

VALL Review

Vancouver Association of Law Libraries

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The President's Desk

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of the VALL Review!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new members of our Association. Our community is made stronger with every new perspective, and it is my hope that you will find our community a welcoming one where you can share your voice and grow with us.



Rebecca Tomlinson
VALL President
2021 - 2022

I have come to realize that Spring is my favorite time of year. As someone plagued with intense seasonal allergies and as someone who is perpetually cold, you can imagine that this realization has come as a bit of surprise. But Spring brings about a buzz of revitalization; the isolation of Winter has passed, and we start to look outside our routines to reconnect, to see somewhere new, to make room for growth. I love being outside and intentionally observing the way the world changes – it is part of how I practice mindfulness – and Spring it such an exciting time to be outside. I like to go on what I call “re-centering walks” when the weight of all the hats I wear becomes a little too oppressive or my anxiety starts creeping up. I try to find one thing that changed since the last time I saw it, take a moment to acknowledge that change, and move forward. In *Belonging: A Culture of Place*, bell hooks talks about acknowledging and appreciating the topography of life as a mirror of physical space, and that the observations must result in a call to action. For me, Spring brings about the most exciting observations that remind me that yes, the world is still turning; yes, there are things to look forward to; and yes, there are things I must do to nurture my own growth.

After two years of intense change and managing operational fires, expanding job roles, and the collision of work and personal life, the Pandemic finally appears to be moving into maintenance mode. It's not gone, but we are at a point where we can make plans again and figure out what it looks like to live with COVID-19. We can start talking about hosting events in person as an Association again. We can attend conferences and other professional development activities again. We can catch up one-on-one over coffee/tea/cocktails again. We've all learned a lot about ourselves and what we need from interactions with the world around us in the last two years. Some of us may find ourselves returning to what feels like an entirely new workplace, perhaps surrounded by a group of entirely different people. That may feel great, or it might not. Maybe you're like me and feel socially anxious in ways you weren't expecting.

Whatever your experience is, I hope that you take some time to appreciate and acknowledge the mountains, valleys, rivers, deserts, or plateaus that you have crossed these last two years. Or last week. Or today. Identify the things you need to do to nurture your own growth, and then move forward.

From the Editors

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

Kate and Jen starting assembling this issue of the Review while CALL was still debating whether to hold their conference virtually again or not, and while VALL was debating if we could manage one in-person event before summer. There's a question right now in whether we're coming to the end of something--something that's changed so much of the last two years of our lives--or whether we're not quite there yet. But one way or the other, virtually or in-person, organizations like CALL, VALL, the BCLA, and others have remained a source of support and community throughout. Jen's first CALL conference was meant to be in 2020 (oops), so her real first one was virtual, last year's "Legal Information: Outside the Box". What a perfect theme for an unprecedented event! Learning and networking from your own desk is a lot different than the those experiences collected for our feature article this issue, "Conferences, Chaos, and Community". There we relive the most unforgettable moments of previous conferences--sometimes unforgettable for somewhat the wrong reasons.

Also in this issue we have a reminder for members about our Peter Bark Bursary, including a report on the BCLMA conference from recipient Ronit Landon, and a write-up from Alex Everitt on something we don't ever want to forget: who Peter Bark was, and why we honour him. We have updates from Kurtis our Web Editor, VPL's InfoAction, CLEBC, LexisNexis, and Thomson Reuters. And our hard-working programming team have provided summaries of our events this year so far, all well attended and received.

We hope you enjoy the issue!

VALL Review

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Web Editor

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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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PO Box 48663, Bentall Centre
Vancouver, BC V7X 1A1



Feature article: Conferences, Chaos, and Community

Anne Beresford, Honoured Member

Moving from a first library job of catalogue maintenance on a card catalogue in a university library to being a Project Manager merging five law firm library catalogues digitally was a feat which could not have been completed without the benefit and influence of having attended the CALL library conferences (plus having a sharp assistant in Toronto). Fun, friendship, bonding, networking, knowledge, learning, involvement, and experience all blend together to cause personal growth and useful results over time.



Anne Beresford, Susan Daly, Anne Ikeda, Wilma Macfarlane, Lynda Mitchell, and colleagues... (Photo courtesy of Anne Beresford)

The Exhibition halls helped to build close relationships with the major sales representatives from Butterworths, Canada Law Book, Carswell, CCH, and Quicklaw, (many now renamed or absorbed). The halls kept us updated on the latest and greatest, be it new books, databases, software, new services or changes in libraries generally. The publishers often provided afternoon or evening receptions at which Tom Shorthouse(UBC) was a key entertainer, singing and playing the piano on numerous occasions.

