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Are You Really Listening?



If you are a new reader to our magazine: *Welcome!*

I believe you will all find this issue entertaining, educational, and downright interesting! Within our focus on Education, our writers share their experiences and knowledge on topics that appeal to BC Notaries and to our business partners and clients.

When we think of education, many of us think “school.” Education is so much more than that. Learning comes in different forms for each of us at various times in our lives. The traditional model is only the beginning of our education. Most likely, on the first day on the job in our chosen career, we discovered there is a lot more to learn—*School did not prepare me for this!*

Formal education provides us with a tool—an intellectual tool—to enhance our dreams and our ability to problem-solve, to turn our creativity into practical uses and actions. For example, Nolan Bushnell founded Atari with \$500 and sold the company for \$28 million, less than five years later. Mr. Bushnell states that his best video game ideas came to him while lazing on beaches and sleeping and dreaming!

For some, like myself, completing university training comes well into middle age.

I always enjoy reading Trevor Todd’s columns. He never stops learning! Each article brings insight—a new experience and new information that Trevor has gleaned from his practice of law or his practical experience. I know from my discussions with Trevor that he also learns a great deal by sharing his knowledge with others.

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We really never stop learning. Life is a constant learning experience. One of the skills I learned somewhere along my journey is how to *listen*. When you really allow yourself to listen, you can learn so much. I learn new and exciting things every day—from my co-workers, our members, my children, grandchildren, and especially my wife. It’s a great experience in life when you can say, “I didn’t know that!”

Notaries by nature are eager to learn and to keep on learning; they are always attending various continuing legal training courses offered around the province. Our Society’s education seminars are so well attended, it is a constant challenge to come up with remarkable yet practical presentations!

With the recent move by the Land Title

Office to the electronic filing of documents, more than 86 percent of BC Notaries have taken some form of education regarding the use of our new conveyancing software, digital signatures, electronic filing, and the electronic preparation of documents.

Our Notaries’ commitment to education is impressive and the dialogue in the Cover Story interview supports that commitment. You will read how the Notary Foundation is supporting students who want to work in the legal business. Not only are Notaries contributing financially to colleges like Camosun in Victoria and Capilano in North Vancouver, Notaries are supporting the students’ endeavours by permitting them to test their skills in BC Notaries’ offices and by hiring them to work in Notarial businesses.

BC Notaries are dedicated to continuing education—to enhance their skills, learn new skills and technologies, and grow as people—to perpetuate the tradition of using our abilities to help our clients with their day-to-day issues.

As I was preparing to write this article, I was reminded of an article my predecessor Stan Nicol wrote some time ago. In the *Summer Scrivener*, June 1999, Stan said, “We should not lose sight of the special abilities that Notaries have... to deal effectively with clients on a face-to-face basis.”

Happy learning! ▲