



Year in Review

Highlights

Judicial Community Liaison Program with the African Community

On October 11, 2005 more than 30 Appeal, Supreme and Provincial Court Judges and 30 African community members joined together to enjoy an Ethiopian Dinner buffet and an opportunity to meet and mingle. Several presentations helped the judges explore the African community's resources, and challenges. The evening included a photo exhibit from a refugee camp Kenya and Tanzania, a look at African customary family law matters, improvisational theatre forum on domestic violence in as seen from the community perspective, and a presentation by 3 articulate African youth about their lives in BC.



Justice Paul Williamson (left) played an elder in an African village attempting to settle a family dispute

Award from the National Association for Court Management



We were recognized for our work on the Air India public website by the National Association for Court Management (NACM) through acknowledgement at recent NACM conference. This is the third LCES award from NACM over the years in recognition of our innovative programming.



Mr. Justice Paul Williamson, President

Letter from the President

It is appropriate that we move this year to producing our annual report in an on-line format. I say this because the Society has been a leader in expanding public legal education offerings on the web. This has permitted the Society to assist far greater numbers of people

This year spring also marked the one year anniversary of our Self-Help Centre. This project has been a remarkable success. Not only have hundreds of litigants benefited from personal visits, in the past year almost 84,000 guidebooks were downloaded from the Centre's website. The Centre has the support of the judiciary, the bar and, most importantly, those who have used its services.

On the negative side, funding has become increasingly difficult. Core funding from the Attorney General and the Education ministries has remained constant, but inflation and expansion of our programs have raised costs and have necessitated increased fundraising from other sources. Our dedicated staff, although they have not enjoyed salary increases similar to other public or non governmental organizations, have continued to provide outstanding service to the Society and its benefactors. As Chair of the Board of Directors, I can say that we are proud of their work and will redouble our efforts to acquire appropriate levels of funding.

Our work is important to the citizens of this province. We are proud of what we have achieved, and proud that our accomplishments are seen as a model in other jurisdictions. We will persevere. We thank you for your continuing interest and support.

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Programs

Over the year, we provided information and referrals to over 85,000 people in addition to hands-on educational sessions about our justice system for over 45,000 British Columbians.

Justice System Education Program

Number of people served: 31 500

Primary service groups: School groups (Grades 5-7, Social Studies 11, Law 12)

Secondary service groups: All other public and community groups

Core Service: Providing experiential education about the justice system in Canada and British Columbia

Areas of delivery: All areas

The Justice System Education Program continues to be one of our most popular programs. Over 1,300 courtwatching sessions for approximately 31,500 youth were provided as well as 564 sessions with judges and 778 education systems with other justice system personnel. This program is in high demand as it offers a positive hands-on learning experience in the courthouse.



North Delta students participate in a Superman mock trial

Parenting After Separation Program

Number of people served: 1803

Primary service groups: Separating parents

Core Service: Education seminars about the impact of separation on children, the Child Support Guidelines, and what options are available for making decisions, legal or otherwise.

Areas of delivery: Lower Mainland East and West Regions

The Parenting After Separation (PAS) program is a provincial government program that provides education and information to parents who are separating. The Society continues to be one of the largest facilitators of the program, arranging seminars in New Westminster, Vancouver, Port Coquitlam, and Abbotsford. A total of 132 seminars that included sessions with judges and court personnel were delivered to 1803 people. Over 16,500 pieces of legal education information were distributed.

Court Information Program for Immigrants

Number of people served: 4700

Primary service groups: Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and French speaking communities

Core Service: To enhance access to courts and to justice for immigrants and refugees by eliminating language and cultural barriers.

Areas of delivery: Lower Mainland West Region



The Binh Luong, CIPI community worker, assists clients

This program at the Vancouver Provincial Court provides education and referral services for people whose first language is not English. In particular, the program works with immigrants and refugees entering the courthouse who speak Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and French. This year, the CIPI community workers served over 5000 clients and organized 13 community workshops for advocates and intermediaries. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Vancouver to keep this service available.

Judicial Independence



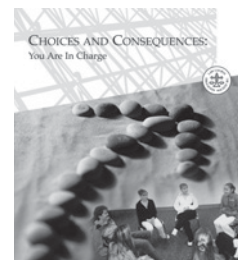
The *Judicial Independence* program aims to educate youth on the importance of a judiciary that is independent from political influence. The program includes two lesson plans and a classroom visit from a Provincial or Supreme Court judge. This year, the Society facilitated 22 sessions. Feedback was enthusiastic and the Society plans to offer this program to more schools in the year ahead.

Courtlink Auto Crime Prevention Program

With the generous support of Capri Insurance, the Auto Crime Prevention Program has continued to reach young people in the Okanagan area. The Society delivered 10 sessions in Kelowna and Vernon for 277 students.

