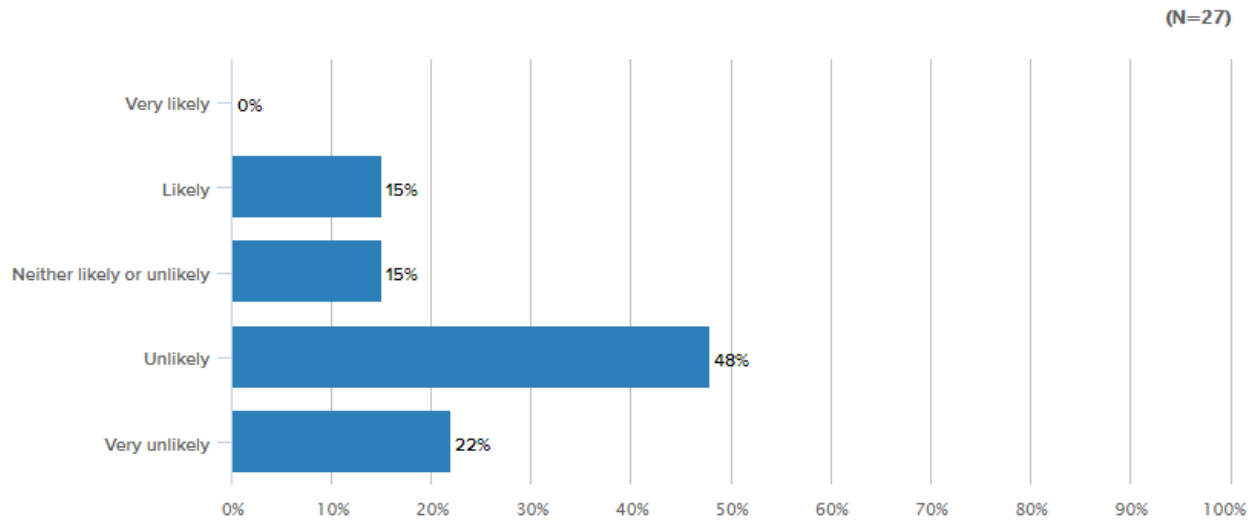
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### TOP RESULTS

- Many members will be continuing to work from home or a combination of work from home and in office. This will have an effect on scheduling for in-person events and may result in a continuation of virtual programming.

## RECORDING OF VALL WEBINARS AND SESSIONS

4. How likely are you to purchase recordings, for a small fee, of VALL webinars and substantive events for viewing after the event?

