



## CLLG History

There is no precise date when we can say that the Calgary Law Library Group was officially launched. Prior to 1975, the Law Society Library was the only staffed law library in Calgary. In 1977, with enough law library personnel in law firms, the courthouse, and the University of Calgary, the organization of the 1979 Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries was entrusted to a growing and firmly established law library group. The idea of a national conference in Calgary was to showcase the University of Calgary Law Library, open since 1976. The conference was very successful due to the planning efforts of a handful of young and energetic law librarians who met regularly through 1978 and 1979 under the stewardship of Georgia MacRae, Conference Chair.

From 1978 on, the group met informally, sharing expertise and the occasional social event. There were also workshops with the local librarians of CASLIS. The Law Society Library routed law library journals, published a list of names of individuals working in law libraries in the city, and circulated lists of their new acquisitions. In 1980, the first formal executive was named together with a Program Committee of four people. A list of "Ideas for Workshops/Discussions" under the title Calgary Law Librarians' Association was generated that year, and between 1980 and 1981, a decision was made regarding the name of the group and so named the Calgary Law Library Group.

In a letter dated February 10, 1981, Melody Hainsworth, Law Society Librarian, and Jane Hillard, Librarian at MacKimmie Matthews, wrote to the "Calgary Law Library Group":

*"There has been a strong interest in Calgary currently in law library materials and their use. Several local law librarians felt that perhaps our informal Law Library Group could perform a service both to our own members and other area librarians by offering/sponsoring special workshops on legal topics. To this end, we would like to suggest a meeting of the loosely formed Calgary Law Library Group on February 16... At that time, we would like to discuss the possibility of having more regular meetings with the view to forming (eventually) an association similar to E.L.L.A. Also, we could discuss a possible list of seminars which could be sponsored/offered to the Law Library Group and other interested Calgary librarians...."*

At the outset, programming and continuing education was a strong focus of CLLG. A policy decision was put in place that suggested five separate programs take place throughout the September to June association year. Topics ranged from substantive law areas to law library and publishing issues. Formats varied from luncheon discussion meetings to half-day revenue generating sessions opened up to the other library associations in the city. Speakers were

judges, court officials, lawyers, and other librarians. Recent years have seen the group, for the most part, settle into noon-hour “brown-baggers”, often with special speakers and covering a wide range of topical issues. There was often a year-end wind-up social and annual business meeting. The tradition of a Christmas social was established early on and has continued to the present day.

CLLG produced a newsletter, the Calgary Law Library Newsletter (1989-1992) and Verbatim (1992-2002), until the advent of the Internet, listservs and association websites made electronic publishing far more current and cost-efficient.