

# LCC BULLETIN

## Dream, Repair, Build, Share



Law Commission of Canada  
Commission du droit du Canada

October to December 2025

Welcome to the fourth edition of the LCC Bulletin.

The Bulletin is a platform from the Law Commission of Canada (LCC) to showcase the many ways in which individuals and organizations are shaping and contributing to the evolution of law across Canada. By providing regular updates on the work of the LCC and spotlighting interesting initiatives, projects, and successes from different actors involved in law and justice, the LCC Bulletin provides a space in which readers can learn about the diverse forms and modes in which individuals, groups, and communities are living law, pursuing justice, and renewing hope.

In each quarterly edition, readers will find spaces dedicated to LCC news, information from LCC's partners, Indigenous law reform initiatives, and upcoming events. Bulletins therefore also act as a law reform reference and serve to build an inventory of publications, resources, and activities.

The LCC welcomes the submission of items to be featured in an upcoming edition of the Bulletin by email at [comms@lcc-cdc.gc.ca](mailto:comms@lcc-cdc.gc.ca). Submissions should include a brief description of the item in 175 words or less, any links to pages containing additional information about the item (web and/or social media), and a photo (if relevant).



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## New Team Members

This fall, the LCC was thrilled to welcome two new members to its team: **Amy Preston-Samson** as Acting Director of Research, and **Gabrielle St-Juste** as Junior Administrative Officer.

**Amy** is a recent graduate from the DCL program at McGill's Faculty of Law, where she previously completed an LLM. She also holds an LLB/BA from the University of Western Australia. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as a solicitor at the State Solicitor's Office of Western Australia and teaching assistant in various areas of public law at the University of Western Australia. Amy brings to the team a particular attentiveness to, and care for, the role that law books play in shaping how we receive the past in the present and the stories we tell about who shapes the law.

**Gabrielle** holds a JD from the University of Ottawa's French Common Law Program, and an Honours Bachelor's degree in political science. She has gained extensive experience in both federal and provincial public service, including positions at the House of Commons and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services of Ontario. Gabrielle's work experience has focused on administration, legal research, and policy support, combining strong organizational skills with a solid understanding of government operations.



*Amy Preston-Samson*  
Acting Director of Research



*Gabrielle St-Juste*  
Junior Administrative Officer

## LCC News and Updates

### What We Heard Report

The LCC's fifth What We Heard report, for the period of July to December 2025, sets out some of the preoccupations, projects, and possibilities shared by a range of law and justice actors in the course of engagements in Calgary, Charlottetown, Halifax, London (both Ontario and UK!), Ottawa, Sherbrooke, St. John's, Teslin, Toronto, Trois Rivières, Whitehorse, and Winnipeg.

The What We Heard report is available [here](#).





# Meetings with Parliamentarians

This fall, we were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with several parliamentarians serving in key justice-related roles.

In October, we met with MP Rhéal Éloi Fortin (Bloc Québécois) and MP Larry Brock (Conservative Party of Canada). We learned about their priorities for the new parliamentary session, namely as vice chairs of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and heard about the value to lawmakers of thorough, objective, and independent research and resources.

In November, we met with the Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Sean Fraser. We shared some of the foundational work that we have carried out since resuming operations in summer 2023, provided updates and information on our many initiatives underway, and discussed some of the ways in which the LCC might meaningfully contribute to issues impacting Canadians.



*LCC Meeting with MP Larry Brock  
Left to Right: Brian Peebles, Stephanie Belmer, Commission President Shauna Van Praagh, MP Larry Brock*



*LCC Meeting with the Hon. Sean Fraser  
Left to Right: Tiran Bajgirani, Brian Peebles, Commission President Shauna Van Praagh, the Hon. Sean Fraser*





As part of its Charity and Law in Canada project, the LCC organized further discussion circles with individuals working on the ground and on the front lines in a wide array of domains within the charitable sector.

In November, LCC Commissioner Kevin O’Shea chaired a discussion circle in St. John’s, NL, with participants from the Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Saunders Collins and Loeb Law, and First Light.

In early December, representatives from ActionDignity, the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, Miskanawah, the Calgary Homeless Foundation, and Alpha House Society joined us for a discussion circle at the National Music Centre. Participants identified some of the things they believe the Canadian public should understand about the nature and needs of the charitable sector, challenges charities face in the work that act as barriers to achieving their mission, and possibilities for the future in the charitable sector.

