

## **Government Law Libraries in Yukon**

The Yukon Department of Justice provides funding for three Yukon law libraries: the Yukon Public Law Library, the Legal Services Library and the Judges' Library. There is one part-time librarian position and one on-call library assistant for all three libraries. The librarian, assisted by the library assistant, is responsible for all aspects of library operation, including reference services for lawyers and non-lawyers, information organization and delivery, budget management, collection care and management, and creating research and bibliographic tools. The librarian can be contacted at: [yukon.law.library@gov.yk.ca](mailto:yukon.law.library@gov.yk.ca).

### **Yukon Public Law Library**

The main law library collection is located on the ground floor of the Law Courts Building in Whitehorse. Members of the Yukon Bar and Yukon Department of Justice employees are the only clients who are permitted to access the library after hours. In addition to Yukon Government funding, this library receives funding grants from the Yukon Law Foundation and a small contribution from the Law Society of the Yukon. Over 100 resident lawyers, the judiciary, court staff, students and the general public use this library.

The collection consists of primary and secondary legal materials and has approximately 9,000 volumes. In 2012 approximately 8,000 books, law reports and legal journals were disposed of in order to accommodate a request to downsize the space occupied by the Law Library to half of its original size.

Library patrons currently have access to WestLaw-LawSource and HeinOnline. Most lawyers have Quicklaw available to them in their offices. Currently the Law Foundation pays for the provision of the electronic database. The library has two public access computers with Internet access available to library patrons for legal research.

The Law Library Society of Yukon, a committee formed in order to apply to the Law Foundation for funding, has representatives from the Bar, the judiciary, the Government of Yukon and Yukon College, and meets twice a year to select new acquisitions and discuss library issues.

The Yukon Public Law Library web site is located at <http://virtua.gov.yk.ca:8080/?theme=law>. The Law Library catalogue is part of a union catalogue along with three other Yukon Government libraries.

### **Legal Services Library**

The Legal Services Library is part of the Yukon Department of Justice's Legal Services Branch and serves the lawyers within that branch. The collection has approximately 2,500 volumes and consists mainly of secondary legal material. Legal Services lawyers use the Yukon Public Law Library for most primary legal materials and other items that are outside the scope of their library.

**Judges' Library**

The Judges' Library is located on the fourth floor of the Law Courts building. The Supreme and Territorial Court Judges' chambers are also located on this floor. The library has approximately 2,500 volumes of mainly secondary legal materials. There are two Yukon Supreme Court Judges and three Territorial Court Judges as well as occasional Deputy Judges for both levels of court. The Judges have access to one full time law clerk who does most of their research.