

# Public libraries and Nidus Personal Planning events

By Janet Freeman.

In September, the [LawMatters program](#) of Courthouse Libraries BC tried something new: we partnered with the community group [Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry](#) to celebrate their Personal Planning Month. Nidus is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides information to British Columbians about personal planning, specializing in Representation Agreements.

We asked public libraries to host some Nidus events, and nine libraries signed up for a series of 15 public events, including presentations and webinars for the public. Over 500 people attended the free events that explained Representation Agreements and other planning tools.

The launch of the series was held at Vancouver Public Library and attracted more than 250 people. A panel of speakers included an innovative example of using audience participation to get the message across. Watch the video of "[Gonna Get a Rep Agreement](#)" sung to "Sentimental Journey" – it was a crowd hit!

Capacity crowds also attended presentations by Nidus staff at the Burnaby, West Vancouver and Richmond public libraries.

Libraries throughout the province were able to host several Nidus webinars for the public. The webinars brought crowds as large as 50 people to libraries in New Westminster, Kitimat, Victoria, Greenwood, North Vancouver District and Whistler. Nidus presenter Joanne Taylor encouraged questions from the audience through virtual chat.

Comments from webinar host librarians included:

"Feedback from the audience overall was very positive, and several people said that Joanne's presentation was easy to follow given how complex the subject was. I especially appreciated Joanne showing her face briefly to say "hello" and put a face to the voice."

"We had 50 people attend our webinar. I didn't have any technological glitches reported to me, which is good! I think there was a fair bit of community interest



Nidus event at VPL Central Library. Photo courtesy of Nidus.

in this webinar, so I'm glad we were able to host. There was a lot of interest in the next webinar about Representation Agreements."

"Audience response - all were appreciative. One Credit Union employee attended and said she had never heard of Nidus, and that the info would be useful to her at work—I'm guessing maybe they get requests to access accounts by family or friends of people with dementia and now can direct them to Nidus to get a representation agreement."

Librarians also collected feedback from patrons:

"This was an extremely useful program. I was unaware of Representation Agreements and signed up for the workshop because I am thinking of updating my will. This workshop provided invaluable information on a topic everyone should be aware of. As a person now retired and feeling the pinch of a lower income, to be able to access this legal information at no charge was most helpful."

"I appreciated being given information from a legitimate source in an environment I trusted. No selling or unwanted advice given! I would be interested in attending similar events."

Nidus offers a regular monthly series of free webinars, and any library can register for future events for the public on the [presentation page](#).

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