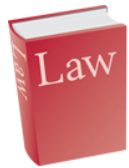


# LawMatters at your local public library

By Janet Freeman.



## LawMatters

At your local public library

LawMatters is a project of Courthouse Libraries BC, and is funded by the Law Foundation of BC to give public libraries financial assistance to purchase legal resources from bibliographies of recommended titles, and to provide public library staff with training on legal information. Courthouse Libraries BC Reference Services staff also act as a back-up resource to assist local libraries with additional information and reference support.

### Official public launch

The LawMatters at your local public library project had its official public launch on April 22 during Law Week this year. The launch included a live web broadcast of a video of remarks from Law Foundation and Courthouse Libraries representatives, followed by an instant chat session of Q & A with librarians and community groups throughout the province. The video of remarks is available on the LawMatters [blog post](#) of April 27, 2009.

### Legal Jeopardy for Librarians workshop at BCLA

LawMatters joined with another Courthouse Libraries BC project [Clicklaw](#), to present a fun-filled approach to viewing print and online legal information. Three teams of librarians competed to test their legal knowledge, and the winning team came from behind for a dramatic finish.

[Clicklaw](#) is a new BC legal information portal. Try it out and let us know what you think!

### Legal Information Sources Online Course

This 8-week course is taught by LawMatters project staff, and is available through the Public Library Services Branch [Community Librarian Training Program](#). Any BC public library staff member may take this course. The next session starts October 5, 2009 and registrations are now being accepted.

### Community Forums of Legal Information Providers

The Chilliwack branch of Fraser Valley Regional Library hosted the first LawMatters Community Forum on Legal Information on May 27, 2009. The purpose of the forums is to bring together public libraries and community groups that provide legal information. Participants commented on public library legal resources that were new to them, as well as services they did not know existed. The forum included participants from transition houses, police and specialized victim services, Community Response Networks [for vulnerable seniors], Family Justice Services, Native Court workers, immigrant services, adult literacy, public library, and legal aid services.

We plan to hold legal information forums around the province; if you would like to host a forum in your public library, please contact [jfreeman@courthouselibrary.ca](mailto:jfreeman@courthouselibrary.ca)  
Phone: 604.660.9204/1.800.665.2570

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