I am extremely grateful that the firm supported my attendance at these conferences. In addition to all the work related benefits we had the opportunity to visit cities in every province in Canada, sometimes accompanied by spouses, hence the nickname CALL-Boys was created (by them). Attendance also encouraged a deeper involvement with VALL. And let us not forget BCLA, CLA, and AALL. Thank you, BLG and VALL.

Beth Galbraith, Library Administrator | Clark Wilson LLP

The first CALL Conference I attended was in 2019 in Edmonton. I had also received the Peter Bark Bursary to help me attend (thanks VALL!). Overall it was an enjoyable first conference to attend but there were a few hiccups and almost all of them revolved around food. I hope to impart my wisdom for those future conference attendees, so you won't be hungry.

I got my flight on time and arrived at the Edmonton airport with little issue or drama but after that it all started to go downhill. The shuttle from the airport to hotel was delayed and by the time I made it to the hotel it was after 10 or 11pm and there were no restaurants around that were open and serving food. The hotel also didn't have a restaurant open because they had recently had a flood which was why the conference events were taking place at the conference centre down the road and not within the hotel. Their restaurant was also damaged by the flood so they had a smaller restaurant which was not open late. I ended up meeting a fellow Vancouver friend for a drink but the place we met at did not have any food available, the kitchen was closed. I ended up eating an apple which was all the snack I had and heading to bed. The first day of the

conference I walked from the hotel to the conference centre, confident that a coffee shop would be along the way, after all this was a downtown Canadian city. Well, no. The streets between the hotel and conference centre were devoid of any places to buy food at all – such a shock coming from Vancouver where there is a Starbucks and a Café Artigiano on every corner! At the conference centre I checked in but there was no breakfast available. I managed to steal a piece of fruit from a table and coasted along on that until the snack portion of the morning but it was tough to ignore my stomach rumbling! The rest of the conference went well and I remained well fed (yay!) until the last day of the conference when the conference centre didn't seem to realize there were still going to be people attending the morning event and there was barely any breakfast food. Not sure what happened but it was a sad, sad buffet.

I met lots of great people at the conference, made new friends and attended a number of interesting sessions. It's great to have people you can talk to and who can attend different events and share what they are about because it is impossible to attend all the sessions that interest you. If you have been thinking of attending an in-person conference and have not been ready to take the plunge, I recommend doing so, It is a great learning experience and a great way to meet new people. Just bring your own snacks!

Katherine Melville, Director of Library Services | Farris LLP

I was very fortunate to begin my professional librarian career with a manager, Teresa Gleave, who encouraged me to get involved with VALL from the early days of my employment, and consistently supported her team in attending VALL events, and furthering our professional development. This was extremely helpful to me, as I began working as a law librarian after my first real experience with “conferences” and “professional development” having come in the form of Law Games (Ottawa 2005), and the varied and invariably, rather dull, networking events for young law and library school students.

I was also very fortunate that my predecessor at Farris, Wilma Macfarlane, had long established annual attendance at the CALL conference to be essential, and so my first year was Calgary, 2011, and I have not missed a year since.

What I will say about both law student events, and law library events, though certainly a bit different in format and content, is that I have made friends for life at both, and in some cases, family, and that the conversations, connections, and yes, shenanigans, are what I believe have enriched my career, and my life, far more than any other part of my professional world. It's fitting, then, that I share a story from both Ottawa 2005, and from Calgary 2011.

I attended Law Games Ottawa 2005 as a last minute team member, at the request of my then very new boyfriend, now husband, who was a veteran of that particular scene, having attended both previous years. I do believe the format may have shifted focus now, with less “sports” competitions, and more emphasis on the academic side of things, but I do think the UBC tradition of attending the formal banquet in costume still persists. After several days of shenanigans that included many naughty drinking songs, playing floor hockey for the first time since elementary school, and bedsheet togas, 6 of us decamped for the afternoon in search of “costume formal wear” and a visit to the parliament buildings. We returned with a hot pink tutu, a red bedazzled and shoulder-padded 80's cocktail dress (mine), a neon green giant Cat in the Hat style hat, a brown Friar Tuck cloak, and a few other too risky to mention costume additions. It was one of those perfect sunny afternoons where everything is hilarious, and we were most assuredly the belles of the ball that evening. A picture of all of us is framed in my hallway to this day, and everyone in that photo, excepting our lovely exchange student friend, were

guests at our wedding. They have all been friends and colleagues I've gone to for advice, both professional and personal, over the years since that afternoon.



