Like all skills and crafts, drafting legislation cannot be learned completely from a book. A book may instruct and guide, but a draftsman needs much more—experience in and knowledge of the law, maturity of judgment, an interest in and feeling for language, practice, criticism (both self-inflicted and otherwise). ... The attitude is sometimes encountered that a legislative draftsman is born and not made, and as a result a draftsman may find himself projected into the deep end of the drafting pool with little or no help; he is invited to sink or swim, and not infrequently expected to sink.

G.C. Thornton
Legislative Drafting
Preface to the 1st ed. (1970)
Course Content

- Session 2 — Statutory Interpretation (How to Read an Act)
  - key common law principles of statutory interpretation
  - overview of the Interpretation Act
- Session 3 — Drafting the Legislation
  - drafting instructions
  - drafting process (including best practices)
  - consultations and confidentiality

- Session 4 — Subordinate Legislation, Revision and Corrections
  - subordinate legislation
  - role of Legislative Counsel
  - process under the Regulations Act
  - statute and regulation revision
  - statute correction power
  - Statute Revision Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 440, s. 12

Course Presentation

- PowerPoint
- Videos to illustrate proceedings in the Legislative Assembly
- invite questions and discussion
- Guest speakers
  - Cabinet analysts (Session 1)
  - Solicitor (Session 3)

Course binder
- PowerPoint slides
- A Guide to Legislation and Legislative Process in British Columbia and other published resources
- Legislation
- use our own facilities
- charge $75 (includes lunch)

Course Evaluations

- very high satisfaction with the organization and content of the course
- almost unanimous in recommending the course to others
- small percentage would like to see the course lengthened
- more statutory interpretation
- more video, more examples

Experience of Participants

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 4 years</td>
<td>21% 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>more than 12 years</td>
<td>48% 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>as a policy or legislative analyst</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>less than 4 years</td>
<td>61% 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than 12 years</td>
<td>11% 6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Future Development

After our presentations of the course this fall, we will be reviewing the course content and its presentation.

Options that will be considered:

- moving the course to a larger venue
- splitting the course into ½ day courses
- developing an advanced course on providing drafting instructions