

Government Law Libraries in Quebec

Library of the Department of Justice of Quebec

The Library of the Department of Justice of Quebec (Ministère de la Justice du Québec) is a division of the Legal Affairs and Legislative Branch. Its clientele consists mainly of lawyers and officials of the Department of Justice, lawyers and paralegals working in other Government of Quebec departments and agencies and, occasionally, the general public.

The Library is located on the 4th floor of the Louis-Philippe Pigeon Building, the headquarters of the Department of Justice at 1200 Route de l'Église, Sainte-Foy, Quebec. Its hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, the building's staff have access to the Library at all times.

Coordination and supervision of the Library's activities is the responsibility of an administrative assistant with training in documentation techniques and digital information management. She also assists staff working in the reference section when required and replaces them in their absence. Two library technicians share the tasks related to document acquisition, processing, indexing and classification; management of subscriptions and periodicals; and reference services. An administrative officer works with the team one day a week on administrative duties.

The Library holds the statutes and regulations (hard copy) of the federal government and most of the Canadian provinces. Our collection also includes Canadian case law reports (SCR, FCR, DLR, CCC), specialized case law reports (CNLR, CHRR, CR), a few collection of American law (ALR, *Corpus Juris Secundum*) and Quebec case law reports. Our legal literature collection covers most fields of law and we subscribe to about 100 periodicals and loose-leaf publications.

The Department of Justice also has subscriptions to the Quicklaw, LawSource and Westlaw Pro / US Primary and Azimuth databanks and well as to the Centre d'accès à l'information juridique (CAIJ) [legal information access centre]. The librarian can also access the LexisNexis databank, which is used on a limited basis.

The Department of Justice Library is a member of the Réseau informatisé des bibliothèques gouvernementales du Québec (RIBG) [government libraries automated network], which currently includes 28 libraries and documentation centres across a number of Quebec departments and agencies, including the Library of the Quebec National Assembly. This network gives us the opportunity to use the Best-Seller/PortFolio integrated management software to automate document acquisition, processing, retrieval and circulation operations. The catalogue of the Department of Justice Library can be queried online through CUBIQ (Catalogue unifié des bibliothèques gouvernementales du Québec) (<http://www.cubiq.ribg.gouv.qc.ca>) [unified catalogue of Quebec government libraries].

The Library has no electronic site for its users. However, one of the Library's technicians manages the "Bibliothèque" tab of the Department's internal website where lawyers and paralegals can find the main links of use in their research.

For more information, the librarian can be contacted at: diane.cloutier@justice.gouv.qc.ca or through the reference service at: biblio.justice@justice.gouv.qc.ca

The Centre d'accès à l'information juridique (CAIJ)

The Centre d'accès à l'information juridique (CAIJ) [legal information access centre] was established in December 2001 as an independent agency associated with the Barreau du Québec [Bar of Quebec]. CAIJ serves a client base of more than 24,000 lawyers, students of the École du Barreau, articling students, law students and other researchers employed by a law firm or legal service, as well as members of the judiciary.

CAIJ is funded through a mandatory contribution paid annually by members of the Barreau du Québec. CAIJ is headed by Richard Boivin, MLS, MBA and employs 45 people with specialized skills in several fields of expertise (library sciences, law, information technology, marketing, communications, management) working either in the libraries network, virtual library, information technologies or the administration centre.

CAIJ's mission is to serve on a priority basis the members of the Barreau du Québec and the judiciary by providing access to available legal information regardless of where that information is geographically located and regardless of the work environment. From the outset, CAIJ has been a broker of legal information and has built its organization on the single window concept.

CAIJ offers local services through its network of 40 law libraries, all housed in Quebec courthouses, with its extensive collections on Quebec, Canadian and international law, and through free in-library access to several commercial databanks. The in-library service is complemented by its research and training service, recognized by the Barreau du Québec for the purposes of its members' ongoing professional development.

CAIJ strives to offer its clients remote access to a complete and varied range of law-related information by constantly developing digital content accessible via its virtual library, *JuriBistro* (<http://www.caij.qc.ca/en/home>).

