

November 1985

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

NEWSLETTER No. 7

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1. Circulation of newsletters

To reduce the cost of sending newsletters to members, it has been the practice where several members of the Association work in the same office to send the newsletters only to the member whose name appears first on the list of members in that office. The member concerned was expected to circulate the newsletters to the other members in the office. It has come under notice that some members are not circulating newsletters in their offices and, as a result, some members have not seen the circulated material. Members who receive material are therefore requested to ensure that the material is shown to all other members of CALC in their office.

2. Proof-reading of Statutes of Fiji

The Government of Fiji is in the process of bringing to finality a loose-leaf edition of the Statute Laws of Fiji. Unfortunately publication of the laws is being delayed because of the inability to obtain adequate staff with legal qualifications to proof-read the revision. If any member is aware of facilities in his or her country whereby proofs sent from Fiji could be checked, would the member please write to:

Mr G.E. Harre,  
First Parliamentary Counsel,  
Crown Law Office,  
Box 2213, Government Buildings,  
SUVA, FIJI.

3. Revised Laws of Hong Kong

The Government of Hong Kong is considering the introduction of a loose-leaf system for the revised laws of Hong Kong. That Government wishes to know whether there are any expert persons available who can assist in the preparation, consolidation and

revision of this loose-leaf system. That Government is also proposing to prepare a full subject-matter index of the revised laws and is seeking someone with experience in compiling indexes. If anyone is able to assist the Hong Kong Government in this respect, would he or she write to:

Mr A.B.S. Pierce,  
Acting Deputy Law Draftsman,  
Legal Department,  
Central Government Offices,  
(Main Wing),  
HONG KONG.

#### 4. On-the-job training

The proposed scheme for on-the-job training in Australia of legislative drafters from Commonwealth countries will now commence early in 1986. Nominations for training have been received from the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga and it is understood that trainees will also be sent from Zambia and Tanzania. The responsibility for the training will be shared by the Federal and State Governments of Australia.

#### 5. Death of Elmer Driedger

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Elmer Driedger, the former Chief Legislative Counsel of Canada. Although Elmer was not a member of CALC (he having ceased to be a professional drafter many years ago), his name will be well known to all members who have read widely on the subject of legislative drafting. After he ceased to work as a drafter, he became Deputy Minister of the Canadian Department of Justice and subsequently held a consular post for the Canadian Government in the Federal Republic of Germany. Later he established at the University of Ottawa the course in legislative drafting leading to a Master's Degree. Elmer was the author of several leading textbooks on the subject of legislative drafting and statutory interpretation. He assisted the Commonwealth Secretariat in the setting up of its courses on legislative drafting and he advised the Australian Government in establishing the now defunct Legislative Drafting Institute. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow Elsie and the other members of his family.

#### 6. Ties and scarves

The President still has several CALC ties and is in the process of acquiring a further stock. He has also ordered a further stock of scarves. The Secretary also has a small stock of ties.

The price of a tie is £6.50 sterling and the price of a scarf is £7.50 sterling. All remittances, either to the President or to the Secretary, should be by bank draft for the appropriate amount in sterling.

7. Membership

Attached to this newsletter is the latest list of members. There are several names at the end of the list of members whose addresses are not known to the Secretary. It would be appreciated if anyone can furnish the addresses of any of the members concerned.

8. This will be last newsletter despatched this year and I take the opportunity of wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It is hoped that a substantial number of members will be able to attend the triennial meeting of CALC that will be held during the Commonwealth Law Conference in Jamaica next September.