# Legal Collections - Getting Started

This guide is intended to help get you started building your legal information collection.

The items listed are books or pamphlets you can add to your collection – some are available to order in print and some are available online (often in PDF form). Online-only items are included as sources you can link in your catalogue.

This guide is organized by subject. Each subject has titles recommended for different size collections:

All Library Collections – A foundation in this subject area for all library collections.   
Small Collections   
Medium Collections  
Large Collections

Not every subject will have titles listed in every collection size – this guide is a starting point – for a full list of legal titles for different collection sized see the **Law Books for Libraries 2017 list**.

Start with titles for ***all library collections*** and then, the larger your collection, start adding titles from ***small***, then ***medium***, then ***large***. Of course, you can pick and choose based on your community’s needs by going more in depth with particular subjects.  
  
**Considerations:**Here are some of the considerations used in compiling this guide:

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| price | Some resources are free, others can be covered by LawMatters grant. |
| space | Physical space considered – Electronic resources or links are provided if electronic versions are available. If a title is ONLY available electronically, it is listed under “Electronic resource (link)” |
| depth | Introductory/overview 🡪 more in depth titles included |

*Each of these things generally increases with the size of the legal collection.*

Please note that in this guide, some subject areas are not listed – this may be due to lack of ‘introductory’ material on this subject or due to lack of print resources in the area.

## Aboriginal Law

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| *All Library Collections* | |
| [Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)  (2015) Free | Electronic Resource (link):  [Aboriginal People and the Law in British Columbia](http://www.legalaid.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=5) (2006) |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Clear Skies - a graphic novel about family violence for Aboriginal teens](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=462) (2015) Free  [Emily's Choice](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005088_S)  (2016) Free  [Income Assistance on Reserve in BC](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005105_S)  (2017) Free  [Your Gladue Rights](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005106_S) 2017) Free | [Aboriginal Law Handbook](http://www.carswell.com/description.asp?docid=5883)  (2012) $134.00  [Aboriginal Law](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/aboriginal-law-fifth-edition-hardcover/) (2016) $120.00 | [Annotated Aboriginal Law: The Constitution, Legislation and Treaties](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/annotated-aboriginal-law-the-constitution-legislation-and-treaties-2017-formerly-annotated-indian-act-and-aboriginal-constitutional-provisions/)  (2016) $134.00  [Modern First Nations Legislation Annotated](https://store.lexisnexis.ca/en/categories/products/modern-first-nations-legislation-annotated-2016-edition-skusku-cad-00936/details) (2017) $100.00  [Terms of Coexistence: Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Law](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/terms-of-coexistence-indigenous-peoples-and-canadian-law/) (2013) $109.00 |

## Abuse and Victims of Crime

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| *All Library Collections* | |
| [For Your Protection: Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=20)  (2013) Free  [Leaving Abuse](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005041_S)  (2016) Free  [Parents' Rights, Kids' Rights](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003736_S) (2015) free  [Live Safe, End Abuse](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005110_S) (2017) Free | Electronic Resource (link):  [Roads to Safety: Legal Information for Older Women in BC](http://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/West-Coast-Leaf-CREA-Roads-to-Safety-May-23-web.pdf) (2016) |

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| *Small Collections* | |
| [Safety in Relationships for Trans Folk](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=460)  (2015) Free  [Safety in Same-Gender Relationships](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=458)  (2015) Free   [Mothers Leaving Abusive Partners: Family Law Information](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005095_S) (2016) Free | Electronic Resource (link)  [Surviving Relationship Violence and Abuse](http://lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=348)  (2013)  [If You Have a No Contact Order Made Against You](http://lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=263)  (2014) |

## Business

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [Starting a Small Business in BC Guide](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/business-management/small-business/ssbg.pdf)  (2016) Free |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large collections* |
| [Canadian Legal Guide for Small Business](http://www.self-counsel.com/default/canadian-legal-guide.html)  (2008)$29.95  [Canadian Business Contracts Handbook](http://www.self-counsel.com/canadian-business-contracts-handbook.html) (2010) $24.95 | [Business Transactions Guide](http://www.carswell.com/description.asp?docid=6588)  (2010) $56.00 | [Advertising and Marketing Law in Canada](http://store.lexisnexis.ca/store/ca/catalog/booktemplate/productdetail.jsp?pageName=relatedProducts&skuId=sku-cad-00771&catId=&prodId=prd-cad-00771)   (2015) $110.00 |

## Civil Law

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| *Large Collections* |
| [Civil Trial Handbook](http://www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?pid=B3076515)  (2015) $260.00 |

## Copyright & Intellectual Property

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* |
| [Canadian Copyright Law](http://ca.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118078519.html)  (2014) $39.95 | [Digital Copyright Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/digital-copyright-law)  (2016) $75.00  [Intellectual Property Law: Copyright, Patents, Trade-Marks](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/intellectual-property-law-2e)  (2011) $75.00 |