Choices and Consequences

Choices and Consequences is a program for youth who are facing suspension and focuses on behavioural change through “resiliency” theory and practice. We have delivered seven of these intensive four-day pilot programs in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Kelowna and Kamloops. This program has been made available with funding from the Ministry of Education. Final revisions to the materials, program and training are currently in progress.



Explore the YCJA: Web Sites, Workshops and Resources

This past year, the Society's regional coordinators organized 15 Explore the YCJA Workshops for more than 300 participants in all areas of BC. Through presentations and simulations and on line learning, the workshops helped participants understand the new Youth Criminal Justice Act and more about restorative justice practices. The workshops were generously funded by the Department of Justice, Canada, Youth Justice Policy.



Discover Family Law Workshops

More than 250 community agency workers and post-secondary students from across BC have had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with family law resources at our Discover Family Law Workshops this year. The workshop helps participants navigate through family law websites, become familiar with where to find up to date information about separation, divorce, and find information on helping self represented clients with family law matters. For more information in attending this workshop call the Society office in your region. These workshops were generously funded by the Department of Justice Canada.

Community Forums – Sentencing in our Justice System

The Society worked with the Provincial Court to organize a series of free community forums across the province on the topic of Sentencing in Our Justice System. With generous funding from the Law Foundation of BC, forums were held in Vancouver, Kelowna, Prince George and Chilliwack. Through these forums, the public was given an opportunity to better understand how sentencing works and to pose questions directly to members of the justice system.



A panel at the Chilliwack sentencing forum answers questions from the public.

B.C. Supreme Court Self-Help Information Centre

The BC Supreme Court Self-Help Information Centre celebrated its first anniversary this year. Located in the Provincial Court building in downtown Vancouver, the Centre contains extensive resources to help people who have a Supreme Court family or civil matter to deal with but don't have a lawyer to represent them. Thanks to government funding, the project offers a drop-in service where people can come to find the information they need to prepare their case for court or find alternatives to court. Additionally, there are now 17 on different issues guidebooks available online.



Attorney General Wally Opal presents a certificate to Richard Rondeau for his work with the Self-Help Centre

Having worked on the centre from concept to implementation, we are pleased to be involved with this innovative project. In the year ahead, we will continue to develop online resources for the Centre's website at www.supremecourtsselfhelp.bc.ca.

Thank you to our Funders & Volunteers

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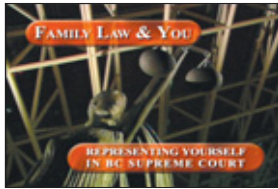


Resource Material

Over the course of the year, the Society helped an additional 217,000 people find information through the distribution of resource materials, referrals, and our web site.

Resource materials produced this past year include:

Family Law and You: Representing Yourself In BC Supreme Court



This video provides information about how someone who is representing

themselves in BC Supreme Court may undertake legal proceedings. The video will assist anyone who needs to deal with matters such as divorce, custody, access, guardianship and/or child support. It draws on the expertise of a BC Supreme Court judge, a family law practitioner and a staff member from the BC Supreme Court Self Help Information Centre.

Broken House

"Broken House" is a film that examines the life of Damon, a young man with a gift for basketball and a hair trigger temper that lands him in custody.

He does well adjusting to prison life until he's forced to face his anger problem. He has a choice to make – life and death hang in the balance. The film won the "Best Short Drama" award, at the 2006 Leo Awards.

The Society is in the process of developing a study guide to be used with this film. The film and study guide will be of interest to alternative and high school classes, post secondary institutes, youth centers, youth custody centers, and other youth initiatives. For more information please contact the Society.



Cinematographer
Larry Lynn (red jacket)

Staying Curious: Restorative Action in Schools



Center, Catherine Bergen
facilitating the Restorative
Justice training for
Tupper School

In February, the Society worked to design and organize a training session bringing restorative justice practices to Charles Tupper School in Vancouver. More than 20 students and staff were provided

training in restorative justice skills. Evelyn Neaman and Danielle Horwitz, of the Law Courts Education Society, with the help of professional film maker Larry Lynn, turned the 2 day training into a 25 minute DVD. The school was inspired to work restoratively by the racially-motivated murder of Jomar Lamot. Watch for the DVD on the LCES website in the fall. Generous funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Policing and Community Safety Branch, and the Vancouver School Board has made this project possible for this year and for its continuation next year.

On the Web

Number of visits: 139 249

Primary service groups: Educators, community groups and the public

Core service: Providing the public with online resources about the justice system and information about LCES activities.