The *JuriBistro* suite includes the following products:

UNIK, which is an integrated search tool that allows searching in all products of the *JuriBistro* suite as well as in Canadian and Quebec case law and legislation from Canlii. This means that the user has access to over 1.2 million decisions online, more than 100,000 pages of digitized legal literature, legislation and a bank of research questions;

eLois, which provides the English and French versions, legislative history, parliamentary debates, ministerial comments and other government documents, concordances, and cited legislation for 12 Quebec statutes (2 more to come in 2013) and, for certain statutes, the annotations contained in *Alter Ego* by Wilson & Lafleur.

eDoctrine, which comprises the complete versions of the Barreau's publications (Collection de droit, Développements récents, Revue du Barreau and the Congrès du Barreau), the complete texts of almost 40 works published by Wilson & Lafleur, and in the near future, the publications of major law firms;

TOPO, which is a bank of close to 4000 research questions in more than 55 fields of law inspired by clients' questions to the CAIJ team and enhanced by the team;

eQuantum, which provides, via *UNIK*, case law numerical data for the determination of sentences for impaired driving, the lump sum payment in family law, and the amount of exemplary and moral damages.

All of CAIJ's products and services can be accessed through its website at <http://www.caij.qc.ca/en/home>.

Library of the Quebec National Assembly

The Library of the Quebec National Assembly was established in 1802, making it the fourth oldest parliamentary library in North America. Since 1915, it has been located in the Pamphile Le May Building at 1305 Rue des Parlementaires in Quebec City. It also occupies three floors of the Jean-Antoine Panet Building at 1020 Rue des Parlementaires.

The Library is a branch of the Institutional Affairs and Library Directorate. It employs 77 people including 33 professionals (11 librarians) and 26 technicians (19 library technicians), who work in the Reference, Research, and Documentary Resources and Archives departments.

Its priority clients are members of the National Assembly and their staff, with the exception of the staff of ministers' offices, and the administrative staff of the National Assembly. It also gives priority to the offices of the Lieutenant Governor, Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Ombudsman, Lobbyists Commissioner, Sustainable Development Commissioner, Ethics Commissioner and the members of the Press Gallery.

The Library also provides documentary support to various departmental and university libraries, specialized firms, law firms and the public. Its staff responds to external users and provides guidance to them but does not carry out research for them. Its hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from September to June and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in July and August. The Library is also open evenings when the National Assembly is sitting but only for its priority clients.

The Library's collections include close to 2 million documents. The vast majority of the general and reference collections fall into the social sciences field and are organized according to the Dewey decimal system.

The Library holds all Government of Quebec publications. In addition to its parliamentary holdings such as statute books, House minutes, Order Papers and Hansard, it has numerous administrative

publications such as the annual reports of departments and public agencies and the reports of parliamentary commissions. Its holdings also include official documents of the federal government and the other Canadian provinces (legislation, regulations, Hansards and parliamentary minutes, etc.), along with most Canadian colonial legislation (pre-Confederation) under both French and British rule.

The law collection also includes federal legislation of the United States and of several other western and Commonwealth countries, the bulk of Quebec doctrine and jurisprudence, and a vast selection of law books and Canadian federal law reports, as well as those of the other Canadian provinces, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and other countries and international organizations. More specifically, the law collection covers most fields of law, with a particular focus on parliamentary law and the areas of provincial or shared jurisdiction.

The Library subscribes to about 50 specialized legal journals and more than 650 periodicals in such fields as political science and parliamentarism. For the benefit of its priority clients, it subscribes to the Azimut, Quicklaw, La Référence and LexisNexis databanks as well as a number of other multidisciplinary databanks.

The Library's catalogue is accessible on CUBIQ, the unified catalogue of Government of Quebec libraries (www.cubiq.ribg.gouv.qc.ca).

Finally, the Library of the National Assembly has designed tools to disseminate and update its collections. These tools include a few subject guides (including one on Quebec policy and parliamentary documentation and one on the history of education in Quebec), specialized databanks (two on Quebec political parties and the Quebec parliamentary system), along with topic-specific bibliographies and the *Index du Journal des débats* [Hansard index]. These tools can be accessed in the Library section on the National Assembly website (assnat.qc.ca/en/bibliotheque/index.html).

For more information: bibliotheque@assnat.qc.ca or 418-643-4408

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