I attended CALL Calgary 2011 expecting perhaps a slightly less “festive” event, and was immediately proven wrong. I met so many new, always friendly and enthusiastic colleagues on the first day that I was already slightly overwhelmed by the time I arrived at the opening banquet. I will forever be grateful to my dear friend Gillian Crabtree, who immediately took me under her wing, introduced me to yet more new colleagues, taught me the ways of the food station / passed appetizer tango in order to optimize the snack to wine ratio, and thankfully suggested a walk around the grounds of the Calgary Zoo when she saw I was hitting my wall of chit chat. Gillian’s kind words of encouragement and advice while we walked are some that have stood me in good stead at conferences since, and included “keep your event tickets inside your conference badge for easy access”; “spend time at every vendor booth, if you can, because you never know”, and “always, always, fill your water glass at every new meeting” – that last one is invaluable! We ended our walk when we encountered a rather amorous and friendly peacock, who put on a quite a display for us, forcing a rather around the way loop to return to

the main building, as neither of us were certain we could make it past his performance zone unscathed. Gillian and I continued the tradition of taking some quiet debrief time at every conference we attended together since, and the many friends across the country that I met thanks to her kind introductions remain wonderful colleagues to this day. I would also say that that was the best advice Gillian offered me that first year; attend everything you can, meet everyone you can, but always remember to take a few moments here and there to chat with close friends, debrief, and regroup before the next glass of wine!

Susannah Tredwell, Manager of Library Services | DLA Piper (Canada) LLP

Twenty years ago I started working in law firm libraries. I had no idea what "noting up" was or where to find a regulation. Fortunately for me, not only was I working with Gwendoline Hoar (both patient and generous with her knowledge) but I was also part of a community that believes in helping others. Being able to attend conferences has been incredibly valuable, both for the educational opportunities and for the chance to get to know people willing to answer my odd questions. What is the leading text on a specific area of law in Quebec? Thank you Carole. A lawyer needs a copy of something that we don't have in our library for court in 20 minutes? Thank you Wilma. Who do I need to contact in the Saskatchewan court system for an obscure request? Thank you Ann Marie. How do I play blackjack*? Thank you Kate.

(* Obviously this was completely CALL conference-related.)

Julie Wettstein, Library Technician | Farris LLP

It was impeccable timing that my first year with the library at Farris LLP coincided with the Vancouver CALL Conference of 2016, co-chaired by none other than Katherine Melville of Farris LLP. For anyone who's witnessed any planning committee for any event, watching the chaos unfold from the outside is awe inspiring. Although we were still getting to know each other professionally, witnessing her endless meetings with her co-chairs for planning, scheduling, and confirming all manner of things was impressive.

On more than one occasion during the conference, Katherine would pull me aside to have me give my opinion on certain events or to have clandestine panic attacks. Little did she know I'm well equipped for these types of situations and never minded walking back to the office with her stilettos concealed in my bag! The interview façade of my frosty superior melted away to someone who deeply cared about the professional fulfillment and enjoyment of others, and who wasn't afraid to add an air of flair. Often my mind draws back to the LexisNexis evening soirée at the Vancouver Aquarium; surrounded by my soon to be well known peers, an excellent assortment of tapas, beverages and enchanting aquatic creatures.

The substantive sessions were excellent opportunities to learn in comfort and camaraderie and was essential to my professional growth in the field of law librarianship. Between these and the very necessary "Energy Breaks" I was able to make professional colleagues and lifelong friends within the span of those few days. Bonding over shared frustrations will do that! Attending the CALL conference and making those connections were fundamental in launching me comfortably into the local association scene; the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries welcomed me into the executive and the sight of familiar faces made three years as part of the Programs Committee that much easier and fulfilling.

The Peter Bark Bursary

Alex Everitt, Research Librarian | Harris & Company LLP

VALL is currently accepting and reviewing Peter Bark Bursary Applications on a rolling basis. The aim of the Bursary is to support the professional development of VALL members. Members of at least a year's standing, including those who have received the bursary previously, are eligible to apply.

Please consider applying for the Peter Bark Bursary if you are interested in attending a professional development conference, a continuing education program, or other related course, and you need financial assistance.

