

## The Essential Law Library (Revised 2012)

### Background and Consultation Process

*The Essential Law Library* was first compiled in 2001 to form the basis of a collections standard for the county and district law libraries in Ontario. Some of the titles from this original list were used to form the *Core Titles for an Ontario Courthouse Library*, an abbreviated list intended for the local associations. The *Essential* list was revised in 2005 to incorporate new editions that had been published since 2001 and to remove superseded or outdated titles. *The Essential Law Library* is the standard for those associations whose libraries have been classified as area.

In the late summer of 2008 LibraryCo surveyed the CDLPA presidents and library staff about the value and content of the core collections lists. Respondents were overwhelmingly positive about the value of the lists but expressed concern that they had not been kept up to date. They also identified gaps in subject coverage.

As a result of the survey findings, LibraryCo decided to review and update the core lists. The new collections team reviewed all content on the two lists, new editions of core texts that were deemed still to be of high value, and new titles that had been published since 2005. They also examined print materials from publishers other than those that had been included in the previous lists. The list now includes price information and notes about format. *The Essential Law Library* does not contain the titles from *Core Titles for an Ontario Courthouse Library* since it is expected that all area libraries will already own these books.

LibraryCo is committed to annual revisions of the two lists and to publishing the current lists on its web site. **This revision is current to March 2012.** LibraryCo welcomes comments about the list from CDLPA presidents, library chairs and staff in the county and district law libraries.

It is expected that the area associations will buy all titles in this list, as well as the books from *Core Titles for an Ontario Courthouse Library*, except where there is a choice between two or more books.

### Criteria

As was the case with the previous versions of this list, care was taken not to include materials that are available electronically through contracts that have been negotiated by LibraryCo. *The Essential Law Library* covers a wide range of subject areas and should be sufficiently comprehensive for area collections. In some subject areas, libraries are invited to make a choice from two or three equally useful titles.

While the total cost of all the publications on this list is \$17,940, the actual cost will be lower since there is some choice among titles. Annual upkeep costs will also depend on the choices made. The HST, shipping and handling will be added to these totals. It is anticipated that most of these texts will already be in area law library collections. The others should be purchased from the funds allocated by LibraryCo for collections.

There may be other titles and areas of practice that lawyers in local associations deem to be important. As these will vary from one association to another, libraries are encouraged to purchase them from the balance of funds available for collections.