Areas of delivery: All regions and international

URL: www.lawcourtsed.ca

This year, www.lawcourtsed.ca added new self-help, learning and training materials. The web site now features:

Kids in the Middle **NEW**

This website is for Aboriginal parents with kids who are separating or living apart. It is based upon the Kids in the Middle Handbook which can be downloaded from the site.

www.lawcourtsed.ca/kitm

Legal Rights 4 U **NEW**

This website explores the rights and responsibilities of youth with the help of animated shorts. K9, the hip young main character in the nine scenarios helps youth in understanding their rights and responsibilities in various situations. The Society is in the process of launching the website, poster and wrist band campaign for youth on their legal rights. The site will be launched in October 2006.

www.legalrights4u.ca

Surviving the Past

This website is for survivors of institutional child abuse, specifically survivors of Indian residential schools and schools for the deaf where abuse occurred. The site provides information about healing, legal and community options.

You can visit the site at

www.survivingthepast.ca

Self-Help materials

The Society developed and posted a series of booklets for the BC Supreme Court Self Help Information Centre that focus on civil non-family procedures. You can find these booklets and more under "Self Help" at www.lawcourtsed.ca

Continued on page 7

Resource Material (On the Web continued)

Explore the YJCA

This online training program for professionals who work with youth includes interactive quizzes and a wide range of information about the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Visitors may download resource materials and take the final exam to receive a professional development certificate. You can find it under "Learning" at www.lawcourtsed.ca

Families Change

This web site includes A Kids Guide to Separation and Divorce (ages 5 - 12) and A Teen Guide to Parental Separation and Divorce (pre-teen and teen). You can find these sites and more under "Self Help" at www.lawcourtsed.ca

The Law Connection

The year included lesson plans and backgrounders on the following topics: International Criminal Court, Judicial Appointment, Rights of the Child and Copyright Law. You can view upcoming issues and browse archives at www.lawconnection.ca

National

Kids in the Middle

This project to conduct workshops for service providers who work with Aboriginal families and communities across Canada has been completed. Fourteen workshops in English as well as two French workshops were facilitated across the country. Feedback has been positive and the project has enabled several spin-off projects to start up in other parts of the country.

Participants at the APAS workshop in Kahnawake



International

Guatemala Crime Scene Investigation Project



Guatemalan police being trained in crime scene investigation

After five years of work on training Guatemalan police and prosecutors on crime scene investigation, this project comes to a close. In partnership with the RCMP and the Ministry of Attorney General, Crime Justice Branch, this project has produced many successes. The project evaluation indicated that the training has been embraced by the Ministerio Publico and forms a core part of their new operations in Guatemala.

Central America Crime Scene Investigation Seminar

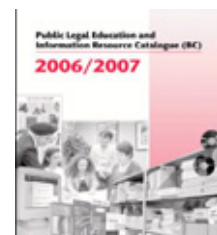
The Society sponsored a seminar in mid-March involving all of the Central American countries to discuss coordination of training on crime scene investigation. Held in Guatemala, the seminar was successful in bringing together all of the countries in the region along with Canada to look at the common country-specific issues that exist within crime scene investigation.

Research

Public Legal Education and Information in British Columbia

The Society is a member of the Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Working Group, whose mandate is to co-ordinate PLEI efforts throughout B.C. This year, on behalf of the PLEI, the Legal Services Society published the *Public Legal Education and Information*

Resource Catalogue 2006/2007 (BC). Order a copy by emailing distribution@lss.bc.ca or phoning (604) 601-6075. You can also view a copy by visiting: <http://www.lawcourtsed.ca/documents/Resources/pleairc.pdf>



Financial Information

LAW COURTS EDUCATION SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2006

	2006	2005
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 246,346	\$ 420,583
Accounts receivable	191,868	240,496
Prepaid expenses	8,746	8,716
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Capital Assets	\$ 446,960	\$ 669,795
	13,968	9,392
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	460,928	679,187
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 46,955	\$ 114,885
Deferred revenue	41,500	30,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 88,455	\$ 144,885
Net Assets		
Core funding – general	\$ 165,910	\$ 150,446
– restricted to capital assets	13,968	9,392
Projects	98,326	281,097
Publication and video sales	94,269	93,367
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 372,473	\$ 534,302
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 460,928	\$ 679,187

Statement of Surplus (Deficit)

