News You Lose: How Fading News Outlets Are Changing the Work of One Special Library in British Columbia

Anna Loster, MLIS - Technical Services Librarian
Megan Laflin, MLIS - Reference Librarian

Legislative Library of British Columbia
Territorial acknowledgement

We would like to gratefully recognize the traditional territories on which we live and work.

The Legislative Library of British Columbia is located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen speaking people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

The Coast Salish people have a rich culture and history dating back thousands of years.
Current awareness at LLBC

• Delivered daily via email
• News of provincial interest
• Custom scans on specific issues.

Provincial daily papers & community news

New media service delivered by LLBC
Media Monitoring Vendors
What LLBC Looked For

Coverage of BC Newspapers
The Province
Times Colonist

Full-Text Licensed Content

Newsletter Distribution

Other News That's Picked Up
Geographic distribution of full-text newspaper coverage of 2 media monitoring vendors
COMMUNITY NEWS & THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Members and their staff want to see coverage in their home communities

Not all caucuses have the resources to track news on their own

Driver of democracy
Community Newspapers: Civic institutions

- Strong local coverage with vested interest in community
- Social cohesion
- Encourages political engagement & accountability
- Community economic driver
- Collective memory
Overview of BC Media Landscape

Number of B.C. Daily Papers 2010 & 2019

Ownership of BC Newspapers 2021
BC Community Newspaper Mergers & Reductions In Service Between 2010 And 2019
Emerging Media Models

Traditional newspapers operating as a mix of print and digital
- *Times Colonist*
- *Vernon Morning Star*

Online only news sources
- *The Narwhal*
- *Castanet*
- *Capital Daily*

Local news delivered as email newsletters
- *BC Today*
- *Burnaby Beacon*
Conclusion

• Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

• Media monitoring landscape impacts for LLBC

• Creative with how news is delivered to clients

• Continue to stay informed of emerging media trends
Thank you!

Anna Loster
anna.loster@leg.bc.ca

Megan Laflin
megan.laflin@leg.bc.ca