

Government Law Libraries in Alberta

Alberta Law Libraries

Alberta Law Libraries is a unique province-wide network of 18 law libraries operating within the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta, Canada (Alberta Justice). With an annual budget of approximately \$6 million, the bulk of which is provided by Alberta Justice, the libraries provide access to legal information and research services to the legal community (judiciary, lawyers, students-at-law, and government employees), other libraries and the public. Alberta Law Libraries must ensure its mandate, resources and services align with the mission of three funding stakeholders – Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (a fair and safe Alberta); the Law Society of Alberta (to serve the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession); and the Alberta Law Foundation (legal education and knowledge for the people of Alberta). To that end, the Joint Library Committee, with representation from the judiciary of all three courts, the Law Society of Alberta, and Alberta Justice, is an important governance and communication vehicle for Alberta Law Libraries and its stakeholders. Although its makeup has varied over time, the Joint Library Committee has been in place since 1949, following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Alberta Justice and the Law Society of Alberta.

Alberta Law Libraries, led by Sonia Poulin (sonia.poulin@gov.ab.ca), Director, has 41 team members, including 20 librarians and a number of library technicians. Funding for personnel in all locations is provided by Alberta Justice. Client services throughout the province are coordinated through the Information, Research and Training Services team, led by a manager plus team leads in Edmonton and Calgary. Two additional teams, Information Technology Services, and Information Resources and Access, complete the critical components of the library system.

Contact information for the libraries and teams is available on the Alberta Law Libraries website under the “Find Us” tab: www.lawlibrary.ab.ca

Ask a Law Librarian Service: www.lawlibrary.ab.ca/ask-a-lawlibrarian.php

Alberta Law Libraries Catalogue: <http://catalogue.lawlibrary.ab.ca/vwebv/searchBasic>

Stay Current: Alberta Law Libraries’ Current Awareness Blog: <http://www.lawlibrary.ab.ca/staycurrent/>

Services

A comprehensive service model for all Alberta Law Libraries locations includes reference and research service, document delivery, interlibrary loan, legal research education, and training support for electronic resources. The current awareness service provided via Alberta Law Libraries’ blog, [Stay Current](#), offers selected legislation and case law updates of interest to Albertans. Clients can follow these updates on Twitter, [@ABLAWLibraries](#). The well-developed [Alberta Law Libraries website](#) provides public access to the catalogue, as well as a suite of handy research guides and other aids to legal research. In Edmonton and Calgary, all locations provide on-site personal assistance during regular weekday business hours. Extended daily hours and weekend hours are maintained for members of the Bar in Legal Research and Training Centre (LRTC) locations. In locations outside of Edmonton and Calgary, team members are available on-site part-time on various days and hours. Outside of those

times, assistance is available in Edmonton or Calgary during regular business hours toll-free by telephone, through email, or via the website-based [Ask a Law Librarian](#) service. Some additional services are provided to judicial, Crown, and Alberta Justice Departmental clients, including journal tables of contents services, and publisher-based current awareness materials. An enhanced, tailored current awareness service, E-Scan Service, is also provided on request for practice or work groups within Alberta Justice.

Collections

PRINT: The Edmonton and Calgary LRTC locations are home to the comprehensive core of the print collection, covering all areas of law and all Canadian jurisdictions, with an emphasis on Alberta information, and including selected statutory materials and reporters from the US, UK, and Australia. These two collections, as well as those in the other LRTC locations, receive significant funding from the Law Society of Alberta. Another similarly robust print collection at the Departmental Library location serves Departmental clients and is primarily funded by the Legal Services Division of Alberta Justice. Smaller targeted working collections of frequently consulted materials in Edmonton and Calgary judicial and Crown locations funded by Alberta Justice & Solicitor General serve the daily needs of judiciary and prosecutors.

