BRITISH COLUMBIA LAW INSTITUTE

2027

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Better laws, plain and simple.



Strong law reform depends on collaboration, and the BC Law Institute brings people and perspectives together to tackle complex legal issues with rigour and independence. Their work complements that of organizations like CBABC and contributes to the thoughtful evolution of the laws, legal orders and justice systems that serve communities throughout British Columbia.



Kerry L. Simmons
Executive Director,
Canadian Bar Association, BC

The BC Law Institute's rigorous independent analysis plays a critical role in clarifying and modernizing BC's laws—making the law better for all who use and are affected by it. I hope our profession will support BCLI in continuing their fundamental role on the legal landscape.



Thomas L. Spraggs
2026 President,
Law Society of BC

About British Columbia Law Institute

British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI) is BC's independent, not-for-profit law reform agency. We bring together people with diverse expertise and perspectives to identify gaps in the law, explore emerging issues and public needs, and develop just and innovative solutions that can make a meaningful difference for people in BC.

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WHY SUPPORT BCLI

Give back to the profession
Support an organization dedicated to improving the laws and legal frameworks that affect your clients, your practice, and communities across BC.

Help shape better laws
Support collaboration among legal professionals, academics, policymakers, and community members to address complex legal challenges.

Advance access to justice
Help ensure that high-quality legal research and reform initiatives continue to benefit people and communities throughout BC.

Invest in lasting impact
Support work that influences legal practices, informs public policy, and contributes to legislative change over time.

Connect with us

Maggie Knight, Interim Managing Director

E-mail: sponsorship@bcli.org
Phone: (604) 822-0142

BC's Independent Law Reform Agency Needs Your Help

Dear colleagues,

As democratic institutions face rising challenges around the world, **your independent law reform agency needs help from the legal profession here in BC.**

Since 1997, British Columbia Law Institute has worked in the public interest to improve the law and advance access to justice. We convene academics, legal professionals, and others with diverse expertise to identify gaps in the law and develop just and innovative solutions that can make a meaningful difference for individuals, families, communities, businesses, and the legal system.

We have an ambitious workplan for the next 3 years, spanning pressing issues in housing law, extreme weather risk and insurance law, changing technology, and our Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks program grappling with the implementation of legal pluralism.

But due to cuts to government spending—including the elimination of our core funding from the Ministry of Attorney General—**our ability to carry forward this work in 2027 is uncertain**.

We are urgently seeking law firms who are willing to be Law Reform Champions by committing to sustained support over the next 3 years, providing our excellent staff lawyers with the stability we need to deliver on our intended work and move the law forward. We are also seeking sponsors for our Fall 2027 30th anniversary celebration.

Our reports and study papers provide key independent, non-partisan recommendations that can accelerate improvements to the law. Our practical resources provide direct support to legal professionals. Our work is regularly cited by courts and tribunals across Canada and beyond.

As we prepare to celebrate 30 years of thoughtful, precise work, we hope you will join us as champions supporting the next 30 years of modernizing and clarifying the law.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this sponsorship package and speaking with members of BCLI's team.

With appreciation,



Edward L. Wilson
Board Chair



Maggie Knight
Interim Managing Director



Megan Vis-Dunbar
Interim Program Director

In This Time, We Need Law Reform Champions

We are seeking sustaining supporters willing to make a 3-year commitment to support BCLI's fundamental work**.**



Recognition & Benefits

Be Recognized as a Law Reform Champion
Your organization will be recognized as a BCLI Law Reform Champion in our annual report and across BCLI's communications, including our website, newsletter, and social media, throughout your three-year commitment.

Showcase Your Law Reform Commitment
Receive a custom BCLI wordmark recognizing your organization as a 2027–2029 Gold, Silver, or Bronze Law Reform Champion supporting the British Columbia Law Institute, BC's independent law reform agency. Sponsors can feature the mark on their website and organizational materials.