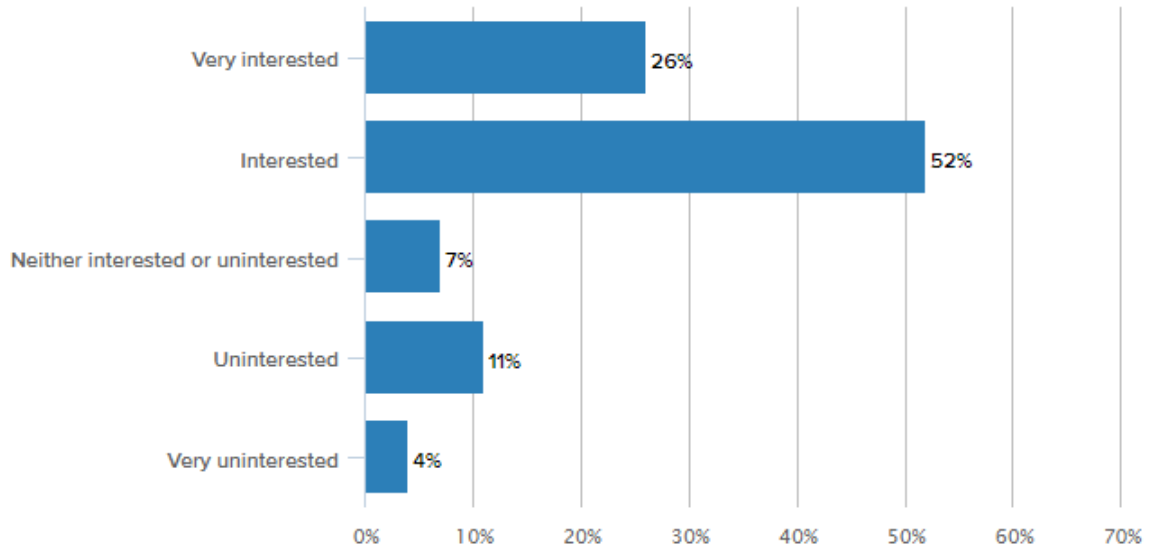


### TOP RESULTS

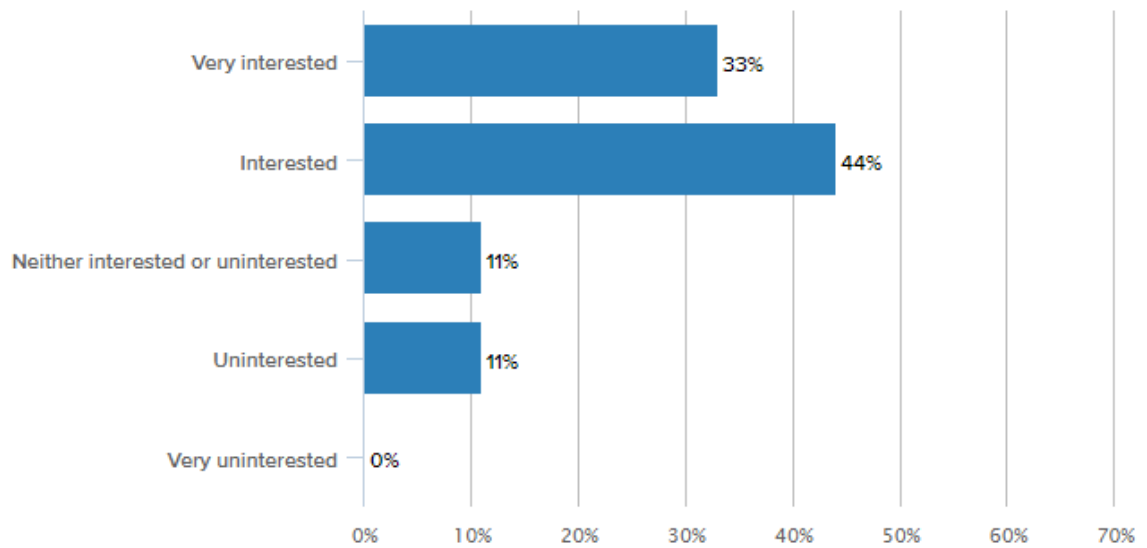
- Majority of respondents were not in favour of paying a small fee to access recordings of VALL events. This is a topic that would need to be explored further especially with the strong interest in continued virtual programming.

## PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS FOR 2021-2022

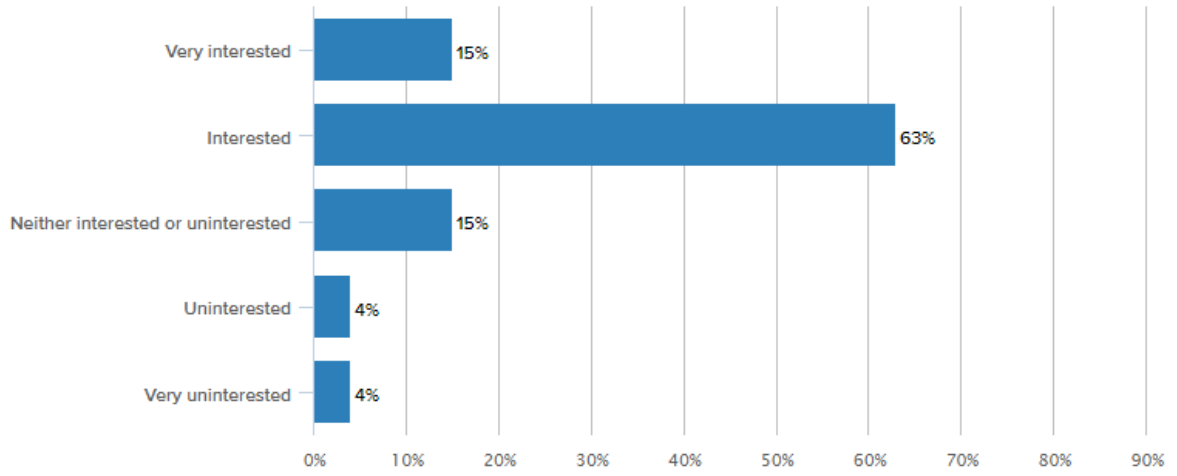
### 7 a. Privacy and Bill C-11



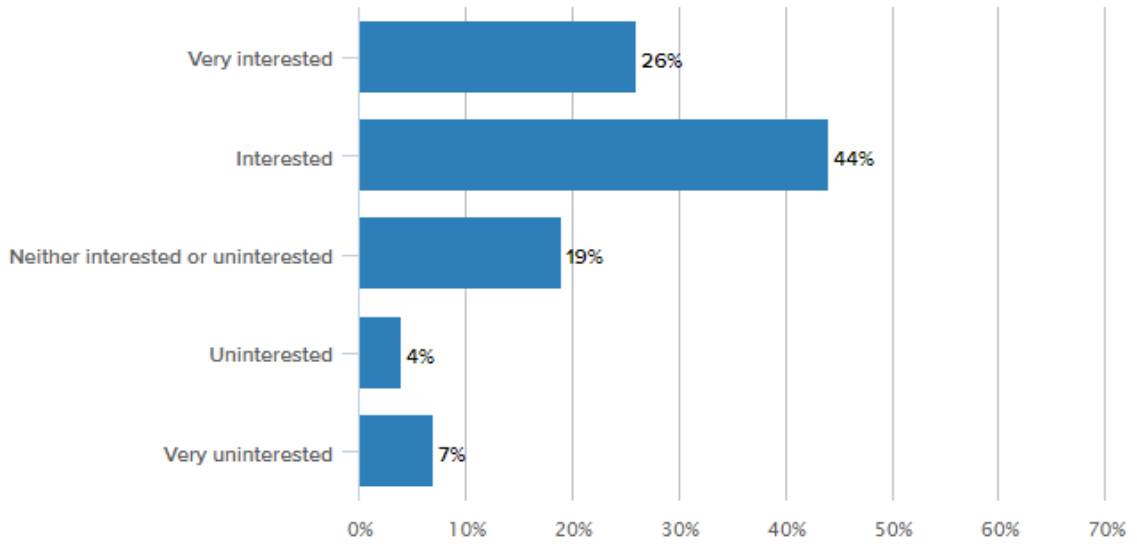
### 7 b. UBC Xwi7xwa Library and Digital Collections



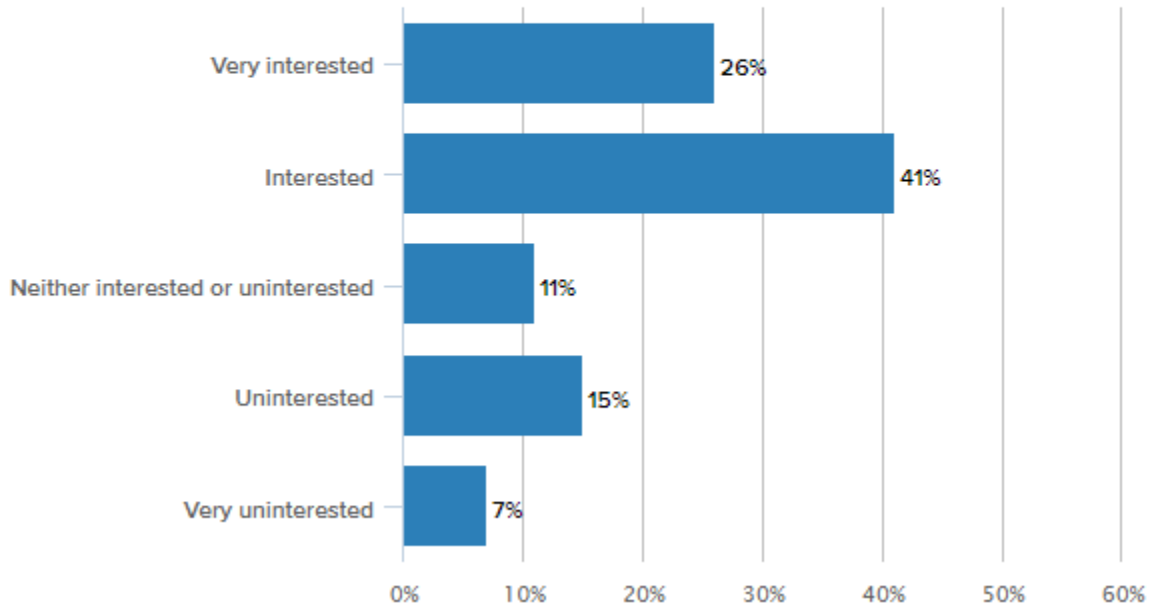
7 c. Critical Perspectives on Legal Information - expanded from CALL/ACBD conference session on June 3, 2021



