

Welcome to the inaugural *LCC Bulletin CDC!*

The *LCC Bulletin CDC* 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 the country.

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 in Canada, the *LCC Bulletin CDC* will provide a space in which readers can learn about the diverse forms and modes in which people are living law, pursuing justice, and renewing hope.

In each edition, readers will find spaces dedicated to LCC news, information from the LCC's partners, Indigenous law reform initiatives, and upcoming events.

Bulletins will therefore also act as a law reform reference and serve to build an inventory of publications, resources, and activities broadly related to law reform.

LCC Bulletin CDC will be produced on a quarterly basis and circulated throughout the LCC's network of contacts, posted on its [website](#), and shared on its social media channels.

The LCC will circulate calls for items to be included in upcoming editions of the Bulletin roughly four to six weeks prior to each publication. However, items to be considered for inclusion in a future edition may be submitted to comms@lcc-cdc.gc.ca at any point. Further information on submissions is set out below in the section **From the LCC's Partners**.



LCC News and Updates



Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge
March 2025

The LCC on the Road

In January, the LCC visited the Québec City region for a series of engagements, including a meeting with the Huron-Wendat First Nation’s legal services, a Listen & Learn roundtable with the Faculté de droit at Université Laval, and a discussion with colleagues from the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice (IQRDJ).

In February, the LCC travelled to Winnipeg to learn about the inspiring and innovative work being done at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Justice Studies at the University of Winnipeg, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. President Van Praagh also chaired a Listen & Learn roundtable at the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Law which included our provincial counterparts at the Manitoba Law Reform Commission.

In early March, the LCC visited Edmonton for a Listen & Learn roundtable at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Law, caught up with our provincial counterparts at the Alberta Law Reform Institute, discussed a collaboration with the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge as part of our Charity and Law in Canada project, and learned about the important work being led by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. At the end of the month, LCC Commissioner Kevin O’Shea hosted a Listen & Learn roundtable in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, and President Van Praagh visited Université de Moncton, where she presented a workshop to a first year contracts class and chaired a Listen & Learn roundtable with law professors.



Workshop with students -
Université de Moncton
March 2025



Beyond Tomorrow Reports

This winter, the LCC launched the Beyond Tomorrow Reports to identify and address challenges and issues in law for Canada's next generation.

The initiative extends an open invitation to established scholars at Canadian universities to submit proposals focused on law and justice for tomorrow and beyond.

Authors are expected to contribute to imagining and guiding the implementation of reform with lasting impact, drawing on critical research to articulate pathways for law in the future, and incorporating collaborative and concrete engagement with community-based actors.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly. The next deadline for review is May 30 and the Call for Proposals is available [here](#).

In March, Université de Montréal professor France Houle was selected as the first author of a Beyond Tomorrow Report to write about immigration law and governance, drawing on lessons learned from the contemporary Québec-Canada model and experience.

A New Home for the LCC

In February, the LCC moved from its temporary premises to a permanent home in downtown Ottawa which facilitates conversation, collaboration, and exchange. It further reflects and supports the LCC's approach to the evolution of law. On entering the new space, visitors will see a bookshelf containing the past works produced by the LRCC and LCC, as well as a selection of monthly LCC staff book picks.



*Listen & Learn roundtable - Université Laval
January 2025*

Letters from the President

January 2025

- On leaning into challenging and complex conversations, rather than retreating into hibernation

February 2025

- On a cherished colleague's nomination to the bench, the move to a permanent office, and an inspiring visit to Winnipeg

March 2025

- On creativity within constraints



Law Commission of Canada
Commission du droit du Canada

Obiter Podcast

Obiter

Living law, pursuing justice,
renewing hope

In March, the LCC launched the first three episodes of *Obiter*, a podcast featuring thought-provoking discussions with individuals who shape, challenge and reimagine law in innovative and meaningful ways.

Each episode explores distinctive and unexpected ways law shapes and is shaped by the lives of invited guests, revealing law's complexity, creativity and human impact.