Celebrate BCLI's 30th Anniversary
Gold Law Reform Champions will receive eight tickets to BCLI's 30th anniversary event, Silver will receive five tickets, and Bronze will receive three tickets. Each organization will be recognized in the host's remarks.

Celebrate 30 years of law reform and look ahead to the next 30

Save the Date:
Thursday, September 16, 2027 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
SFU Harbour Centre | 515 W. Hastings Street, Vancouver

Speakers to be announced.

Join us for a gathering of leaders on the legal landscape as we celebrate and explore law reform's role in protecting our democracy, reconciling legal pluralism, and charting a course towards a more just society.

Recognition & Benefits

Presenting Sponsor	**$15,000**	**One** exclusive sponsorship opportunity. Receive 8 tickets.
Anniversary Story Sponsor	**$12,000**	**One** sponsorship opportunity supporting the creation of a video that tells the story of BCLI's law reform contribution and what lies ahead. Receive 7 tickets.
Lead Sponsors	**$7,500**	**Two** sponsorship opportunities. Receive 4 tickets.
Celebration Sponsors	**$3,000**	**Three** sponsorship opportunities. Receive 2 tickets.
Future Law Reform Leaders Sponsors	**$1,000**	**Six** sponsorship opportunities. Receive 1 ticket and support attendance by law students with a keen interest in law reform.

Prominent Sponsor Recognition
Be recognized as a 30th anniversary sponsor through event materials, the event website, and BCLI's communications, including our newsletter, social media, and annual report.

Sponsor Communications Toolkit
Receive BCLI-designed messaging and graphics to help your firm showcase its support across your own communications channels.

**We are also seeking sponsors for smaller receptions in Victoria and Kamloops. Please email Maggie Knight at sponsorship@bcli.org to explore opportunities.*

Why BCLI's Work Matters



Nearly

30

years of legal research and law reform



More than

90

publications



More than

300

judicial, professional, and government citations

Independent expertise supporting law reform in the public interest

In this time of political polarization, misinformation, and threats to democracy, BCLI plays a key role on the legal landscape. Our thorough, non-partisan research, recommendations, and resources are trusted by professionals, by the courts, and by policymakers across the political spectrum. We listen to all voices without bringing our own agenda to the table.

We take on complex topics from an independent perspective. For example, our Reconciling Crown Legal Frameworks program takes on the practical work of examining how Crown legal frameworks can be reconciled with Indigenous legal orders.

Deep thinking that's trusted by courts and tribunals

We undertake deep thinking and research that no other actor on BC's legal landscape has the time, mandate, or scope to take on.

Courts and tribunals across Canada and beyond use BCLI research to inform legal analysis, interpret legislation, and support judicial decisions. Our work continues to be widely cited by courts across Canada, from trial level courts up to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Advancing national and international legal scholarship

We liaise with other law reform agencies across Canada and around the world, strengthening learning, and when appropriate, opportunities for aligned approaches across jurisdictions. Our work provides an independent resource to civil servants, elected representatives, civil society organizations, and legal scholars.

Resources that support the evolution of professional practice

BCLI research puts practical law reform analysis and resources into the hands of those shaping and applying the law. Our resources are used by policymakers, legal professionals, educators, courts, and tribunals.

For example, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice drew on our *Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing* to develop training for the Government of Alberta, while our *Gender Diversity in Legal Writing: Pronouns, Honorifics, and Gender-Inclusive Techniques* guide was recommended as a guide by the New York State Supreme Court.

Convening deep, diverse expertise in the public interest

BCLI can convene actors who might otherwise be in conflict with each other in contexts where they can speak freely—rather than on behalf of an organization or client—to gather their expertise and brainstorm solutions in the public interest. We incorporate the insights of key informants who have experienced the gaps, harms, and unintended consequences of our current laws, helping them turn challenging experiences into opportunities for meaningful law reform that can prevent future harms.

Recommendations that help shape BC law today and for years to come

BCLI's work addresses needs for structural changes in the law, supporting meaningful change both soon after a project and decades later.