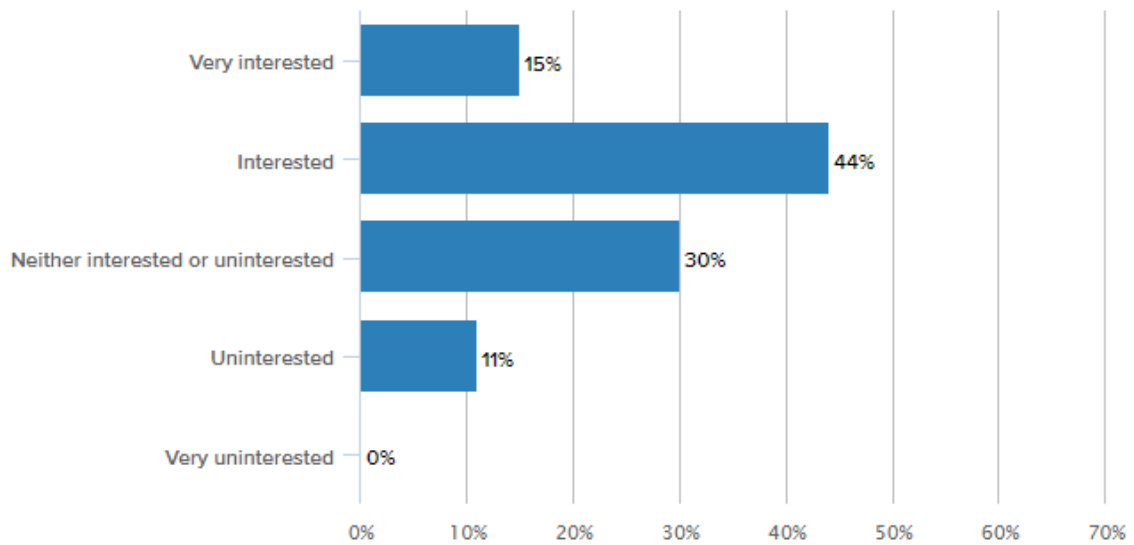
7 d. Libraries & Library Professionals as Educators



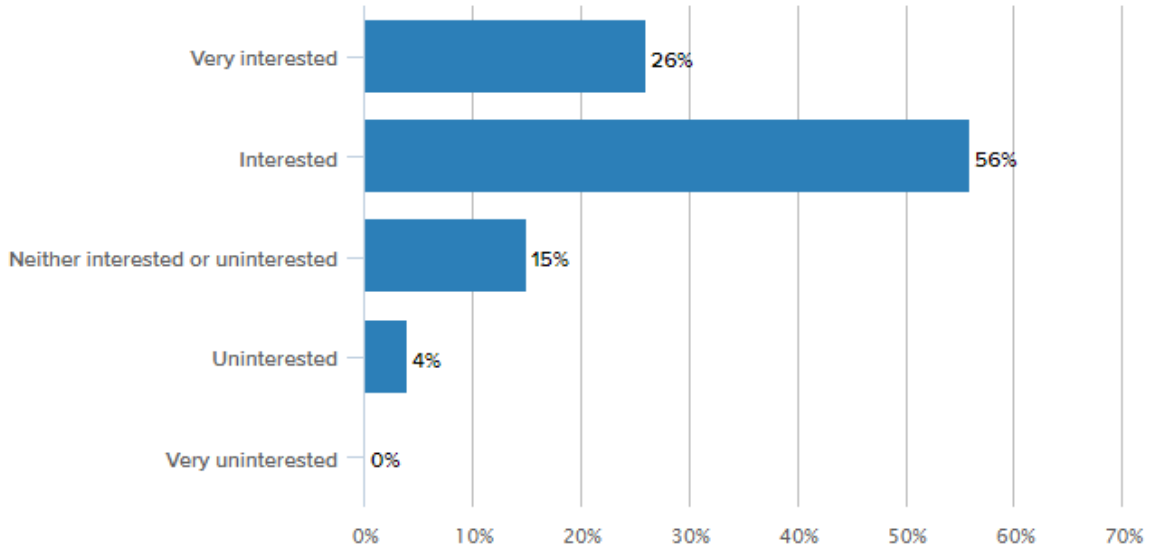
**7 e. Copyright, Libraries and Recent Court Decisions**