# Charity Discussion Circles

Charity Briefs, authored in collaboration with the participants and setting out the key takeaways from the discussion, are available on our website:

- [Calgary Charity Brief](#)
- [St. John’s Charity Brief](#)



*Calgary Discussion Circle*



# Listen & Learn Roundtables

During the final months of the year, the LCC pursued its ongoing commitment to connect with Canadian faculties of law, chairing Listen & Learn roundtables with legal scholars from Université de Sherbrooke in November and the University of Calgary in early December. Colleagues identified issues that they are currently working on or which they see emerging on the horizon, and discussed some of the ways these might intersect with the LCC's mission of engaging the people of Canada in the ongoing and dynamic evolution of law. Thanks to our interlocutors and partners for sharing their time, reflections, and wisdom!



*University of Calgary Listen & Learn*



*Université de Sherbrooke Listen & Learn*



*University of Calgary Listen & Learn*





In late October, the LCC visited Yukon for a series of interesting and informative engagements. Through meetings with the Yukon Public Law Library, the Deputy Minister of Justice and his team, the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY), Yukon University's leadership team, the current and former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Yukon, members of the Teslin Tlingit Council's Justice Department, as well as a Listen & Learn at the Whitehorse Public Library – with participants from the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon Public Legal Education Association, the territorial Court Operations team, Yukon's Independent Prosecution Unit, the Legislative Council Office, and private practice – we learned about some of the opportunities and challenges within the territory and across the North, and about some of the ways in which law and justice actors in Yukon are leading innovative initiatives to meet citizens' needs, particularly around reconciliation. A heartfelt thanks to our interlocutors for the inspiring exchanges and reflections!

# LCC in the Yukon



*Whitehorse Listen & Learn*



*Meeting with Teslin Tlingit Justice Council*



# Commissioners and Advisory Council

In October, the LCC Advisory Council held its fall meeting. This was the first formal meeting for new members David Asper (Manitoba), Brent Cotter (Saskatchewan), Shirley Cuillierier (Ontario), and Derek Green (Newfoundland & Labrador). We were also delighted to welcome then Deputy Minister of Justice & Deputy Attorney General, Shalene Curtis-Micellef, to our office for the proceedings, where we shared updates on our activities and where our Fellows introduced a selection of papers as part of our Charity and Law in Canada project.

In November, LCC Commissioners travelled to Ottawa for their first in-person meeting at our office in Ottawa. During the gathering, they participated in a series of brainstorming sessions and heard from LCC Emerging Scholar for summer 2025, Natasha Jaczek, about the art installation project that she led at Downtown Legal Services in Toronto, and from professors Emmanuelle Bernheim and Jean-Laurent Domingue from the University of Ottawa regarding their forthcoming Beyond Tomorrow Report on forced mental health and addiction treatment.



*From Left to Right: Commissioners Aidan Johnson and Renée Cochard, President Shauna Van Praagh, Commissioners Sarah Elgazzar and Kevin O'Shea in Ottawa*



*LCC Team and Commissioners with Fall 2025 Emerging Scholar Natasha Jaczek*





*President Van Praagh moderating a panel with Heidi Tworek (UBC, presenting remotely) and Alicia Wanless (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)*

## Rule of Law Engagements

In early November, President Van Praagh participated in the inaugural Rule of Law Global Academic Partnership's Conference, "The Role of Law Schools in Advancing the Rule of Law", in Toronto. As a panelist during a plenary session, she spoke about the ways in which the LCC can support shared commitments to rule of law, including by supporting meaningful connections between legal education and law reform.

Later that month, President Van Praagh moderated a panel on the rise of authoritarianism, polarization and populism during the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)'s Democracy, the Rule of Law and Independence Conference. The discussion examined the social, political, and historical forces that have led to this moment, and reflected on both long-term trends and recent accelerants, offering insights into the erosion of consensus, trust, and dialogue in public life to better understand the roots of our current challenges and how we might begin to respond. LCC Director of Outreach & Engagement Brian Peebles served as a member of the conference's organizing committee, co-chaired by Justice Peter Willcock of the BCCA and Justice Julie Dutil of the QCCA.