## Courts & Tribunals/legal procedure

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* |
| [Journey to Justice: A Practical Guide to Effectively Representing Yourself in Court](http://www.amazon.com/Journey-Justice-Practical-Effectively-Representing/dp/0994795009)  (2015) $19.95 | [Introduction to the Law and Legal System of Canada](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/introduction-to-the-law-and-legal-system-of-canada/)  (2013) $75.00 |

## Criminal Law

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Martin's Pocket Criminal Code](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/martins-pocket-criminal-code-2017-edition/)  (2017) $53.00 |

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| *Small Collections & Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Consequences of a Youth Record](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/consequences-of-a-youth-record/) (2014) Free  [Defending Yourself: Assault](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003703_S)  (2015) Free  [Defending Yourself: Breach of a Court Order](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003709_S)  (2015) Free  [Defending Yourself: Mischief](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003705_S)  (2015) Free  [Defending Yourself: Possession of an Illegal Drug](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003706_S)  (2016) Free  [Defending Yourself: Possession of Property Under $5,000 Obtained by Crime](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550003707_S)  (2015) Free  [Defending Yourself: Theft Under $5,000](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=436) (2012) Free  [How to Appeal Your Conviction](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=22) (2015) Free  [How to Appeal Your Sentence](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=23) (2015) Free  [If You Can’t Get Legal Aid for Your Criminal Trial: How to Make a Rowbotham Application](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=300) (2015) Free  [Representing Yourself in a Criminal Trial](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=98) (2013) Free | [Criminal Procedure](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/criminal-procedure-3e)  (2016) $65.00  [Criminal Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/criminal-law-6e)  (2015) $65.00 |

## Debt and Consumer

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| *All Library Collections* | |
| [Essentials of Consumer Law](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004288_S) (2017) Free  [Scams to Avoid](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005081_S) (2017) Free | Electronic Resource (link):  [Consumer Law and Credit/Debt Law](http://legalaid.bc.ca/resources/pdfs/pubs/Consumer-Law-and-CreditDebt-Law-eng.pdf) (2012) |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* |
| [Bennett on Consumer Bankruptcy](http://www.self-counsel.com/bennett-on-consumer-bankruptcy.html)  (2014) $24.95 | [Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/bankruptcy-and-insolvency-law-2e)  (2015) $80.00 |

## Employment & Labour Law

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Working in BC: Your Legal Rights & Responsibilities](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004287_S) (2014) Free |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Avoiding Workplace Discrimination; A Guide for Employers and Employees](http://www.self-counsel.com/avoiding-workplace-discrimination.html)  (2015) $24.95  [Workplace Bullying and Harassment](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004312_S)  (2014) Free | [BC Employment Standards Act: Quick Reference](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/bc-employment-standards-act-quick-reference-2016-edition/)  (2016) $81.00  [Employer's Guide To Dismissal](http://www.carswell.com/description.asp?docid=7474) (2007) $82.00 | [Wrongful Dismissal Handbook](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/wrongful-dismissal-handbook-7th-edition/) (2015) $165.00 |

## Family Law

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Child Support in BC: Information for Parents](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/child-support-in-bc/)  (2013) Free  [Living Together or Living Apart: Common-Law Relationships, Marriage, Separation, and Divorce](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=347)  (2013) Free |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Separation Agreements: Your Right to Fairness](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=453)   (2013) Free  [Coping with Separation Handbook](http://www.lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=465)  (2015) Free  [Family Law in BC: Quick Reference Tool](http://lss.bc.ca/publications/pub.php?pub=438)  (2016) Free | [Canadian Family Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/canadian-family-law-6e)  (2015) $65.00 | [BC Family Practice Manual](http://www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?pid=B3080015) (2015)$315.00  [Desk Order Divorce - An Annotated Guide](http://www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?pid=B3080513)  (2013) $210.00  [Child Support Guidelines in Canada](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/child-support-guidelines-canada-2015)  (2015) $98.00  [Spousal Support in Canada](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/spousal-support-in-canada-3rd-edition/) (2015) $122.00 |

## General Legal Reference

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Learning about the Law: Fundamentals of the Law, Criminal and Civil Law](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004283_S)  (2013) Free  [Learning about the Law: Family law, young people and the law, & elder law](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004286_S)  (2013) Free  [Canadian Law Dictionary](http://barronseduc.stores.yahoo.net/1438001517.html)  (2013) $18.99 |

## Government & Legislation

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* |
| [Legislation Made Easy](http://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7610003430_S)  (2010) $8.50 | [Laws of Government](http://www.irwinlaw.com/store/product/656/the-laws-of-government--the-legal-foundations-of-canadian-democracy-second-edition)   (2011) $56.00 |