For the year ended March 31, 2006

	Balance at March 31, 2005	Revenues	Expenditures	Net	Balance at March 31, 2006
Law Courts Education Society Website Project	\$ 31,904	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,255	\$ 1,745	\$ 33,649
International Programs	48,970	12,500	19,505	(7,005)	41,965
Institutional Abuse Project	17,327	-	17,327	(17,327)	-
International Program - Guatemala (2004-2005)	54,044	59,158	113,202	(54,044)	-
Families Change Website	-	11,500	11,500	0	-
Self-Help Centre	65,721	25,000	90,721	(65,721)	-
ICBC Research Design Strategy	13,200	-	13,200	(13,200)	-
Choices and Consequences (2004-2005)	7,356	-	7,356	(7,356)	-
Plain Language Booklets for the Public on Supreme Court Rules	2,915	2,800	5,715	(2,915)	-
Peer Resolution - Train the Trainer Workshops	23,965	7,788	31,753	(23,965)	-
Victims' Services Video Adult	2,150	-	2,150	(2,150)	-
Victims' Services Video Children	13,545	2,000	15,545	(13,545)	-
Kelowna Autocrime Project	-	16,100	16,100	-	-
Pickton Trial Website for the Families (2005-2006)	-	23,898	23,898	-	-
VS/Butter Peer Resolution Forum	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
VCC Legal Dictionary	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
Parenting After Separation (2005-2006)	-	-	-	-	-
– Vancouver	-	17,790	17,790	-	-
– New Westminster	-	18,684	18,684	-	-
– Port Coquitlam	-	18,062	18,062	-	-
– Abbotsford	-	19,586	19,586	-	-
Website for the Public and CAP Volunteers	-	20,000	5,050	14,950	14,950
Community Justice Forums	-	6,600	5,749	851	851
Explore Family Law Workshops	-	48,849	48,849	-	-
Choices and Consequences (2005-2006)	-	52,000	52,000	-	-
Safe Streets Forum	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Explore the YCJA Workshop Series	-	29,407	29,407	-	-
APAS National Workshops (2005-2006)	-	92,330	92,330	-	-
Role of Victims' Services in LCES Education Programs and Courts Education Network	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Development of Fundraising Plan	-	4,500	4,500	-	-
Air India Families Website	-	2,367	2,367	-	-
Legal Rights for Marginalized Youth – Website Resources	-	65,900	65,900	-	-
Separated with Children - Dealing with the Finances	-	23,514	23,514	-	-
Crime Scene Investigation in Central America	-	41,341	41,341	-	-
Family Law and You Video	-	4,670	4,670	-	-
Kids in the Middle CD	-	11,060	6,760	4,300	4,300
Bill C2 Website	-	5,000	2,389	2,611	2,611
Preparing Your Case for Chambers - A Judge's Perspective	-	9,005	9,005	-	-
Development of Victims' Info System	-	14,269	14,269	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 281,097	\$ 704,678	\$ 887,449	\$ (182,771)	\$ 98,326
CORE FUNDING (including restricted to capital assets)	159,838	988,066	968,026	20,040	179,878
PUBLICATION AND VIDEO SALES	93,367	37,776	36,874	902	94,269
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 534,302	\$ 1,730,520	\$ 1,892,349	\$ (161,829)	\$ 372,473

Audited financial statements for the Law Courts Education Society of B.C. are available upon request.

The Law Courts Education Society

We are a non-profit organization providing educational programs and services about the justice system in British Columbia and Canada. Our education is two-way, in that we help the public understand how our justice system works and we also help those people working within the system to better understand the justice-related issues that different people in our community face. For more information, check out our website at www.lawcourtsed.ca.

Staff

HEAD OFFICE STAFF

Rick Craig
Executive Director

Evelyn Neaman
Special Programs Manager

Nora Gambioli
Provincial Programs Manager

Linda Windibank
Finance Manager

Lauren Tang
Communication Projects Manager

Mai Wong
Provincial Office Assistant
& Volunteer Coordinator

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Elsa Gomez
Spanish and French
Community Worker

The Binh Luong
Chinese & Vietnamese
Community Worker

PARENTING AFTER SEPARATION

Glenn McArthur
Parenting After Separation
Manager

REGIONAL STAFF

Vancouver Law Courts Region (Vancouver)
Tiffany Lee
Janine Corrado

Lower Mainland West/Provincial Court Region (Vancouver)
Danielle Horwitz

Lower Mainland East Region (Surrey)
Jan Baldwin
Glenn McArthur

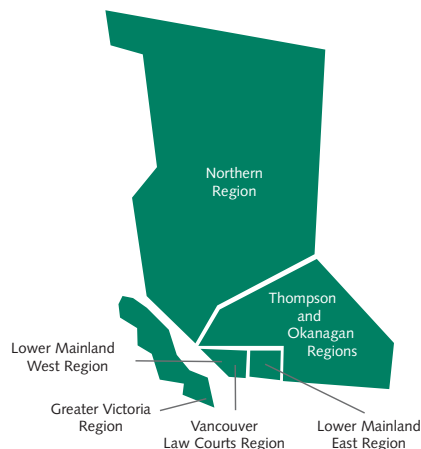
Thompson Region (Kamloops)
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Okanagan Region (Kelowna)
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Prince George Region (Prince George)
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