Due to the cancellation of many in-person conferences and events, please consider applying for the Peter Bark Bursary to attend an online course, virtual conference or other professional development opportunity and you need financial assistance.

For further information, please see the [Peter Bark Bursary page](#) under *Join Us* on the VALL website.

Adapted from the Nos Disparus section of the Advocate, below is a short acknowledgment of Peter's life and his accomplishments as a law librarian. After a lengthy illness, Peter died November 17, 1990. He was 35 years old. Since becoming a law librarian myself, and being involved with VALL I always knew who Peter Bark was but I never realized how

young he was when he passed away and quite the contributions and lasting impressions he left on so many in the legal community. He sounds like an outstanding person and the VALL community is grateful for his legacy.

Peter Bark was a legal research librarian; his career spanned 10 years, the last 5 of those years working for the firm Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw in Vancouver. He received his B.A. and L.L.B from Queen's University and after articling in Ontario he realized he much preferred researching the law than practicing it. Peter went on to obtain his MLIS at the University of British Columbia in 1982. After graduation Peter began his career at the Courthouse Library and went on to work at several Vancouver law firms before settling in at Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw.

To this date, Peter is still described as a leader in the field of law librarianship. He was active in several professional organizations, including sitting on the executive of the BC Library Association and chairing several committees for the Canadian Association of Law Libraries. Peter was also instrumental in the establishment of the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries in 1988 and was program coordinator that first year.



Peter Bark

As acknowledged in the Advocate obituary, Peter's commitment to excellence in the performance of his professional duties became well known among his colleagues who frequently turned to Peter for professional advice or for advice regarding career decisions. His greatest quality was described as his ability to make others feel good about themselves. He always said the right thing, and like magic, he could turn tears into laughter. In my opinion one of the undervalued skills of a law librarian working in high pressure situations.

We are honoured to be able to celebrate Peter every year in recognition of this bursary. Please consider applying.

To read the full article in the Advocate please [see here](#).

Peter Bark Bursary Recipient: BCLMA Conference April 2022

“Leadership Reimagined”

Ronit Landon, Manager, InfoAction | Vancouver Public Library

A huge thank you to the VALL Executive for the [Peter Bark Memorial Fund](#) that allowed me to attend the **BCLMA Conference: Leadership Reimagined** on April 21-22, 2022. This was the first in-person conference I (everyone?) had attended in 2+ years/since COVID-19 started! It was so great to connect with peers and colleagues in-person and to feel some remnants of “normalcy” again, but it was an overwhelming experience overall. Conferences are always exhausting, but it was made more challenging by being “out-of-practice” from in-person interactions for 2+ years, and the perpetual emotional reminder of what we have endured (and are still not quite done with!). We've adapted to Zoom fatigue and now it's clear we'll have to readapt to in-person fatigue. We've gone through so much change in the past 2+ years – in work environments, social habits, medical practices, etc. – that we've learned to expect it, but still struggle to accept and adapt when it strikes. And while the conference theme was focused around changes in leadership, the theme of change in

organizations, and society more broadly, was definitely more prevalent.

Tracey Gurton and **Linda Lucas** participated in a moderated panel (moderated by **Lindsay Chan**) on **Evolving Leaders: Learning Today's Lessons to Lead for Tomorrow**. Unsurprisingly, this session touched on hot topics such as:

- Burnout,
- Psychological safety,
- And change management.

The unfortunate thing was that most of the audience in attendance at the conference was support staff, whereas it is executive/upper management that really needs to hear about these issues affecting support staff and how they could remedy them. Nonetheless, I was interested to hear that as a result of burnout, many people are adding a “career break” to their LinkedIn profiles. It is emotionally, mentally and physically draining to maintain full-time jobs that are busier than ever amidst increasingly high-maintenance personal care. With short-staffing and burnout happening across all industries, everything from doctor's appointments to banking and even retail just takes a lot more time and effort! We don't have enough time in the day to get work things done, let alone sit on hold for 2 hours to pay off our car loan, or get our flight details confirmed. And yet this is what is expected of everyone these days.

Linda talked about how psychological safety is the foundation of all we do; it is necessary for trust, and trust is necessary for everything else such as great teams and healthy conflict, which lead to innovation and progression. Furthermore, she talked about how change management is similar to grief management, as we grieve things lost as a result of change, and thus a huge aspect of change management is trust – trust that the changes will not negatively impact us (i.e. our jobs, our health, our wellbeing, etc.). But in a world where we are constantly experiencing negative changes, we have lost all trust. We have lost trust of our medical system, as we cannot get an appointment within a reasonable time; we have lost trust in our banks, as staffing and system changes have caused financial losses; and we have lost trust in our employers and organizations as we are constantly tired from being overworked. And through it all, we are grieving pre-COVID times that seemed so much simpler.