The first three episodes feature conversations with: Kim Thúy, a Québec writer who came to Canada as a young refugee from Vietnam; Frank Iacobucci, an outstanding jurist who was told he had the wrong kind of name for law in his youth and became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada; and Val Napoleon, a member of the Saúlteu First Nation and the Gitanyow whose remarkable work as a law professor supports the revitalization of Indigenous legal traditions.

You can find *Obiter* wherever you get your podcasts, including on:

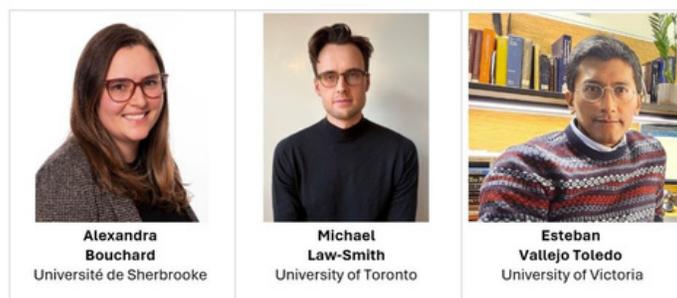
- [Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Spotify](#)

LCC Emerging Scholars

The Emerging Scholars program was created to recognize the importance of the next generation of legal thinkers and law reformers by providing opportunities to connect exceptional doctoral students' research to public needs and interests.

The program provides support over a four-month period to help the emerging scholars design and implement a public outreach initiative based on their work.

The inaugural cohort of Emerging Scholars in Winter 2025 was comprised of:



More information about the program and the Winter 2025 Emerging Scholars, including presentations to the LCC on their research projects, is available on the [LCC website](#).

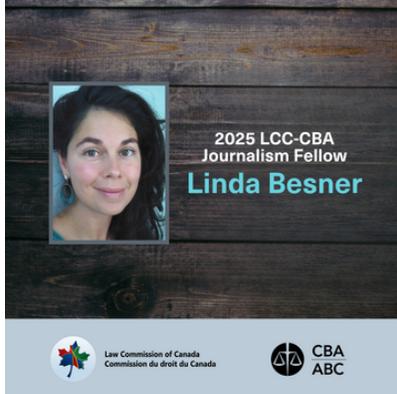


LCC-CBA Journalism Fellowship

In collaboration with our partner the Canadian Bar Association, the LCC has established the LCC-CBA Journalism Fellowship to support in-depth exploration of critical and emerging law and justice issues in Canada through original print or online reporting projects.

The one-year fellowship is intended to highlight the ways law affects and shapes the lives of people across Canada and recognizes the importance of telling human stories in the evolution of law, as well as the deep and important links between investigative journalism and the pursuit of truth, justice and hope.

In February, Linda Besner was named the inaugural LCC-CBA Journalism Fellow.



Besner is an award-winning freelance writer based in Montreal who has collaborated with The Globe and Mail, The Guardian and The Atlantic, among other publications. During her fellowship, Besner will explore: lessons from the depopulation of jails during the pandemic; the codification of Indigenous family and child welfare legal traditions; the public's role in shaping the adoption of AI tools within the justice system; and the impact of the demise of regional news on the open court principle.



King Charles III Coronation Medal

The LCC was delighted to nominate two distinguished jurists to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal, created to honour individuals who have made significant contributions to the country through their outstanding achievements:

- The Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers, for her longstanding and significant leadership in public service, and her rich contributions to the academy, law, and justice in Canada.
- Professor Val Napoleon, for her contributions to legal education and the revitalization of Indigenous laws, and her leadership in incorporating Indigenous teachings into the evolution of law in this land.



From the LCC's Partners

Law Commission of Ontario

AI Human Rights Backgrounder

AI impact assessments are a leading strategy to promote “trustworthy AI” in government and private sector AI systems.

