

Johanne Blenkin

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD WORKS:
BC Courthouse
Library Society



The BC Courthouse Library Society has been pleased to be a member of a partnership that was formed to develop the BC Supreme Court Self-Help Centre.

Created in response to the increase in the number of people representing themselves in court and their difficulty in accessing the justice system, the BC Supreme Court Self-Help Information Centre (SHIC) opened in Vancouver on April 18, 2005, as a one-year pilot project.

Other partners in this innovative project include the Ministry of Attorney General, BC Court of Appeal, BC Supreme Court, Legal Services Society, Law Courts Education Society, Community Legal Assistance Society, the People's Law School, and other justice-related organizations.

The SHIC will help unrepresented litigants get the information they need to prepare for their Supreme Court family or civil case. They will provide information on what clients should expect and what they may need to consider to get ready for court. The centre will assist them find and use appropriate resources, including self-help packages and forms. Litigants will also

be referred to other agencies for further information, to free legal advice services, as well as to alternatives to court. Clients can drop in Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon; 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

For more information about the project, please visit the Website: <http://www.supremecourtselfhelp.bc.ca/index.htm>. The "Self-Help Centre materials" section links to a series of guides that assist users to understand the various stages of a Supreme Court action.

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As part of our continuing effort to enhance access to legal information to the legal community and to the public, we are pleased to add to our suite of electronic resources that are available, free of charge, to users in our branches. In the past year, we have successfully negotiated province-wide licences that allow us to add *LawSource* and *QPLegalEze* to our public-access computer workstations, a number of

which had been funded by a previous grant from the Notary Foundation of BC.

LawSource is an online service from Westlaw/eCarswell, that includes all cases published in Carswell topical law reports, plus legislation, the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest, the Canadian Abridgment, KeyCite, an electronic citator for Canadian cases and legislation, and the Index to Canadian Legal Literature, a journal index.

QPLegalEze from the BC Queen's Printer is the current Web-based source for BC statutes and regulations, full text orders-in-council and ministerial orders, BC Gazette parts 1 and 2, bills, Hansard, and Corporate Registry Notices.

For more information about these products and other services, contact us in person, by phone, or by email. ▲

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