For example, our *Pension Division Q&A* was recently updated to reflect legal changes based on BCLI recommendations. Our parentage project helped to address how changing social norms about what a family may look like could be reflected in updated laws. Our work on artificial intelligence and civil liability is helping to shape approaches to AI-related litigation. A 2004 BCLI recommendation to abolish the Shimco lien became law more than 20 years later.

Busting myths that shape how the law is applied

Misunderstandings about the law can prevent progress. BCLI's historical research challenges these myths and helps reveal where change is needed.

For example, it is commonly believed that changes to the law that removed federal ministeral oversight are why the bylaws under the *Indian Act* are not enforced. BCLI's research shows that enforcement problems existed long before the laws changed.

Similarly, the origins of the principle of the honour of the Crown are often misunderstood. Our research is tracing the origins of this principle to clarify its role in Crown law as a principle of accountability.

Highlights of Our Work

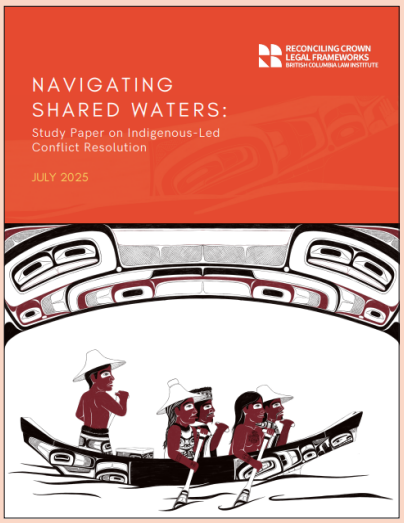
BCLI undertakes independent research across a wide range of legal areas. The following examples highlight our work, from law reform recommendations and legal analysis to practical resources for legal professionals.

Indigenous Laws

Exploring how Crown legal frameworks can better recognize and work alongside Indigenous legal orders and areas of jurisdiction. Examples of our work include:

Navigating Shared Waters: A Study Paper on Indigenous-Led Conflict Resolution examines how Indigenous Peoples are using their laws to resolve disputes and how Canada and BC can better support these approaches.

RCLF Primers explore UNDRIP in the BC context and approaches to legal pluralism to strengthen relationships between co-existing Crown and Indigenous legal orders.





Housing and Property Laws

Examining housing issues across BC's legal system and exploring opportunities to reimagine legal approaches to housing and tenure. Recent works include:

Study Paper on Access to Neighbouring Land and Airspace for Construction-Related Purposes explores legislative and policy options for resolving disputes concerning access by developers to land and airspace bordering a construction site for construction-related purposes.

Report on Renovating the Public Hearing explores improvements to BC's legislation on public engagement when a local government is enacting a land-use bylaw.

Family Law

Study Paper on Understanding Economic Abuse through Family Businesses in Family Law aims to deepen understanding of how economic abuse occurs through family businesses, how it is currently addressed (or overlooked) in family law, and the challenges that arise in responding to it.

Report on Parentage: A Review of Parentage under Part 3 of the Family Law Act features 34 recommendations and aims to update and improve the laws that determine who is legally recognized as a parent.

Guide on Questions and Answers about Pension Division 5th Edition is a definitive guide on navigating the complex legal issues that arise when a spousal relationship breaks down and the family property to be divided includes benefits in a pension plan.

Practical Resources

Providing public legal information, practical tools, and resources that support best practices. Some tools include:

The Law at Home: Primer on Homeownership Tenures in British Columbia outlines a range of homeownership models and highlights unique legal features and important considerations associated with each.

Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing is a foundational resource for anyone working in or around the justice system, providing legal professionals with practical strategies and insights for applying a trauma-informed approach to their legal writing.

Gender Diverse Legal Writing Guide helps legal professionals use inclusive language, pronouns, and honorifics to ensure legal documents communicate respectfully and avoid unnecessarily excluding or marginalizing people.