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C. talked about how change has always been constant, but that things are changing faster than ever before. And she also echoed Linda's dialogue on experiencing grief with the loss that comes from change; we grieve the loss of our comfort zones and “things we know”. However, we need to remember that change also brings about a surge of creativity and new opportunities. Thus, to cope with the grief we must adapt; we must “cultivate an attitude of perpetual curiosity” and “abolish comfort zones”. I know, I know, so much easier said than done, but nothing like the first female and longest-service Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada to convince me to try to see each attempt to adapt as an exciting new challenge, rather than the loss of things I've come to know best. (Like any “new year's resolution” – we'll see how long that lasts!)

Column: From the Webmaster's screen

Kurtis Kolthammer, Knowledge Services Technician | Fasken

My first time at a VALL event was back in 2019 when I joined the Lawson Lundell team for a short period, right after graduation. I honestly cannot remember what the event was about, that knowledge is long gone, but I can remember the feeling of being there. Seeing as I was completely new to the law library scene, or any library community really, nervous would not describe how I was feeling heading to that event (I am extroverted but you would never tell upon first meeting me). My nervousness was unfounded though; most people upon seeing me came up and introduced themselves without prompting. I was even invited to a Library Technician lunch. I felt welcome which is exactly the feeling you want to have in a new group.

That was my first, and unfortunately, only in person experience thus far. Online sessions are a bit harder to connect over, but nevertheless, I still feel that feeling of being welcome. I am happy to be a part of VALL and to have found my place in the law library world.

Web Updates

As I am sure many have seen, the Past Sessions Archive is now viewable through the VALL website. Any recorded sessions have been added to the page, and any new videos will be incorporated as well. While there are only a few videos right now, more will be added as time passes.

In other news... there is nothing. A few minor design changes may be forthcoming in the future, but otherwise I will be working on maintaining the website and helping out when needed. If you have any trouble or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until next time. Be well everyone.

Member Announcements

Amanda Gaucher joined Whitelaw Twining as their Librarian in November 2021. Amanda received her MLIS from the University of Western Ontario in 2018. Her previous work includes positions with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Soloway Wright LLP, Cavanagh LLP, and Conway Baxter LLP. Having recently moved back to the Vancouver area, Amanda is excited to become an active member of the VALL community.

Sean Sallis-Lyon started at Lawson Lundell as a Reference Librarian in October of 2021: "I have a Master's Degree in Information Studies from McGill University, as well as a Bachelor's Degree and Diploma in Communication Studies from Capilano University. I have prior experience working for *Caldwell Marine Law*, as well as the *Career and Planning Service Library* at McGill University, and the *Jewish Public Library Archive* in Montreal. I also have a modest background in IT, having done IT consulting for a number of years.

"I love collecting, everything from books to video games. One of my favourites is a Geneva Bible from 1569! I also have a personal server at home with over 200 terabytes of raw storage that I built for fun during the pandemic.

"Work here at Lawson is extremely rewarding! I always loved history, and it seems every day I get to do historical legislative research, often going back to the 1800s. I love when I get to research the history of a statute, to put together a complete list of all the various revisions, amendments, etc, finally leading to the original legislation. Hansard research is fun too!"

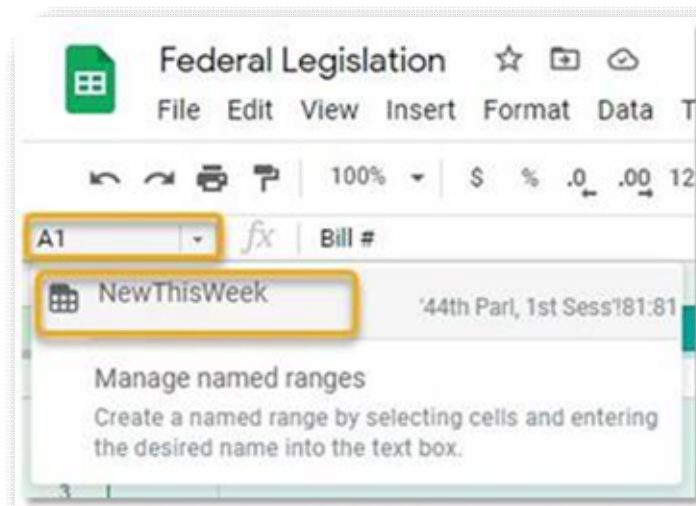
We like to welcome our new members! If you missed your introduction, feel free to get in touch with Jen or Kate to introduce yourself to the community. We'd love to hear from you. The full VALL Membership Directory is available [at our website](#).