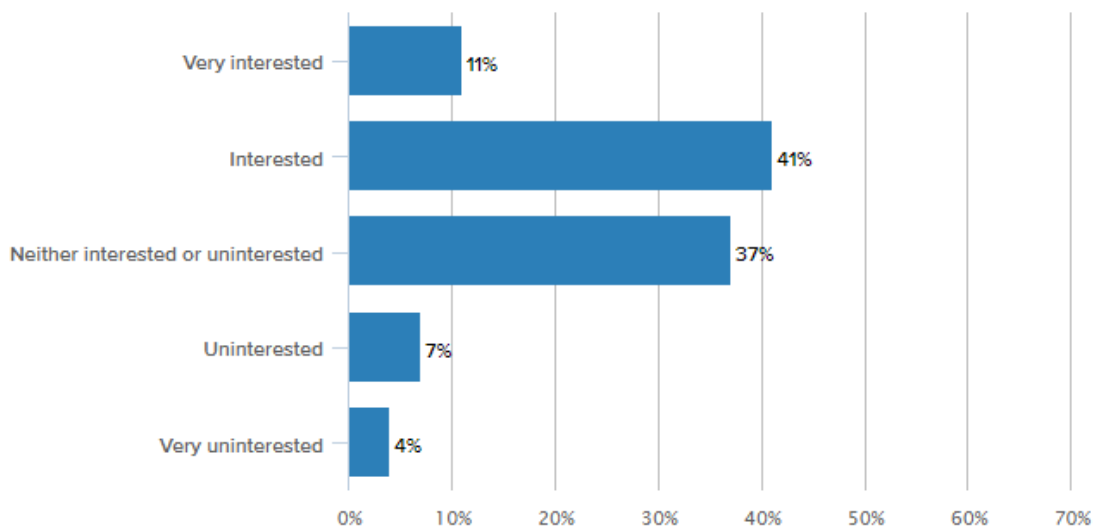
**7 f. Civil Resolution Tribunal with Shannon Salter - update from 2017 VALL session**



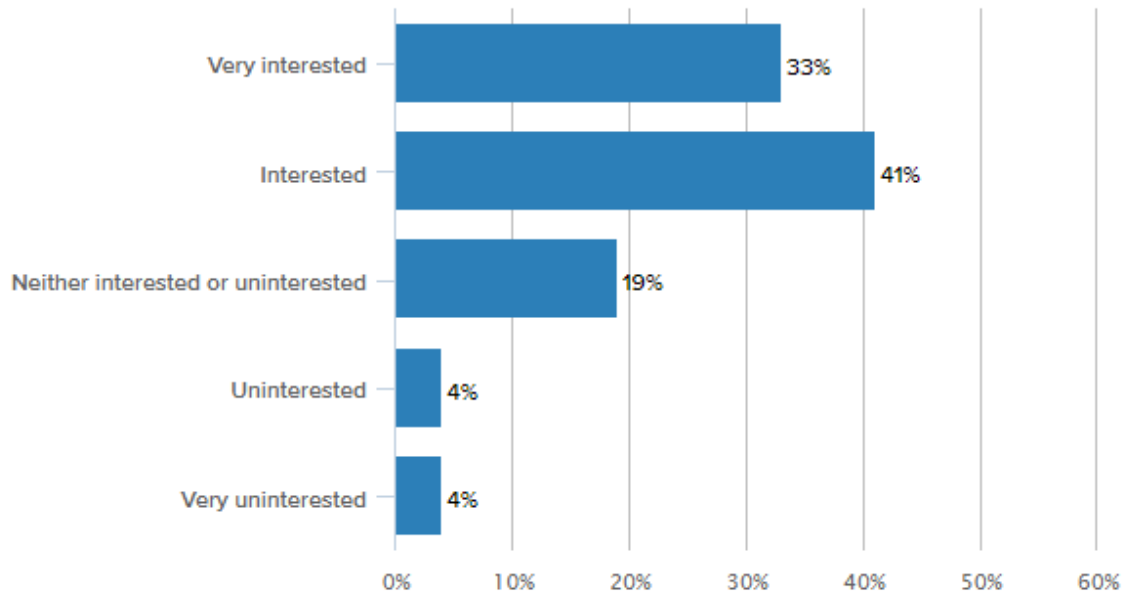
7 g. Tactical Feedback: How to Give and Take it in the Right Way in a Workplace Setting