Corporate and Technology Law

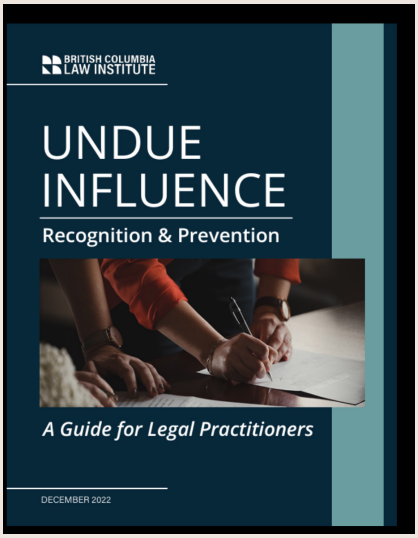
Report on Rationalizing Non-Statutory Liability of Directors and Officers examines the conflicting case law that has led to directors and officers frequently being named as co-defendants in lawsuits and proposes reforms to bring greater clarity to this area of law.

Report on Artificial Intelligence and Civil Liability examines the extent to which existing common law rules of tort adequately address harm caused by intelligent machines operating autonomously.

Wills and Estates Law

Undue Influence Recognition and Prevention Guide advises on spotting signs of undue influence and guides practitioners in assessing if clients are acting independently in giving instructions.

Guide to Wills and Estate Planning for First Nations Clients Living on Reserves is an informational aid for lawyers and notaries in British Columbia who advise First Nations clients in wills and estate planning matters, but who do not themselves have experience working in Aboriginal law or in matters involving estates on reserves.



Our Current Projects

Explore some of the law reform projects BCLI is currently advancing across BC.

Role of Injunctions in Resource Disputes Project looks at how the law on injunctions developed, explains how resource cases pose special problems for this body of law, and raises several options for reforming the law.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty Project explores the general principles informing this topic and identifies ways to move it from theory to practice.

Manufactured Homes Law Reform Project examines BC's manufactured home laws with a view to building a more consistent and modern legal framework.

Extreme Weather and Risk Law Reform Project explores issues relating to land, insurance, disaster risk, and economic vulnerability, with the goal of identifying practical law reform options that improve resilience and certainty for individuals and communities.

Honour of the Crown Project explores the concept of the honour of the Crown as it has been recognized within Canadian law. It will look at how this principle informs Crown obligations and decision-making.

Escheat Act Modernization Project addresses how property ownership works under BC law, focusing on the ways underlying interests in land are managed when private ownership ends.

Rethinking Strata Leaseholds Project examines issues that have caused, or are expected to cause, practical and legal challenges for parties involved in strata leaseholds.

Litigation Abuse in Family Law Project explores how misuse of legal proceedings can serve as a form of family violence.

Supported by Our Community

BCLI's work has been made possible by funders, donors, and supporters who believe in the value of independent law reform. Their support has helped us tackle important legal issues, develop practical resources, and contribute to lasting change in BC.

We invite your organization to join them. Your sponsorship will help sustain BCLI's work, support new law reform projects, and help build a stronger legal system for BC.

We gratefully acknowledge the funders, donors, and partners who supported BCLI in 2025 and 2026:

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The Notary Foundation
The Houssian Foundation
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Urban Development Institute