*Dean Trevor Farrow (Osgoode), Adrian Di Giovanni (International Development Research Centre), Lauren Robel (Indiana University Bloomington, American Bar Foundation), President Van Praagh, Peter Wardle (Treasurer, Law Society of Ontario)*



# LCC Emerging Scholars Program

## Letters from the President

### October 2025

- On the inspiration to be drawn from recent encounters in PEI and Yukon with law and justice actors rolling up their sleeves and working with ambition and enthusiasm

### November 2025

- On lessons and insights offered by the Blue Jays' run to the World Series, and the intertwining of law and baseball.

The LCC's Emerging Scholars for Fall 2025 were hard at work organizing and running their respective engagement activities.

- **Andrea Menard**, from Royal Roads University, presented on "Indigenous competence" requirements mandated by self-regulating bodies at the 2025 Indigenous Bar Association conference in Vancouver.
- **Sebastien Meeùs**, from Université de Montréal, produced a series of video capsules on exercising fundamental individual rights in digital environments, as well as a capsule on the history, mission, and renaissance of the LCC.
- **José Saldaña Cuba**, from McGill University, is organizing an intercultural dialogue featuring speakers from Mexico, Peru, and Treaty Six (SK) on the revitalization of Indigenous justice in the Americas on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

Centre sur les droits de la personne et le pluralisme juridique de McGill

Law Commission of Canada  
Commission du droit du Canada

McGill Law

### Revitalization of Indigenous Justice in the Americas (North-Center-South)

Thursday, January 29th, 2026, 12:00 - 13:30 (ET)  
Via Zoom  
<https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/89113306849>



**Elizabeth Olvera Vásquez**  
Head of the Federal Public Defender's Office, Mexico's Federal Judiciary  
Former Director of Intercultural Justice, Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation



**Tarek Maussill**  
BCL/JD Candidate, McGill University  
n̓hiyaw (Cree), Waterhen Lake First Nation (Treaty Six, Saskatchewan)



**Elsa Merma Ccahua**  
Indigenous Territorial Defender & Community Leader, Espinar (Cusco, Peru)  
Founder, K'ana Women Defenders of Territory and Culture

**Moderator José Saldaña Cuba,**  
DCL Candidate, McGill Law

Join us for an intercultural dialogue bringing together Indigenous legal practitioners, community leaders, and human rights advocates from Canada, Mexico, and Peru to explore a fundamental question:  
**What does justice mean for Indigenous peoples?**

Simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation will be provided.

To attend, please confirm your registration by emailing:  
[chrlp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:chrlp.law@mcgill.ca)

 #McGillCHRLP

 McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism



## Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI)

The Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI) is reviewing Alberta's Residential Tenancies Act, which sets out the rights and obligations that govern landlord-tenant relationships. With more than 465,000 tenant-occupied households in Alberta, housing issues affect many people. A recent national survey found that 9% of respondents experienced problems related to their home, mortgage, or rent, suggesting the law no longer meets the needs of those who rely on it.

Between 2023 and 2024, ALRI conducted extensive consultations with tenants, landlords, and service organizations. In March 2025, it published Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues, Issues Paper 6, the first in a series examining issues in the law that affecting tenants and landlords on a daily basis. ALRI will publish several additional reports in early 2026 addressing specific topics, including distress for rent and matters that arise at the start of a tenancy.

To access the latest publications and learn more about the project, **visit ALRI's website**.



## From the LCC's Partners

### British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI)

The British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI) issued a consultation paper on non-statutory liability of directors and officers in November 2025. The common law on personal liability of directors and officers for corporate torts in Canada is very unsettled. As a result, they are often sued as individual co-defendants on tenuous grounds in actions where the corporation is a principal defendant. The consultation paper contains recommendations aimed at clarifying the law in the common law provinces and territories surrounding personal liability of directors and officers in tort, reducing unwarranted risk exposure for them as individuals, and contributing to the orderly development of the common law. BCLI sought feedback on the contents of the consultation paper at the end of 2025. A final report will be issued in the first quarter of 2026.

You can read the consultation paper **here**.







## From the LCC's Partners

### Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)

From November 18 to 20, 2025, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice held its “Democracy, the Rule of Law and Independence” conference, bringing together a range of civil society actors from across Canada and around the world to critically examine the principles that uphold social stability and the rule of law. The conference featured panels on disinformation, democracy and media, democratic decay abroad, and administrative tribunals, among others, as well as addresses from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Hon. Richard Wagner, and Professor Jason Stanley from the University of Toronto.

The Canadian Bar Association's National Magazine wrote about the conference [here](#).



### Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice (IQRDJ)

On November 18, the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice (IQRDJ) launched the États généraux sur le droit et la justice, an unprecedented initiative aimed at finding solutions to the problems Quebec citizens face in accessing law and justice. Spanning two years, this major collective project will bring together citizens, legal professionals, academics, and community leaders to design a reform of the justice system that meets the real needs of the population.

The work, based on applied research, public consultation, and multisectoral collaboration, will begin in December with the identification of priority themes and principles that will guide the steering committee. Citizens will be able to follow the work schedule and comment on proposals on an ongoing basis on the IQRDJ website.

You can learn more [here](#) (in French only).







## Law Commission of Ontario

In December, the Law Commission of Ontario released its Consultation Paper on Improving Protection Orders in Family, Child Protection, and Civil Law. Protection orders in Ontario take many forms. This Consultation Paper focuses on restraining orders and exclusive possession orders in provincial laws, and compares them to civil protection orders across Canada.

The Consultation Paper outlines key issues, options for reform, and questions for anyone who has information or ideas to improve protection orders — including survivors, legal professionals, service providers, community advocates, academics, and the broader public. The LCO is welcoming written submissions and insights from anyone with experience or interest in improving protection orders and access to justice until 13 March 2026.

You can read more about the Consultation Paper [here](#).



## From the LCC's Partners

### Canadian Forum for Business and Human Rights

On November 13-14, 2025, the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law hosted the inaugural Canadian Forum for Business and Human Rights Conference. Experts from across the globe met first at Robson Hall for a workshop designed to provide early-career scholars with an opportunity to present their research and receive feedback from senior colleagues. The following day, participants convened at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for a series of plenary sessions and breakout panels spanning investment, climate, environment, labour, politics, and transnational litigation, as well as a keynote address by Fernanda Hopenhaym, a member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

You can read more about the conference [here](#).



# Indigenous Spotlight



*Elders, knowledge bearers, teachers and students attending the Waskapitan Pimatisiwin Otcí Roundtable at uOttawa*

## University of Victoria Indigenous Law Wing Opening

In early October, the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law officially opened its new Indigenous Law wing. The dedicated space supports the growing movement of Indigenous Laws empowering communities to reclaim and exercise authority over their own legal systems and models the importance of creating physical space to properly integrate Indigenous knowledge and legal traditions in university settings. The Coast Salish-inspired building is intended to serve as a centre for conversation, research, education and training about Indigenous law.

LCC Associates, Val Napoleon, cofounder of the dual law degree program in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian common law and Director of the Indigenous Law Research Unit, and Sarah Morales, Associate Dean Indigenous Law, played an instrumental role in making this project possible.



*Large Gathering Space in the new Indigenous Law Wing at University of Victoria*

You can read more [here](#).

## Intergenerational Conversations in Law - Waskapitan Pimatisiwin Otcí Roundtable at uOttawa

On December 5-7, the University of Ottawa hosted the Waskapitan Pimatisiwin Otcí Roundtable as part of the LCC's Intergenerational Conversations in Law initiative marking the 10th anniversary of the 94 Calls to Action and the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The roundtable was organized by Professors Eva Ottawa and Florence Robert, with the support of Karla Matias, Carol-Ann Chamberland, and Peggie Jérôme.

Elders and Indigenous law students reflected on the vitality and evolution of Indigenous legal systems in the context of the TRC. The discussions highlighted the importance of creating spaces to allow for the transmission of knowledge and ways of knowing across generations in legal systems founded on oral traditions.

You can read more about it [here](#) (in French).



## January

- January 20 - 2026 Milvain Lecture: "Living, Practicing, Judging: Three Perspectives on Social Justice, Human Rights and Immigration and Refugee Advocacy with the Honourable Shirzad S. Ahmed" organized by the University of Calgary, Faculty of Law in Calgary, AB. More details [here](#).
- January 22 - Law Hour: A Breeding Ground for Contemporary Forms of Slavery – Temporary Foreign Workers and Access to Justice Challenge in Nova Scotia organized by Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. More details [here](#).
- January 23 - Conférence Katia-Boustany 2026 "Plus jamais ça : la promesse trahie? Réflexions critiques sur la justice internationale dans un ordre mondiale en crise" organized by the Société québécoise de droit international (SQDI) et l'Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO) in Gatineau, QC. More details [here](#).
- January 26 - "Inter-American principles on academic freedom and university autonomy" webinar organized by the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) and the Scholars at Risk (SAR) uOttawa Program. More details [here](#).
- January 28 - "La santé mentale en prison" organized by the University of Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).
- January 28 - Horace E. Read Memorial Lecture: "The Spirit of Liberty" organized by Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. More details [here](#).
- January 29 - "Revitalization of Indigenous Justice in the Americas (North-Center-South)" organized by the McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism. More details [here](#).
- January 29 - Colloque de la Chaire Jean-Louis Baudoin "Droit civil et société" organized by the Chaire Jean-Louis Baudouin en droit civil in Montreal, QC. More details [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### February