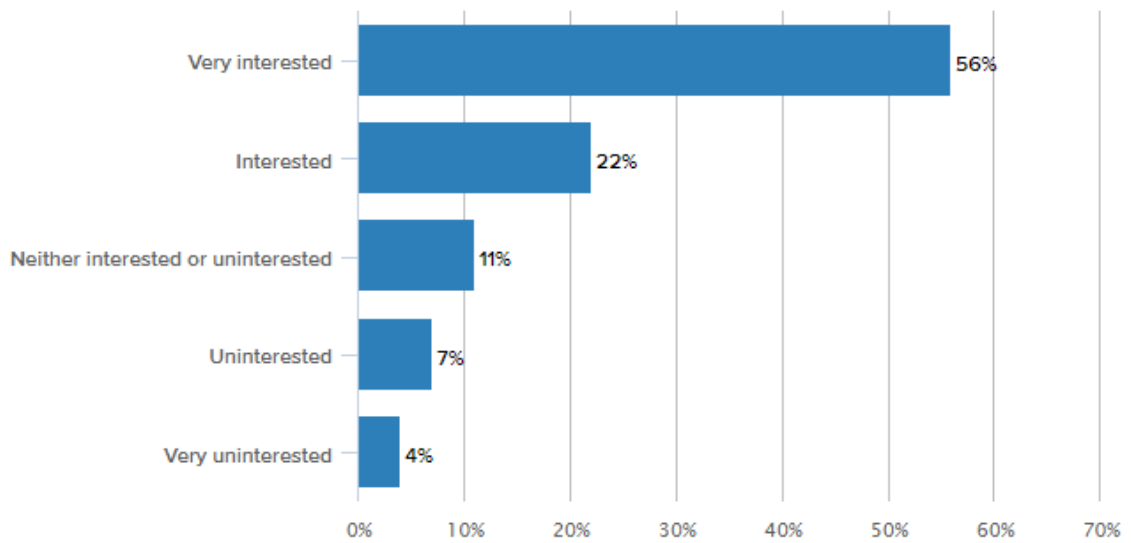
7 h. Brown Bag lunch style - Tell us about a project or idea that you successfully implemented!



**7.i. Intranets and Managing Other Digital Projects**



**7.j. Legislation Research Skills Refresher - update from 2017 VALL session**



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## TOP RESULTS

- Critical Legal Research (63% interested & 15% very interested) and Legislation Research Skills Refresher (56% very interested & 27% interested) are the topics with the most interest from our suggested session topics

## OTHER COMMENTS

- I loved the programming this year! I thought it was informative, well run and engaging. It was well planned and well executed
- It would be great to see some events around EDI initiatives, such as racial equity, Indigenous perspectives, and LGBTQ2S+ inclusion!
- I think programs did an amazing job this year - over & above the usual expectations AND during a pandemic. We had more sessions, options for participation, outreach, & kept high quality programming. Over & above expectations. Thanks for keeping us connected Erin & Jason. You did a great job finding & organizing really excellent sessions, under the most difficult circumstances, & the VALL community has really benefit from your hard work, connections, & expertise. Well done Programs Team!
- a panel of library technicians, on the challenges and changes to their work in the past few years?
- --Historical BC legal research (ie unusual + archival sources), --criminal justice-themed talks, forest fires and the law
- VLEX demonstration; Update from UBC Allard School of Law Library on the library's research instructions techniques, what is covered in legal research courses, student expectations of library, library catalogue, etc.
- I really enjoyed the 2020-2021 programming -- Kudos to Erin and Jason for organizing so many great sessions during a difficult year! I really liked the virtual format, because pre-COVID, I was downtown part-time so used to often miss VALL events

**Thanks to everyone who completed the survey and attended the VALL events this past year.**