## Housing, Property & Tenancy

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [Tenant Survival Guide](http://wiki.clicklaw.bc.ca/index.php/Tenant_Survival_Guide) (2014)  [Residential Tenancy Act: A Guide for Landlords & Tenants in B.C.](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/tools-and-resources/guides)  (2016) (multiple languages) |

## Immigration

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [Sponsorship Breakdown](http://lss.bc.ca/resources/pdfs/pubs/Sponsorship-Breakdown-eng.pdf)  (2014) Free |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Immigrate to Canada; A Practical Guide](http://www.self-counsel.com/immigrate-to-canada.html)  (2014) $21.95 | [U.S. Immigration Made Easy](http://www.nolo.com/products/us-immigration-made-easy-imez.html)  (2015) $35.99  [Immigration Law Irwin Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/immigration-law-2e)  (2015) $70.00 | [Migration to Canada](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/migration-to-canada-2016/)  (2015) $55.00 |

## Media & Internet

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Is that legal? Understanding Canadian law about issues of online harassment, exploitation, and abuse](http://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-CYBER-MISOGYNY-Legal-Guide.pdf)  (2014) Free |

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| *Large Collections* |
| [Practical Guide to E-Commerce and Internet Law](https://store.lexisnexis.ca/en/categories/shop-by-jurisdiction/federal-13/practical-guide-to-ecommerce-and-internet-law-skusku-cad-6511/details)  (2015) $115.00  [Canada's Internet Law in a Nutshell](http://www.carswell.com/product-detail/canadas-internet-law-in-a-nutshell/)   (2013) $96.00  [Journalist's Legal Guide](http://www.carswell.com/description.asp?docid=5676)  (2015) $125.00 |

## Not-for-Profit Organizations

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [Transitioning an Existing Society: A How-to Guide for Non-profits in BC](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/societies/) (2016) |

## Pensions, Benefits & Welfare

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [When I'm 64: Benefits](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/when-im-64-benefits/)  (2015) Free  [When I'm 64: Controlling Your Affairs](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004303_S) (2014) Free  [When I'm 64: Services](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/when-im-64-services/) (2015) Free  [How to Apply for Welfare](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550005108_S) (2017) Free |

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| *Large Collections* |
| [Pension Law](http://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/pension-law-2e)  (2013) $85.00 |

## Privacy & Access to Information

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [A Guide for Individuals: Protecting Your Privacy](https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/publications/guide_ind/) (2015)  [Identity Theft and You](https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/identity-and-privacy/identity-theft/guide_idt/) (2014) |

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| *Small Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Your Right to Privacy](http://www.self-counsel.com/your-right-to-privacy.html)   (2016) $16.95  Electronic Resources (link):  [Guide to Access and Privacy Protection under FIPPA](https://www.oipc.bc.ca/guidance-documents/1466) (2015)  [Electronic Devices: Privacy Handbook A Guide To Your Rights](http://www.clicklaw.bc.ca/resource/2554) (2012) | [Privacy in the Workplace](http://store.lexisnexis.ca/store/ca/catalog/booktemplate/productdetail.jsp?pageName=relatedProducts&skuId=sku-cad-6447&catId=&prodId=prd-cad-6447)  (2013) $149.00 |

## Rights and Citizenship

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| *All Library Collections* |
| Electronic Resource (link):  [Citizenship Handbook: A Guide to Democratic Rights and Responsibilities](http://bccla.org/our_work/the-citizenship-handbook-a-guide-to-democratic-rights-and-responsibilities/)  (2008) |

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| *Small Collections* | *Medium Collections* | *Large Collections* |
| [Canadian Constitution](http://www.dundurn.com/books/canadian_constitution)  (2013) $12.99 | [Charter of Rights and Freedoms](http://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/charter-rights-and-freedoms-5e) (2013) $60.00 | [Freedom of Conscience and Religion](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/freedom-conscience-and-religion)  (2014) $55.00 |

## Vehicle and Transportation Law

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| *Small Collections* |
| [Every Cyclist’s Guide to Canadian Law](https://www.irwinlaw.com/titles/every-cyclist%E2%80%99s-guide-canadian-law)  (2014) $28.00 |

## Wills, Estates & Personal Planning

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| *All Library Collections* |
| [Being an Executor](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/being-an-executor/) (2016) Free  [A Death in Your Family](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7550004295_S) (2017) Free  [Power of Attorney](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/power-of-attorney/) (2015) Free  [Writing Your Will](http://www.publiclegaled.bc.ca/writing-your-will/)  (2014) Free |

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| *Large Collections* |
| [BC Probate and Estate Administration Practice Manual](http://www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?pid=B3084515)  (2015) $375.00  [Guide to Wills & Estates](http://www.evinross.ca/GUIDEtoWILLSandESTATES.htm)   (2014) $441.00 |