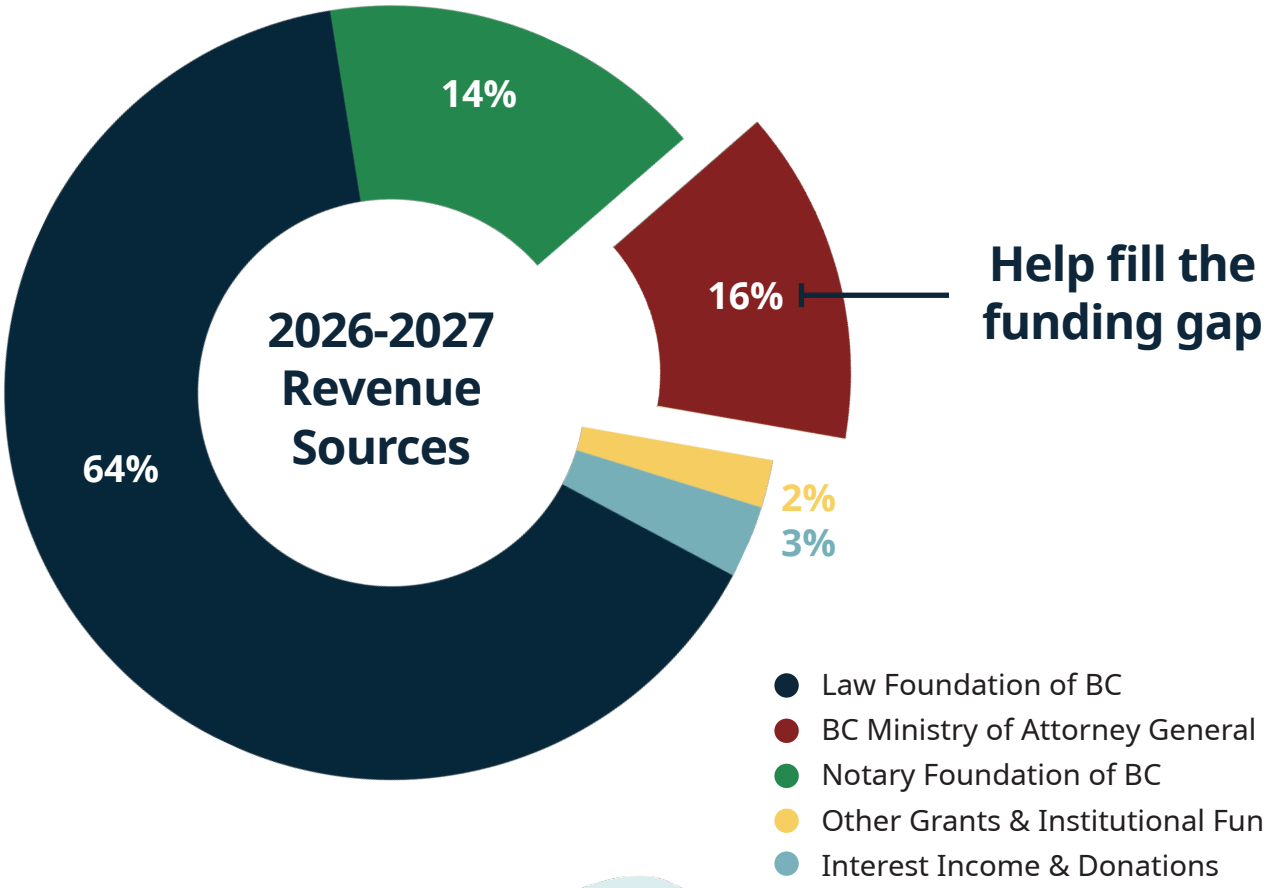
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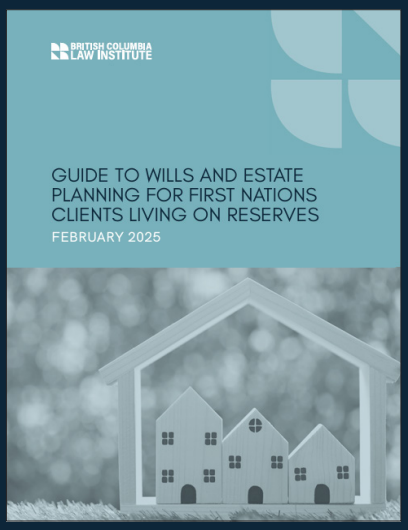
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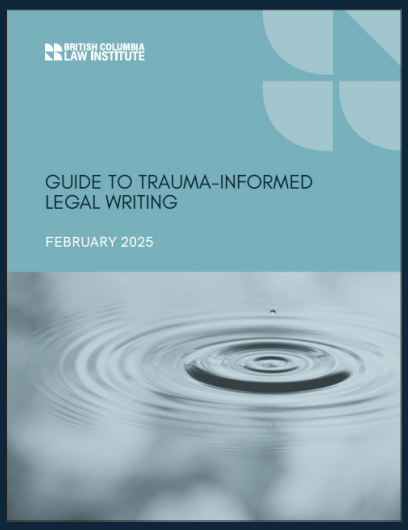
We need your help to diversify BCLI's financial foundation