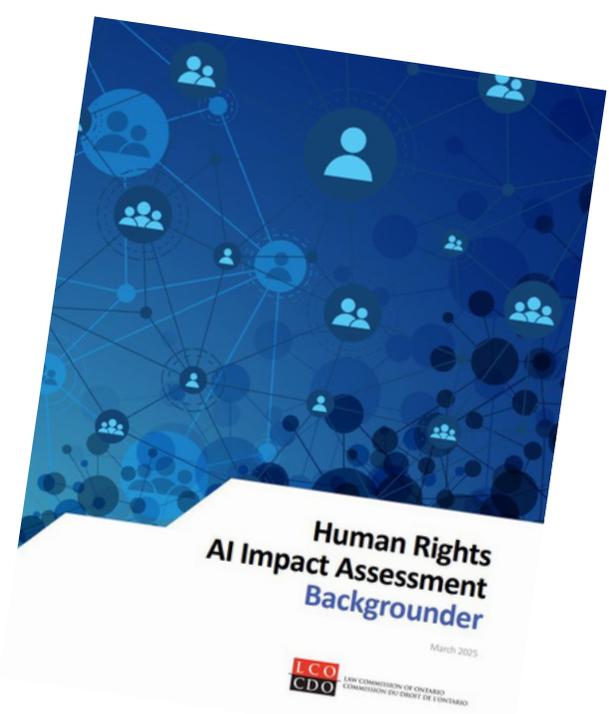
In November 2024, the Law Commission of Ontario and Ontario Human Rights Commission released the first AI impact assessment based on Canadian human rights law. The LCO/OHRC HRIA is a practical step-by-step guide that will help Canadian public and private organizations embed “human rights by design” in their AI systems.

In March, the LCO released a Backgrounder summarizing the benefits, limitations, and choices in AI impact assessments. The Backgrounder will help policymakers and stakeholders understand the key issues and stakeholder perspectives on these important AI governance tools.

Read more: <https://www.lco-cdo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/LCO-HRIA-backgrounder.pdf>

This section of the *LCC Bulletin CDC* is intended to showcase a select number of creative and diverse efforts from individuals and organizations working to shape law and justice within the academy, the legal community, the network of independent law reform agencies, non-profit or community organizations, and beyond. Items in this section might consist of recent publications, articles, projects, conferences, workshops, events or other public engagements.

To propose an item to be featured in a future *LCC Bulletin CDC*, please email 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).





British Columbia Law Institute
Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing

Regardless of practice area, legal professionals write to, about, and on behalf of people who have experienced trauma. The British Columbia Law Institute, an independent law reform agency that does research to innovate and modernize laws, has recently released its Guide to Trauma-Informed Legal Writing. This Guide is meant to be a resource for anyone working in or around the justice system. It seeks to equip legal professionals with practical tools to produce clear, compassionate, and legally rigorous documents that are sensitive to the needs of those affected by trauma.

Read more: <https://www.bcli.org/trauma-informed-legal-writing>



Fondation du Barreau du Québec
Guides juridiques « Comment se préparer pour la cour »

Les guides «Comment se préparer pour la cour» offrent de l'information centralisée, actualisée, accessible et claire dans diverses matières de droit afin d'aider la population québécoise en situation d'autoreprésentation à mieux comprendre les processus judiciaires et à prendre des décisions éclairées.

Ces guides sont disponibles en version imprimée et en PDF, et distribués auprès d'organismes et d'institutions garantissant ainsi une large diffusion aux citoyens et citoyennes.

Read more (in French):
<https://fondationdubarreau.qc.ca/guides-juridiques>



Indigenous Spotlight



*National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
February 2025*

Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria

The Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) is an academic unit dedicated to revitalizing Indigenous laws. ILRU partners with Indigenous communities seeking to re-articulate their laws to address the challenges they face today. It collaborates with communities on research projects by invitation, and works with communities on their own terms.

ILRU also strives to deepen engagement with Indigenous laws by developing public educational resources to teach about Indigenous law and designing academic curricula. ILRU provide workshops, courses, and presentations that discuss Indigenous legal methodologies and critical issues that are inclusive of Indigenous feminisms. ILRU also trains students, the upcoming generation of legal professionals, through research placements in the unit.

