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# A Call to Action from the CAEAB

May 27, 2018

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# The Background

Canadian Abridgment first published in 1935.

Second edition started publication in 1966.

In 1982 Carswell began publication of a revised second edition.

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# The Quebec Riot

## CALL Resolution 1989/2

[...] the membership of CALL hereby strongly recommend

1. That Carswell make all Canadian Abridgment materials currently in machine-readable format publicly available as an online database, as soon as possible.
2. That Carswell convert the remainder of the Abridgment to a machine-readable format as soon as possible, and include it in the database [...]

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# The Quebec Riot

## CALL Resolution 1989/1

Resolved, That the membership of CALL hereby

1. Express serious doubts whether the Canadian Abridgment, in its present form, is a suitable item to be purchased or maintained by a law library;
  4. Recommend [...] the appointment of members to an editorial Board for the Canadian Abridgment, be considered [...]
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# Some highlights

- Case law digests changed from looseleafs to more easily updated hardcovers and annual softcover supplements
  - *Abridgment* converted into machine readable format (“Canadian Law Online” introduced in 1992)
  - Separation of *Abridgment* into standalone components
  - *Abridgment* released in CD-ROM format
  - Development of eCarswell and Westlaw Canada
  - Revision of the *Canadian Encyclopedic Digest*
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Abridgment Classification

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### Canadian Abridgment Digests

Criminal law CRM.XII.4  
Disorderly houses,  
gaming and betting -  
Lotteries

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Contracts CON.IX.8.b.iii  
Fundamental breach -  
Miscellaneous

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Intellectual property  
IPY.III.6.b.vi.F Confusion -  
Degree of resemblance in  
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# Artificial Intelligence and the Future

Good content and classification of materials is foundational to AI and search technology. (Garbage In > Garbage Out)

Using Abridgment headings to classify materials improves search results and allows researchers to find primary and secondary materials dealing a given legal topic on WestlawNext Canada.

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# Give us Feedback!

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# ICLL – Data Collection Network

- The ICLL relies on the CALL/ACBD membership to supply citations to literature - BUT – that support is in decline
  - Need CLE/CPDs, conference binders, gov docs, etc.
  - See “Guidelines for the Contributors to the Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL)”
  - Editor, ICLL = [jennifer.beaufils@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:jennifer.beaufils@thomsonreuters.com)
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**Thank you.**

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