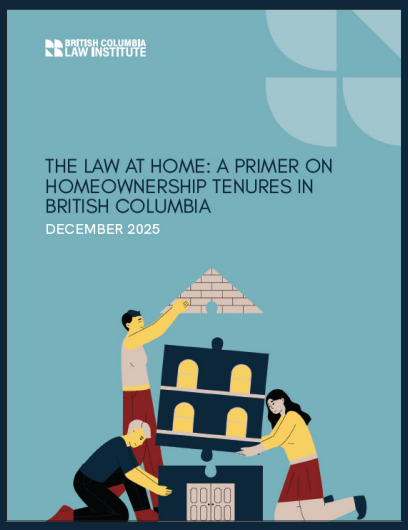
BCLI's core funding has traditionally come from Law Foundation of BC, the BC Ministry of Attorney General, and the Notary Foundation of BC. With the BC Ministry of Attorney General funding no longer available, BCLI is seeking support from the practicing legal community to help fill this gap and create a more sustainable future for independent law reform.

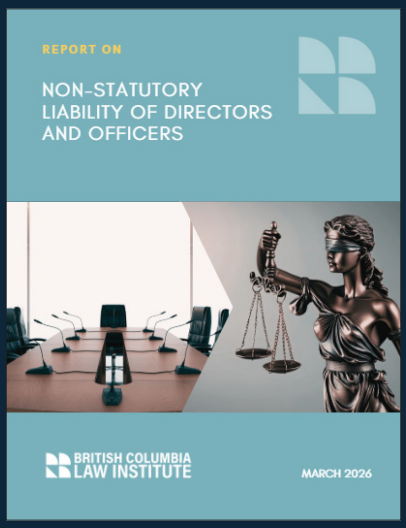
We invite your firm to join a circle of law reform champions, ensuring BCLI can continue to provide the foundational research, practical resources, and expertise that help the law move forward in the public interest.





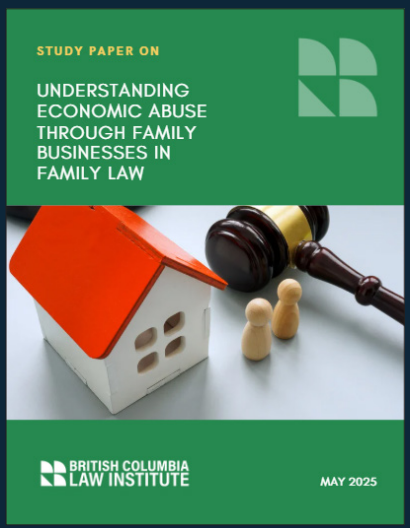


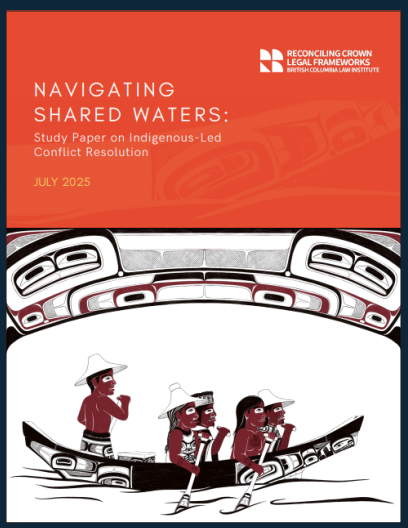












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The work of BCLI primarily takes place on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish Nation) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).