

**CALL/ACBD Membership Development Committee**

Annual Report 2019 - 20

May 2020 – Virtual

**Committee Chairs:** Veronika Kollbrand & Stef Alexandru

**Members:**

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**Activities and initiatives that the committee has completed during this past year:**

**ACTIVITIES IN 2019-20**

**Educational Visits**

MDC Co-Chair Veronika Kollbrand continued to coordinate this initiative in 2019-20.

Thank you to all the volunteers for our educational visits program in 2019-20!

Krisandra Ivings - University of Ottawa

Shaunna Mireau - University of Alberta

Stef Alexandru - University of BC

**New Professionals SIG**

In 2019-20, the New Professionals SIG was co-chaired by Suzanne Jay and Allyssa McFadyen.

The New Professionals SIG listserv NP-SIG@LISTS.UBC.CA continues to be active, with members contributing to monthly forum discussions and sharing information on professional development opportunities, awards and scholarships, and other developments in the legal information profession. The group hosted a meetup in Vancouver and members were encouraged to host meetups in other cities.

Membership in the New Professionals SIG has grown to approximately 50 early career professionals, and those interested in mentoring new professionals within the organization.

### **Member Renewals**

In 2019-20, MDC Co-Chair Veronika Kollbrand led the membership renewals outreach:

- Leading up to the December 31, 2019 soft membership expiry deadline, messaging was placed in the December 2019 *In Session* newsletter reminding members to renew.
- Also leading up to the December 31st deadline, National Office sent automated reminders to those who had not renewed.

The membership renewal outreach was then paused temporarily due to COVID-19 and the financial and workplace transitions surrounding the crisis.

Outreach during this time will focus on professional development funding, educational opportunities, and community rather than encouraging membership.

### **Mentorship Program**

For the 2019-20 year, there were 30 mentoring partnerships established through the Mentorship Program (compared to 32 pairs in 2018-19). Four individuals asked to be mentees as well as mentors, motivated by various goals including a desire to reach managerial level, develop legal writing for publications, or change their type of law library.

The Mentorship Coordinator posted to *In Session* connect-and-discuss topics to encourage communication between the mentoring partners. In 2019-20, emails were sent to mentoring partners rather than individually as this latter method was time consuming.

Issues for matching consideration:

- The initial matching scheme is working; however, it is a challenge to keep the relationship going when it isn't a local match. There is an uneven distribution across the country (largest concentration is in Ontario).
- Students join the mentoring program but is there a way to track them if they become full members and if they leave CALL, how successful was mentoring relationship to them in starting their careers? Many students would like to be in legal librarianship but perhaps they end up in academic or special libraries as a first job. It would be beneficial to try to survey them periodically.
- Mentor information is being recorded so returning mentors do not need to re-submit an application each year.

- Reassess how connect-and-discuss topics are distributed to mentoring partners and whether it should be continued through *In Session*.

### **Member Interviews & Project Profiles for CALL Website**

There were six member profiles posted to the CALL website and special promotion placed in *In Session* throughout the year. This initiative successfully highlights members' careers and initiatives they have undertaken. Members were chosen with an aim for mix of new and seasoned professionals and covering various geographic areas in Canada.

MDC continues to solicit member projects to profile. In 2019-20, Krisandra Ivings contributed Project Profile: Law Clerk Exit Interviews with the Supreme Court of Canada Library and Nikki Tanner contributed Project Profile: Editing the Canadian Law Library Review/Revue canadienne des bibliothèques de droit.

### **First Timers Tip Sheet**

The first timers tip sheet initiative resulted from discussion during the MDC meeting at the 2019 CALL/ACBD Conference in Edmonton. Stef Alexandru put together a draft and solicited feedback from the MDC and NP-SIG and will finalize it in the coming year.

### **First Timers Reception**

#### **Headshots & Bio Reviews**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CALL/ACBD 2020 Conference planned for Hamilton, Ontario was cancelled and some sessions were held virtually. The MDC Social (aka First Timers Reception) and the Headshots & Bio Reviews were cancelled.

### **Activities and initiatives that the committee hopes to tackle for the next business year:**

#### **New Activities Planned for 2020-21**

- Finalize first timers tip sheet and send to first time attendees ahead of the 2021 conference

#### **The MDC currently plans to continue with annual activities, including:**

- Educational Visits
- Member Renewal Reminders
- Member Interviews & Project Profiles for CALL Website
- Mentorship Program
- MDC Social (First Timers Reception) at the CALL Conference

Guidance or advice on our priorities from the CALL Executive is most welcome.