News from InfoAction

Ronit Landon, Manager, InfoAction | Vancouver Public Library

Legislation Tables

InfoAction has created [provincial](#) and [federal](#) **legislation tables** that list and link to First and Royal Assent readings, as well as amended acts, in-force information, and proclamation information. We also add the industry that the legislation impacts and links to related news articles. For quick access to newly added bills, select the cell name box and go to **NewThisWeek** - it'll take you right to the row of new legislation posted that week.



SimplyAnalytics

As of January, we have access to [SimplyAnalytics](#) which is a mapping, analytics and data visualization program providing demographic information, household spending data and business profiles. This tool is available to all VPL card holders through the Digital Library, but it allows us to provide advanced business, market, and social science research services!

News from CLEBC

Adam Simpkins, Marketing Manager | CLEBC

Hello, VALL members!

CLEBC is excited to announce some new updates to our publications, each available in print or online editions.

The Company Law Deskbook will equip you and your support team to prepare and file documents for the most common corporate procedures under the BC Business Corporations Act such as incorporation, organization, share transactions, annual maintenance, financial matters, and much more. Highlights of the 2022 Update include: detailed discussion and practice points related to the incorporation, maintenance, and record keeping requirements for Benefit Companies; and new practice tips with respect to corporate name registration and online filing of corporate records.

The 2022 edition of Annual Review of Law & Practice highlights significant developments in common areas of practice as identified and analyzed by leading practitioners in each practice area. Save time finding the key decisions from the courts and tribunals over the year, and efficiently identify significant amendments to legislation and policies.

With the latest update to Family Law Agreements: Annotated Precedents, you have access to carefully considered precedents of some of BC's most accomplished family law lawyers. Highlights of the 2022 Update include: Tax advice, legislation, and case law updated to December 1, 2021, and revisions as a result of the implementation of changes to the Divorce Act in 2021, particularly as they pertain to parenting time and decision-making responsibility.

For more details on these updates and information on upcoming releases, please visit www.cle.bc.ca/spring22

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.

Conferences and Professional Development – BCLMA and CALL/ACBD

After a lengthy absence from in-person conferences, we were thrilled to sponsor and attend the BC Legal Management Association's 2022 Conference and Marketplace on April 21 and 22 <https://bclmaconference.com/>. We hope you were able to drop in at our Marketplace booth or at one of our workshop breakfasts and reconnect with us. Thank you to the BCLMA for hosting a great event.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the CALL/ACBD Annual Virtual Conference, which begins on May 31. As always, we are proud to support this prominent annual event in our community as a sponsor, exhibitor, and delegate. Registration is open at <https://www.callacbd.ca/page-18302>. See you at CALL!

Masterclass Panel Discussion Series - Technology driving change in Canadian courts

On April 22, we hosted the third session in our Masterclass webinar discussion series - Tech & Litigation: Shifting Paradigms. This webinar brought together an expert panel of judges to discuss the evolving state of technology in Canadian courts.

Our panelists for this conversation included: Chief Judge Pamela S. Williams of the Provincial and Family Courts of Nova Scotia, Justice Joseph F. Kenkel of the Ontario Court of Justice and Justice April D. Grosse of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta.

If you missed it, or missed our earlier Masterclass sessions on Artificial Intelligence and Legal Operations, visit <https://go.lexisnexis.ca/masterclass>, where we will post links to videos, articles and other content from the series.

Student Training Sessions and Product Adoption Resources

Many of you are getting ready to welcome new summer and articling students, and we are encouraged to see some firms planning to bring students back into their offices this year. Our Product Adoption Team continues to offer a range of virtual and in-person training options, providing user training whenever, wherever, and however you may need it. Camilia Lalani is our Product Adoption Consultant in Vancouver. She can be reached at Camilia.Lalani@lexisnexis.ca

We have also added to our collection of online help resources: training videos; step-by-step tip sheets; quick reference guides and comprehensive user guides. Take a few moments and explore our redesigned [Documentation and Training Resource Page](#).