- February 4 - "L'institution judiciaire réhumanisée" organized by the Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP), l'Association des organismes de justice alternative du Québec (ASSOJAQ) and the Centre de service de justice réparatrice (CSJR) in Montreal, QC and online. More details [here](#).
- February 4 - Sage Advice Speaker Series "Evolving Landscape of Indigenous Rights: Key Case Law Developments" organized by the Faculty of Law – Common Law Section, University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).
- February 5 - AI & Race Speaker Series in Commemoration of Black History Month "Judge by Data: The Future of Fairness, Governing AI When Freedom is at Stake and the Public Needs to Know About Justice in the Age of AI" hosted by Dr Gideon Christian at the Faculty of Law, University of Calgary in Calgary, AB and online. More details [here](#).
- February 9 - Conference "Le droit à l'égalité, un droit transversal" organized by l'Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO) in Gatineau, QC. More details [here](#).
- February 9 - 2026 MacNaughton Lecture: "Movement Lawyering for Black Lives" by Justin Hansford organized by the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism in Montreal, QC. More details [here](#).
- February 11 - The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Thomas Feeney Memorial Lecture: The Paradox of Judicial Independence: A framework for exploring issues in judicial ethics, judicial freedom and judicial conduct" organized by the Faculty of Law – Common Law Section, University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).



# Upcoming Events

## February

- February 11 - "Formaliser l'informel: Le Dictionnaire de la norme" organized by the University of Ottawa Centre for Law, Technology and Society and the Faculty of Law, Civil Law section, University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).
- February 12 - Webinar Series Business & Human Rights "The International Advisory Opinions on Climate Change" organized by the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) and the International Law Association of Canada (ILA). More details [here](#).
- February 12 - The Annual Sankofa Lecture: "The Honourable Justice Chidima B. Thompson" organized by the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Bar Association in Winnipeg, MB. More details [here](#).
- February 13 - "Realizing Rights in Canada's Commitments: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada's Ratification of the International Human Rights Covenants" organized by the Christian Legal Fellowship in Winnipeg, MB. More details [here](#).
- February 16-17 - "Pouvoirs, environnement et vulnérabilités dans l'ordre international contemporain" organized by Thomas Roos, Université Sherbrooke & Université Laval in Sherbrooke, QC. More details [here](#).
- February 18-19 - Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC) National Conference 2026 : "Explore and Innovate: Public Legal Education in a Time of Change" in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).
- February 18-19 - Youth Digital Rights Summit : From Platform Harm to Policy Power hosted by the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, in collaboration with Canada Confesses, the University of Ottawa Human Rights Research and Education Centre in Ottawa, ON. More details [here](#).

## March

- March 5 - See Yourself Here Black Law Students' Association & Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association of U in Winnipeg, MB. More details coming soon.
- March 12 - « L'éthique et le droit, une combinaison gagnante pour la justice » organized by the Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP) in Montreal, QC. More details [here](#).
- March 12-13 - La négociation à l'ère de la guerre commerciale organized in Longueuil, QC. More details coming soon.
- March 26 - "The Present and the Future of Maritime Law: National and International Perspectives " organized by Marel Katsivela at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON. More details coming soon.
- March 26-27 - Colloque jeunes chercheuses et chercheurs : "un monde en crise quelle place pour le droit?" organized by the Faculté de droit de l'Université Sherbrooke in Sherbrooke, QC. More details [here](#).
- March 26-27 - "Women Talking: Imagining Feminist Dispute Resolution Practices and Process" organized by Jennifer Orange at Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto, ON. More details coming soon.
- March 27 - "Barriers & Best Practices in the Context of Expanding Partnerships with Legal Aid Saskatchewan" organized by Professor James Patrick at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, SK. More details coming soon.

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