

The **Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia** (LISNS) is a non-profit organization which provides people in Nova Scotia with information and resources about the law. To learn more about the LISNS, telephone 902-454-2198, e-mail [lisns@legalinfo.org](mailto:lisns@legalinfo.org), or visit its web site at [www.legalinfo.org](http://www.legalinfo.org). The LISNS is located at 5523B Young Street in Halifax.



The LISNS operates a **Legal Information Line** to respond to questions about the law from the public. There is no charge for this service, but the person you speak to will not provide legal advice. To use the Legal Information Line, call 455-3135 locally, or toll-free in Nova Scotia by dialing 1-800-665-9779.

If you are seeking legal advice and want to speak with a lawyer, the LISNS offers the **Lawyer Referral Service**. The service will provide you with the name of a lawyer who will provide a one half-hour consultation for a fixed fee of \$20.00, plus taxes. To use the Lawyer Referral Service, call 455-3135 locally, or toll-free in Nova Scotia by dialing 1-800-665-9779.

The LISNS also operates **Dial-a-Law**, which provides legal information through taped messages. A list of the 70+ taped messages is available on the LISNS's web site. Dial-a-Law is accessible 24-hours-a-day by calling 902-420-1888 (long distance charges apply).

The LISNS's web site includes a FAQs section on different areas of the law, as well as an order form for its many **publications**, including booklets, videos, information kits, guides, manuals, and fact sheets.

Updated: March 2008

The **Courts of Nova Scotia** maintains its own **Decisions Database**, which is accessible through its web site at [www.courts.ns.ca](http://www.courts.ns.ca). The Courts of Nova Scotia web site also includes a section entitled, "Representing Yourself," with links to information kits on appearing in Small Claims Court, Provincial Court, Probate Court, Family Court, Supreme Court (including the Family Division), and the Court of Appeal.

**Nova Scotia's Department of Justice** provides information on such topics as the province's regulations, civil wedding ceremonies, crime prevention, jury duty, self-represented litigants, and Small Claims Court. This information, and more, is accessible through its web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/just](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just).

**Nova Scotia's Public Prosecution Service** has created an online booklet entitled, "**The Criminal Case: Step-by-Step**," which provides an explanation of the criminal case, from investigation to appealing the verdict or sentence. Access the booklet at [www.gov.ns.ca/pps/criminal\\_case.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/pps/criminal_case.htm).

**Justice Canada** has created an online booklet entitled, "**Canada's Court System**," which provides a general description of the court system in Canada, including the different types and levels of courts. Access the booklet at [canada.justice.gc.ca/en/dept/pub/trib/index.html](http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/dept/pub/trib/index.html).



NOVA SCOTIA  
BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

## INFORMATION for the PUBLIC



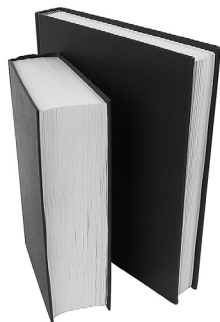
### LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

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## WHAT IS THE NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY?

The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS) is the regulatory body of the legal profession in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the Society is to uphold and protect the public interest in the practice of law.



## WHAT IS LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES?

Library & Information Services (L&IS) is a department of the NSBS and plays an important role in ensuring the public interest is protected by contributing to the competency of lawyers through the provision of information resources and services to its members. L&IS serves its members, the judiciary, and court staff through the Barristers' Library in Halifax, satellite collections housed at the Kings' County Barristers' Library in Kentville, and the Simon J. Khattar, Q.C. Memorial Barristers' Library in Sydney, as well as thirteen county barristers' libraries throughout the province.

## WHAT CAN L&IS DO FOR THE PUBLIC?

L&IS delivers service to the public via the WWW. There are a number of useful, online resources that are freely accessible to anyone with access to the WWW. For example, L&IS has created a number of helpful databases, all of which are accessible through the NSBS web site.

The most frequently used L&IS database is **Law News Online**, which is a collection of Nova Scotia decisions, primarily from the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. This database provides both basic and advanced search screens. Please read

the "Coverage of Database" note for the correct coverage information before conducting research. New decisions are loaded into the database as they are received from the courts, and older decisions are added on a regular basis.

L&IS's **Legal Links** database provides access to legal information on the World Wide Web. Select a web site from one of the available categories of sites, or search the database by subject or keyword.

L&IS's **Secondary Sources** database provides access to a wide range of secondary material, including papers presented at NSBS-sponsored conferences, articles published in NSBS publications, as well as some unpublished material written by members of the profession.

**Best Practices** is an L&IS research tool that combines *Legal Ethics and Professional Conduct: A Handbook for Lawyers in Nova Scotia* with supporting additional resources, including ethics rulings and advice, guidelines and precedents, discipline decisions, and further reading.

For information on how to use any of the above-named L&IS databases, please consult the **Research Guide for Online Databases** available online through the NSBS web site.



There is also a **Research Guide for Print Resources** available online, which briefly reviews the legal research process, provides definitions for the basic primary and secondary sources used in the research process, and provides a general overview of provincial and federal case law and statutory material.

Although not created by L&IS, the Canadian Legal Information Institute, or **CanLII** ([www.canlii.com](http://www.canlii.com)) as it is commonly known, is an excellent site for members of the public. It is, in essence, a one-stop virtual law library for Canadian case law, statutes, and regulations.

Since 2001, L&IS has played an important role in the continued development of CanLII through the contribution of current decisions from Nova Scotia's Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and Provincial Court to CanLII for posting on its web site.

CanLII is funded solely through the contributions of lawyers in Nova Scotia, as well as those in all provinces and territories across Canada, by way of the annual fees lawyers make to their respective law societies.

## WHO ELSE CAN HELP THE PUBLIC?

There are a number of other organizations which may be able to assist members of the public who wish to conduct their own legal research or simply want more information about the law.

Check the collection of your **local public library** for useful material. Also, staff at the public library can access the print collection of the Barristers' Library through L&IS's online catalogues and inquire about obtaining books and other material via document delivery or interlibrary loan.