News from Thomson Reuters

Lavern Walters, Marketing Manager, Legal Solutions | Thomson Reuters

[Westlaw Edge Canada](#) offers the most advanced legal research platform for the Canadian market. Westlaw Edge brings together a legacy of quality and accurate legal research with first-of-its kind features that expedite research tasks that were once incredibly complex and time-consuming.

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We continue to innovate so you can be even more efficient in your research without sacrificing quality. Since launching in September 2021, we have introduced:

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Programming Review

Rachel Carlson and Natalie Rocheleau | Courthouse Libraries BC

December

Guest speaker Adrienne Smith (they/them), a transgender human rights activist and social justice lawyer, delivered an informative and engaging session about gender, society, and the law. They spoke about the problematic nature of gendered titles and the fact that even status-free titles like Ms. still identify people in a system that privileges one gender. It also ignores Enby [(N)on (B)inary] people who generally use they/them pronouns among cis people but might use alternative pronouns in other settings.

Adrienne spoke about advances in the law with an overview of key court cases and made salient suggestions for adapting the workplace to not only be in compliance with these established norms but also to recognize the existence and humanity of transgender employees or clients as a matter of course.

To do so, they gave practical and concrete suggestions, such as adding the third term Mx. in a workplace style guide or to adopt the use of neutral terms like applicant or “Dear Firstname Lastname.” Because getting pronouns wrong is a human rights violation they encourage employers to ask “what name and pronouns do you want me to use” in particular contexts (like going into a committee meeting). This practice allows the person to decide for themselves what is safest, and to also allow for the fact that their pronouns might evolve over time.

They spoke about the difficult processes trans people are forced to navigate, such as name changes, and used court cases as a way to identify the rights and responsibilities of workplaces and businesses when it comes to their trans employees, colleagues, and clients. Adrienne pointed out that “trans” covers a variety of identities that are entitled to immediate recognition and not simply accommodation as per 2021 BCHRT 137.

Adrienne identified three big requirements to respect trans human rights: avoid misgendering (using incorrect pronouns or referring to a trans person with the incorrect gender), deadnaming (referring to a trans person by a name that is not their chosen name), or outing trans people as transgender to others without their consent.

Finally, Adrienne encouraged us to consider that every key case they spoke about involves a white litigant, which highlights the structural inequality involved in seeking redress for human rights violations. In fact, most cases are settled with no information about what they settled for. Settlements may also be reached prior to publication as a trans person may not want to be outed.

The session was very well-received with close to 40 attendees.

January

VALL hosted a trivial social in January, in which attendees participated in a light-hearted and non-competitive trivia game! Trivia categories included questions on books, legal, local Vancouver, and VALL trivia. All attendees were eligible to receive door prizes. We received great feedback about the session and will probably be hosting similar trivia socials in the future. Stay tuned!

February

Nate Russell, Legal & Innovation Counsel and Privacy Officer at Courthouse Libraries BC, spoke to VALL in a well-attended session about updated privacy laws in BC and Canada (including CPPA and PIPEDA, PIPA, and FIPPA) and how they affect law librarians in their workplaces. He also spoke about some significant upcoming changes to privacy laws in Canada.

He began with an overview of ten core privacy principles from accountability to recourse, as well as the importance of implementing a Privacy Management Program (PMP) and providing training to all staff. He also cautioned against collecting information simply for the sake of it without identifying the purpose in writing and without stating the legal authority for such collection.

Nate then provided an overview of the public/private and Federal/Provincial distinctions of Canadian privacy legislation and how they were being updated, in part to catch up with Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Some provisions of note included meaningful consent, privacy impact assessments, and mandatory breach notifications, some of which have impacts for our personal and professional privacy landscape.

A recording of the session is now available on VALL's YouTube channel.

March

We held a virtual coffee social in March and welcomed a new VALL member. These socials are a great opportunity to meet new members, renew connections with colleagues, and discuss issues you may have in your own libraries. Attendance for the full hour is not required, so please feel free to drop in! Keep your eyes on your email for our next social invite.

April

For the April substantive session VALL organized a presentation with Host Consulting, an Indigenous-led organization that works primarily in public art consultancy, advocacy for MST (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) articles, and engaging in decolonial dialogues. The three founders, Salia Joseph, Faith Sparrow-Crawford, and Jade George, provide representation from all three host nations. This session was hosted by Salia.

Salia began by doing a deeper dive into the concept of the land acknowledgement, a theme that bookended the presentation. She wanted to emphasize that the land acknowledgement needs to be understood as a cultural practice/protocol of legal order and sovereignty. Traditionally when going into someone's territory, it is important to acknowledge their territory, ask for permission to do things there, and think through intentional ways to respect the hosts and their land.

