

Empower. Collaborate. Deliver.

2026-2030 Strategic Plan

LiRN

Legal Information and Resource Network

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2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan

Empower. Collaborate. Deliver.

Vision

To advance knowledge and access to justice across Ontario through innovative and collaborative legal information services.

Mission

LiRN empowers Ontario's courthouse libraries. We collaborate to deliver responsive, high-value services that support legal professionals and the public.

Priorities

1. LiRN is focused on the needs of courthouse library users, both now and in the future

2. LiRN supports libraries and librarians

3. LiRN collaborates to provide legal information and library service prioritizing excellent and equitable service

4. LiRN makes evidence-based decisions

Goals

- Improve board contributions
- Ascertain legal professional needs
- Support training and development of

- Support hiring & competency of library staff
- Raise the profile of LiRN and e-LiRN
- Improve services to the public / access to justice
- Improve communications in network

- Collaborate on content development (including migration of existing content) for open access dissemination
- Collaborate on legal resource tool development

- Improve data collection from funded libraries

Empowering Courthouse Libraries. Elevating Legal Practice.

The Legal Information and Resource Network (LiRN) administers funding and sets strategic direction for Ontario's courthouse law libraries. Our mandate is to modernize and strengthen the courthouse law library network by funding, evaluating, and evolving services to ensure efficient, cost-effective access to legal information.

About the Legal Information and Resource Network

Empowering Courthouse Libraries. Elevating Legal Practice.

The **Legal Information and Resource Network (LiRN)** is the central body responsible for administering funding and providing strategic guidance to Ontario's courthouse law libraries.

Our mandate is to evolve the provision of law library services and programs for the Ontario county and district law library system in an efficient and cost-effective manner through the management and allocation of grant funding, ongoing assessment of the system, and strategic development of appropriate service offerings.

We are a not-for-profit corporation. Our shareholders are the Law Society of Ontario, the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, and the Toronto Lawyer's Association.

We administer grants to law associations across the province to operate courthouse law libraries, set policies for the network, and acquire centralized resources.

Our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision to **empower courthouse libraries, collaborate across the justice sector, and deliver responsive, high-value legal information services** that support both legal professionals and the public.

Our Next Chapter ...

Reflections from LiRN's Leaders

As we reflect on the 5 years that have passed since LiRN's creation—and look ahead to the next 5—we are filled with a deep sense of purpose and optimism.

The legal profession is evolving rapidly, and so too must the law libraries that support it.

Over the past several months, we have been deeply engaged in the development of a new strategic plan.

This process has been both reflective and forward-looking, grounded in thoughtful consultation with our community of shareholders, law association presidents, and library staff.

Together, we've asked bold questions: How can we better serve the needs of tomorrow's legal minds? What role should the library play in advancing competency? How can we better meet the challenges of equity of access and rapidly advancing technology?

The answers are beginning to take shape in a plan that is ambitious, inclusive, and future-focused. It will guide us as we reimagine collections and services, develop fluency in emerging technologies, and invest in library staff.



We are excited about what lies ahead!

The law library is more than a repository of books. It is a dynamic hub of learning, discovery, and collaboration. With this new strategic vision, we are poised to lead with clarity and creativity.

Thank you for being part of this journey. The future of legal knowledge is bright—and we're just getting started!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitmell".

Vicki Whitmell, Chair



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Theresa Leitch".

Theresa Leitch, Managing Director

LiRN's Vision, Mission, and Commitment to You

Vision

To advance knowledge and access to justice across Ontario through innovative and collaborative legal information services.

Mission

LiRN empowers Ontario's courthouse libraries. We collaborate to deliver responsive, high-value services that support legal professionals and the public.

Commitment to You

LiRN's strategic plan positions courthouse libraries and LiRN's centralized legal information services as essential justice infrastructure — connecting legal knowledge with the people who need it most.

Through empowered library staff, strong partnerships, and data-driven strategies, we are building a more informed, equitable, and accessible legal information system for Ontario.

Empower. Collaborate. Deliver.

2026-2030 Strategic Plan

1

**Meeting
courthouse
library users'
needs.**

2

**Supporting
libraries and
librarians**

3

**Collaborating
for excellent
and equitable
service**

4

**Making
evidence-
based
decisions**



Meeting courthouse library users' needs.

LiRN is focused on the needs of courthouse library users, both now and in the future

Objective

Understand, anticipate, and respond to the evolving needs of courthouse library users and grow usership by identifying emerging needs, collecting meaningful data, and ensuring services are relevant, inclusive, and aligned with the future of legal practice and access to justice.

Goals

- Improve Board Contributions
- Ascertain Legal Professional Needs
- Support Training and Development of Lawyers



Supporting libraries and librarians

LiRN supports libraries and librarians

Objective

Strengthen the capacity, professionalism, and sustainability of courthouse libraries by equipping library staff with the tools, training, and resources they need to deliver high-quality legal information services and adapt to the evolving demands of justice sector users.

Goals

- Support for Hiring & Competency Development of Library Staff
- Raising the Profile of LiRN and e-LiRN
- Improving Services to the Public / Access to Justice
- Improving Communications in Network



Collaborating for excellent and equitable service

**LiRN collaborates to provide
legal information and library
service, prioritizing excellent and equitable service**

Objective

Expand the reach and impact of courthouse libraries by building strategic partnerships that promote innovation, reduce duplication, and support the co-creation of accessible, high-quality legal information services.

