

ACC's Chief Legal Officers (CLO)
2013 SURVEY – CANADA
Special Report




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ACC Association of
Corporate Counsel

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This research report was underwritten by 

Executive Summary • Canada

This report presents results on a subset of respondents from the Association of Corporate Counsel's Chief Legal Officer (CLO) 2013 Survey, published in January 2013. This survey was conducted in November and December of 2012 by Avenue M group, an independent research and consulting firm. A total of 1,104 individuals from 36 countries participated in this survey to provide a global outlook of CLOs worldwide. This report provides results and analysis of respondents from Canada (n=50). While the specifics may vary, many of the overall findings are representative of the larger respondent population. For a brief summary of highlights from the Chief Legal Officer 2013 Survey, please reference the appendix.

This report provides an unbiased analysis of Canadian Chief Legal Officers (CCLOs). This report provides demographic information, such as staffing, budget changes, revenue and more, while also exploring intangibles such as CCLOs' top legal and business concerns for the past 12 months and their anticipations for the future.

- ❖ Many CCLOs understand the importance of developing a foundation that minimizes risk and liability for their organization. As such, the top three issues facing CCLOs during the past 12 months are ethics and compliance, regulatory or governmental changes, and protection of intellectual property or related disputes. Looking ahead to 2013, *ethics and compliance* and *regulatory and governmental changes* remain a priority; *information privacy* becomes an issue of growing importance.
- ❖ Top business issues of high importance to CCLOs focused on proactive communication practices of organizational information. Awareness of company activities that have potential legal implications, keeping management apprised of legal developments, and staying current and well informed of changes in the law were all cited as important elements of their job.
- ❖ In 2013, study respondents expect to direct their attention to issues related to transparency and privacy obligations. A confluence of factors, such as increased data collections and storage, growing attention paid by regulators and heightened public scrutiny, may be sharpening the attention of these issues by public and private sectors. Decentralization of law departments appears to be of lesser importance at this time.

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- ❖ 77% of respondents are satisfied with their current role within their company/organization; this may be attributed to the fact that CCLOs generally spend their time the way they prefer. For example, 78% of CCLOs prefer spending the majority of their time developing strategy; of these respondents, 76% currently spend their time this way.
- ❖ Efficiency, accessibility and easy access to information are of high importance to CCLOs, with 86% referencing emails and e-news as their source for information. Men are more likely to use their office computer (i.e., laptop or desktop) (78%) than women (59%) who prefer personal devices.
- ❖ Overall, 80% of CCLOs use outside legal spending as a metric of measurement for efficiency and effectiveness by public and private law departments.

Other interesting findings from this study include:

- ❖ The vast majority (96%) of CCLOs' law departments do not have a formal pro bono program due to small department size (60%) and staff workload (56%).
- ❖ Outside legal spending was noted as the primary evaluator to measure effectiveness and efficiency by 80% of respondents.
- ❖ 82% of CCLOs do not delegate operational management of their law department.
- ❖ 79% of respondents from a private company/organization do not plan to increase or decrease their law department's budget over the next 12 months, compared to only 40% of respondents from a public company/organization.
- ❖ 84% of CCLOs do not feel their law departments have been impacted by social media; 79% have not had to institute any program or policies to address social media use at the office.