



Summary of **LiRN Update** with Theresa Leitch: October 23, 2025

Key takeaways:

- LiRN's 2026-2030 strategic plan has been developed with the same strategic priorities as the previous plan but with slightly shifted goals.
- The 2026 budget will be considered by the Law Society in November, with grant letters expected to be sent out by December 11th.
- LiRN is exploring grant management software to replace the Excel template for budget submissions, which should make the process easier and less time-consuming.
- The Innovation and Equity of Access to Legal Information project funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario has concluded, with various initiatives implemented across the network.
- A new Draft Library Operations Policy has been created to replace two previous policies, removing the 15% requirement and using more practical language.

New Board Members:

Board of Directors updates: New board members were introduced including Connie Crosby, Hor Druma, Mofy Lyon, and Heather Ritchie, along with continuing members Vicki (chair), Fernando Garcia (vice chair), Augustine Krawchenko, Ted Chatterton, and Annette Demers.

Budget:

- 2026 Budget: The Law Society will consider LiRN's budget in November rather than October due to scheduling. Grant letters will be sent out by December 11th.
- 2027 Budget: LiRN is exploring grant management software to replace the Excel template, which should make the process easier and extend deadlines by a couple of weeks.

- More information about financial reporting requirements is available on the LiRN website.

Strategic Plan 2026-2030:

- The board of directors developed the plan during a retreat in June.
- The strategic priorities remain the same as the previous plan:
 - LiRN is focused on the needs of courthouse library users
 - LiRN supports libraries and librarians
 - LiRN collaborates to provide legal information and library services
 - LiRN makes evidence-based decisions
- An implementation plan is being developed to operationalize the strategic plan.
 - The 2027 priorities will be established after funding decisions are made.
 - The plan was informed by consultation sessions with network members.

Innovation and Equity of Access to Legal Information Project:

- The two-year project concluded in June.
- Innovations implemented included:
 - Accessibility duos (visual and hearing aids)
 - Zen zones and quiet spaces
 - Privacy/Zoom booths
 - Digital signage
 - Technology and infrastructure upgrades
 - Network-wide newsletter
 - Library use protocol
 - Many books were purchased under the Equity of Access stream.
 - rangefindr was acquired and piloted with positive feedback.
- The LibChat service project encountered staffing challenges but is still being considered under a different project.

- A report about the project is being finalized and will be available on the website in early 2025.
- The project had significant impact across the library network.

Draft Library Operations Policy:

A new policy has been created to replace previous policies.

- The new policy combines the Core Library Services and Management Responsibilities Policy and Additional Library Services Policy.
- The 15% requirement has been removed and replaced with: "Associations are expected to contribute to salaries when the association duties form a meaningful portion of the staff member's role."
- Feedback is being accepted until January 30th 2026