Goals

- Collaborate on content development (including migration of existing content) for open access dissemination
- Collaborate on legal resource tool development



Making evidence-based decisions

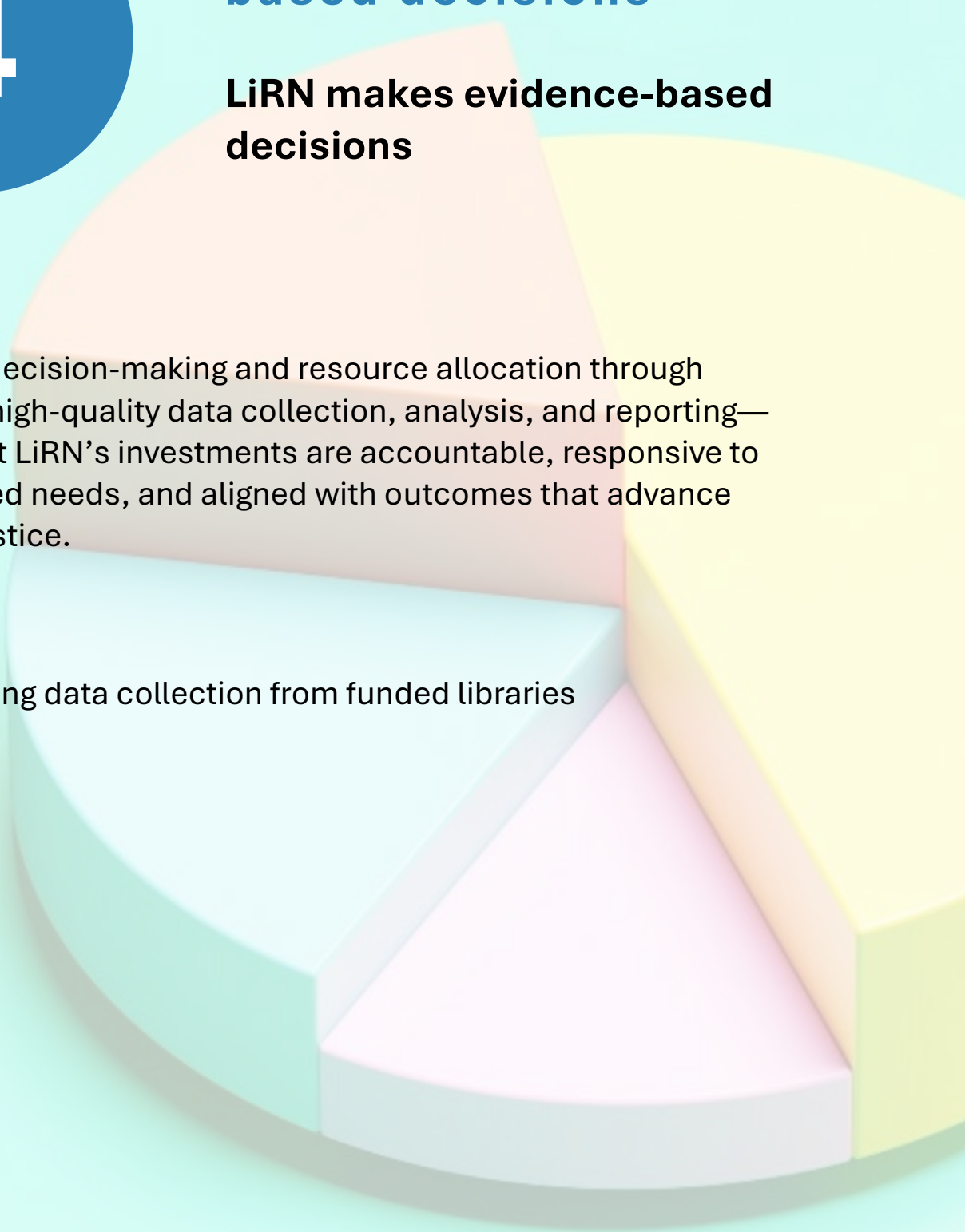
LiRN makes evidence-based decisions

Objective

To improve decision-making and resource allocation through consistent, high-quality data collection, analysis, and reporting—ensuring that LiRN’s investments are accountable, responsive to demonstrated needs, and aligned with outcomes that advance access to justice.

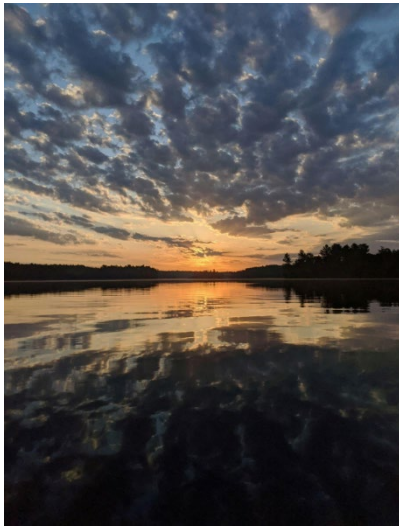
Goals

- Improving data collection from funded libraries



LiRN

Legal Information and Resource Network



The work of LiRN and Ontario's county and district courthouse libraries takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across the province. There are 46 treaties and other agreements that cover this territory.

Our central office is located on the Ancestral Traditional Territories of the Ojibway, the Anishinaabe and the Mississaugas of the New Credit. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

We are thankful to be able to work and live in these territories and are grateful to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who have cared for these territories since time immemorial.



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