From that perspective the land acknowledgement reminds us:

- To think about what it means to be a guest in someone else's home
- To be transparent about your intentions
- To ensure your hosts are in the know and have been consulted in matters pertaining to their land

Land acknowledgements have become the norm over the last 5 years and have been adopted widely throughout Canada, but it is important to remember that they are not a metaphor – they are heavy, weighted, important practices with deep meaning. They act as an accountability statement – acknowledging that living on these lands as a non-Indigenous person came at the displacement of Indigenous peoples – followed up by actions that put that acknowledgment into practice.

Land acknowledgements should prompt the following questions:

- How can we be good guests in somebody else's home?
- What does gratitude to be on these lands look in your organization, your home, your family, your province, your country?
- What can we do better?

Salia stated that education is the first essential step in any goal that works towards intentional relationships. It is important to learn about people's lived experiences and hear things directly from the source rather than in secondhand accounts. The more you hear people work through concepts like privilege, intersectionality, etc., the more we can explain complex things simply. The more we can do that, the harder it is to refuse them.

With this in mind, Salia spoke about the burden of representation and the lived effects of anti-Native racist portrayals in media, pop culture, film, social media, etc. These are stories put on Indigenous peoples that translate into how they are treated in society and become accepted as the only ways Indigenous peoples are allowed to be. Each of these portrayals are used for specific purposes: if you can normalize these stories about Indigenous peoples, then when they're blocking

bridges or advocating for themselves or their land (re: resource extraction, etc.), it's a lot easier to ignore them. You disempower people if you rely on single stories and promote stories written **about** people instead of stories written **by** people. It stacks the odds against Indigenous peoples, who are constantly pushing against the weight of all of these images and institutions.

Before discussing Indigenous tropes, Salia recommended a TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: [The danger of a single story](#).

"The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."

"That is how to create a single story, show a people as one thing over and over, that is what they become."

Salia discussed the following tropes about Indigenous peoples:

- The Vanishing Indian – frozen in the past, disappearing, stuck in time, can never return to what they were in the past. This portrayal means that the land is for the taking and removes the accountability of genocide.
- The Noble Savage – used to be noble but aren't anymore. Used to have culture and doesn't anymore.
- Dead Indian mascot – big issue in sports. The prevalence of these racist caricatures and the fact that we are only beginning to talk about them now shows how prevalent and widely accepted anti-Indigenous racism still is.
- Drunk Indian - Used as a tool to justify systematic racism. Implies their treatment is somehow deserved. Implies that substance abuse comes from weakness/genetics, rather than looking at all the ways their people have experienced racism and violence.
- Princess vs. The "Squaw" - Native women are only allowed two identities in media. Either a princess - sexualized, respectable, thin, in love with a white man, on the side of trying help colonizers – or a 'squaw' - a derogatory term used to demean Indigenous women. This amounts to everyone else - 'risk factors', sexualized, promiscuous, having addictions. This way of defining Indigenous women means that the violence that happens to her is deserved and naturalized. Has huge ramifications on the lives of Indigenous women as it tells a single story that violence towards then is a natural consequence of their lives and that there are no ramifications for it.

By taking us through these stereotypes, Salia reminded us that it's important to remember that we see the world not **as it is**, but how **we are**. The way we see the world - our lenses - have been created for us by our Western society and are shaped by the privilege we have. Our job is to figure out where we sit with intersections in our identity (race, class, gender-identity, sexuality, etc.) and think about how we can make our lenses clearer for those who sit at intersections of privilege that we don't. We can ask ourselves:

- What do my glasses not see because of who I am?
- How do I make my lenses clearer so I can see people that sit at intersections that I don't?

We can also:

- Identify what areas of privilege we have
- Listen for calls to action for experiences you don't have and that you can't speak to.
- Think about how we can hold each other up on this territory, live alongside each other, and have love for people from all different walks of life and experiences.

Salia ended by speaking about the late Chief Leonard George from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, who advocated for Howe Sound and the Burrard Inlet. He'd say "I hold my hands up to people who call my ancestors' territory home. Like our welcome figures, I welcome you. But with that comes the call to action to care about this water as much as I do. To care about this territory as much as my ancestors. Just care enough to earn your keep."

Upcoming: June social event

Plans are in the works for our first in-person event in two years! Watch out for your invitation.

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.)