



News Release



New President named for Canadian online legal research service (CanLII)

April 18, 2011

The Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada are pleased to announce that Colin Lachance of Ottawa is CanLII's new President, effective April 11, 2011. The announcement was made jointly by Sonia Poulin, the Chair of the CanLII Board of Directors, and Ronald J. MacDonald, Q.C., President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

Mr. Lachance obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta, and was admitted in to the Law Society of Alberta in 1998. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Prior to joining CanLII, Mr. Lachance enjoyed a successful career at the virtual intersection of technology, law and public policy. Most recently he was the Director of Federal Government Affairs with a major Canadian telecommunications company. Mr. Lachance has also held the positions of Director of Marketing and Director of Regulatory Affairs with major Canadian communication companies, and served as Director of Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs with the Canadian Cable Telecommunications Association (CCTA).



"CanLII is already a world-leading free resource of legal information, and is well poised to break new ground in supporting access to justice and the interests of all Canadians by providing effective access to our legal heritage" says the new CanLII President.

"Working with the CanLII Board and building on strong support from the legal profession, the passionate CanLII user community, and the CanLII technology platform powered by Lexum, I look forward to uncovering and delivering on the opportunities that lie ahead" Colin Lachance added.

"Our challenge is to identify the evolving needs of the legal profession, and to serve the public interest by establishing alliances with groups or other institutions pursuing similar goals of free access to Canadian primary legal information not only for the legal profession, but for the public at large" Mr. Lachance said.

CANLII is a non-profit organization created and funded by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, on behalf of its 14 member law societies. It was launched in 2000 on a test basis to provide efficient and free access to the growing number of judicial decisions and legislative documents available on the internet. In 2001, CanLII became a permanent, not-for-profit service to support the legal profession in the performance of its duties while providing the public with permanent open and free access to the legal heritage of all Canadian jurisdictions.

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CanLII is also a member of the Free Access to Law Movement, which includes the primary stakeholders involved in free, open publication of law throughout the world.

The CanLII web site currently features 14 legislative databases and 166 court and tribunal databases, representing almost a million cases. The web site registers nearly 23,000 visits per day, and 2,500 new cases are added every week.

Access to the CanLII service is available at www.canlii.org, or through the web site of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada www.flsc.ca.

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