ELECTRONIC: A growing suite of electronic resources is available to all clients in the libraries on public access work stations. This suite includes *HeinOnline*, *Justis/JustCite* (UK), *ICLR Online*, *O'Brien's Encyclopedia of Forms*, *QPSource Professional* (Alberta Queen's Printer), and an expanding collection of e-Books, including Irwin Law texts, via Coutts' MyiLibrary. An EZProxy server allows remote access to *HeinOnline* and MyiLibrary eBooks for all registered clients via account number authentication. In addition, Edmonton and Calgary LRTC locations provide on-site access to *Quicklaw*. LRTC locations outside of Edmonton and Calgary provide access to Westlaw Canada's *LawSource*. Depending on licensing agreements and their specialized needs, specific client groups and the library team members serving them also have desktop access to *HeinOnline*, *Justis/JustCite*, *ICLR Online*, *QPSource Professional*, *Quicklaw*, Westlaw Canada, *Criminal Spectrum*, Maritime Law Book databases, and *Canadian Human Rights Reporter*.

Locations

JUDICIAL LIBRARIES

Edmonton Provincial Court and Court of Appeal/Queen's Bench locations;
Calgary Court of Appeal and Provincial Court/Court of Queen's Bench locations.

CROWN LIBRARIES

Edmonton and Calgary.

DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY

Edmonton (Bowker Building).
Open to Alberta Justice employees.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRES (LRTC)

Courthouse locations in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Drumheller, Wetaskiwin, St. Paul, Grande Prairie, Peace River, and Fort McMurray.

Open to members of the Bar and the public.

Alberta Legislature Library

[Alberta's Legislature Library](#) was established in 1906, with William A. Buchanan of Lethbridge (later Senator Buchanan) serving as its first head librarian. The Library was moved to its present site in the Legislature Building in Edmonton during the latter part of 1911, shortly before the official opening of the Building in 1912. Prior to the creation of a separate archives facility in 1963, the Library served as the provincial archives as well as Alberta's parliamentary library. Currently, the staff of the Legislature Library comprises librarians, library technicians, and support personnel.

The Library, as a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO), comes under the administrative direction of the Clerk. Chaired by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services is an all-party committee consisting of Members of the Legislative Assembly which approves the annual estimates of the Legislative Assembly Office. The primary client group of the Library comprises the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor. Like other branches of the organization, the Legislature Library provides non-partisan services to the all the Members regardless of party affiliation. Additionally, as resources allow, Alberta's Legislature Library has always provided some services to the civil service and to the general public.

The Legislature Library collection has over 400,000 items in a variety of formats. The collection is strong in the areas of parliamentary process, political science, public administration, statute law, economics and Alberta and Canadian history. The Library has no case law. The Library also maintains the one of the largest collection of Alberta government publications and weekly newspapers in the province and a comprehensive collection of local histories.

The Legislature Library classifies its book collection using Library of Congress and its government documents using CODOC. The Legislature Library's integrated library system is SirsiDynix's Symphony. The [catalogue](#) is available through the [LAO's website](#). Many full-text electronic government documents are available by clicking on a link in a record in the [Library catalogue](#). In addition, subscription databases and a variety of other electronic services are available to primary clients for research purposes via the Library's pages of the LAO Intranet site.

The Legislature Library is a member of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) and contributes records to the Government and Legislative Library Online Publications Portal (GALLOP Portal). The Library is also a member of The Alberta Library (TAL), a province-wide consortium of multi-type libraries that cooperate to provide enhanced services to their clients.

During Session, the Legislature Library is open Monday through Wednesday 8:15 am to 6 pm and Thursday and Friday from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm. Subject to the Assembly's sitting schedule, additional evening hours may be added. The Legislature Library is open from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday outside of Session.

The Alberta Legislature Library may be contacted at:

216 Legislature Building

10800-97 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Phone: 780.427.2473

Fax: 780.427.6016

Website: <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/library/index.htm>

Catalogue: <http://elibrary.assembly.ab.ca/>

Email: library@assembly.ab.ca