Each edition of the *LCC Bulletin CDC* will make space to shine a light on those working to help develop an understanding and appreciation of the existence and use of Indigenous laws and legal orders in this land. Items featured in this section may consist of resources or publications, research centres or projects, events or gatherings, and community initiatives or partnerships, among other possibilities.

The goal is to help readers understand the many ways in which a collective commitment to reconciliation can be advanced.

To submit an item to be featured in the *Indigenous Law Spotlight* section of the Bulletin, please see the directives set out in the *From LCC Partners* section above.



To learn more about ILRU's work, its mission, and its vision for the future, listen to our episode of *Obiter* with ILRU Director, Dr. Val Napoleon. Listen on:

- [Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Spotify](#)

When Documentary Filmmaking Meets Indigenous Knowledge: A Screenwriting Workshop for Wapanakew

As part of the Wapanakew initiative, learners in the Certificate in Indigenous Law took part in an intensive documentary screenwriting workshop held at the University of Ottawa's Innova space last November 30 to December 1.

This event, rich in creativity and sharing, was part of a collective effort to document Indigenous legal systems using audiovisual tools.

Guided by the wise insights of Innu elder Grégoire Canapé and led by filmmaker and film professor Daniel Brière from Odanak's [Kiuna College](#), participants explored the wealth of Indigenous knowledge through two days of discussions. Mr. Brière provided practical tools for identifying themes and methods suited to documentary production. By the workshop's conclusion, two projects had taken shape, highlighting the resilience of Indigenous cultures and their intrinsic connection to the land as a source of legal principles.

Read more: <https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-law/news-all/when-documentary-filmmaking-meet-indigenous-knowledge-wapanakew>



Screenwriting Workshop for Wapanakew - uOttawa
November 30 - December 1, 2024



Upcoming Events

This section of the *LCC Bulletin CDC* presents upcoming events and engagements across Canada, including those organized with the support of the LCC.

May

- May 21-24 – “Feeding the Fire Gathering – Rebuilding First Nations Governance Research Project” – organized by the Centre for First Nations Governance and held at the University of Victoria
- May 23 – “Culturally Safe Disability Supports on Ancestral Wabanaki lands: Exploring and Expanding Creative Alternatives to Ableist Colonial Isolation” – organized by Naomi Metallic and Sheila Wildeman at Dalhousie University’s Schulich School of Law
- May 28-29 – Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada annual meeting in Vancouver, BC
- May 30-31 – “Innovation in Person-Centred Justice” – organized by the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence at the University of British Columbia’s Allard School of Law
- May 30-31 – Legal Workshops at the Canadian Association of Journalists National Conference in Calgary, AB

June

- June 2-4 – The LCC will visit Yellowknife, NWT for a Listen & Learn roundtable, a Prison Law focus circle, a Charity and Law discussion circle, and bilateral engagements with local partners.
- June 2-6 – “École d’été en droit international approfondi – Le Pacte pour l’avenir : un droit international des générations futures?” – organized by Kristine Plouffe-Malette and Valériane Thool at the Université de Sherbrooke Campus de Longueuil
- June 5-6 – “The Future of Equality: Contemporary Discourses in Anti-discrimination Law” – organized by Sonia Lawrence at Osgoode Hall, York University.
- June 16 – “Climate Dialogue 2025: Legitimizing Canadian Climate Law from the Bottom-Up” – organized by Adebayo Majekolagbe, University of Alberta Faculty of Law
- June 16-17 – “Widespread and Systematic – A Symposium on Crimes Against Humanity and Indigenous Peoples” – organized by Kimberly Murray at Queen’s University Faculty of Law
- June 26-27 – “AI, Race, and Justice: Centering Black Voices in Canada’s Emerging AI Regulation” – organized by Jake Okechukwu Effoduh at Toronto Metropolitan University’s Lincoln Alexander School of Law

August

- August 27-28 – « La parole aux Premiers Peuples : ensemble pour une autochtonisation du droit et la décolonisation des pratiques dans les Facultés de droit » – organized by Université Laval professor Kathy Bellefleur at the Hôtel-Musée des premières nations in Wendake, QC.