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Letters from the LCC President

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Letter # 17

18 December 2024

Listen & Learn events in late fall took the Law Commission of Canada to Université de Montréal and Queen's University. Law professors shared their current projects, showing how they had identified issues in need of attention and were making connections between in-depth legal research and on-the-ground social impact. Those issues ranged from governance of sustainable enterprises to regulation of AI safety in healthcare, from public perception of consumer protection frameworks to comparative approaches to victims of criminal acts. We heard about elements of effective climate protection, critical analysis of historic treaty relations, and interactions of religion and law in everyday life. Participants shared their work on youth criminal justice, in measuring trial delays, and with respect to copyright and patents. The spectrum of domains in which legal guidelines and public needs are in flux is remarkable; so too is the spectrum of fields of knowledge and experience shared by contributors to the Listen & Learn conversations.

These roundtable sessions shine light on many of the ways in which legal scholars are asking hard questions about law, offering constructive responses, and exploring potential paths forward. At a time of year when days are short, it can be uplifting to glean the energy on the part of individuals keen to use their knowledge to effect positive change by responding to current and future needs of individuals and communities throughout Canada. Uniquely positioned to encourage them to do exactly that, the Law Commission can help connect the dots between inquiry and impact, between research and real life, between knowledge and know-how.

Upon my return from Montreal and Kingston, I shared two special gifts with the Commission's dedicated team in our Ottawa office. One was a gift in the form of words, a message sent from one of the Listen & Learn participants:

"I think all of us who care about law and legality in Canada are in your debt. The more I think about the weird world around us, the more I think about the value of leadership from people committed to public service and the ideals of justice that should be our guiding light. Complacency about the general state of our society isn't possible anymore, and you are modelling how we all must step up to defend ideals that are increasingly under threat."

LCC team members truly enjoyed the nod to public service, to dedication to the ideals of Canadian society, to the importance of leadership in law and justice.

The second was a gift in the form of a small clear container of tiny beads in many colours and shapes. It came from Danielle Lussier, a Red River Métis scholar and beadwork artist who holds the Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives at Queen's University in Kingston. In a unique



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Listen & Learn event, I met Danielle and her entire family: it was a professional development day, so her children were home from school and accepted an invitation to insert the president of the Law Commission of Canada into their schedule. I learned from all of them how beadwork contributes to community building by creating relationships, forging connections, and exploring stories and spaces. Danielle shares her beadwork talent and expertise through her research, analysis, teaching and mentoring. Passed around our boardroom table at the Law Commission office, the gift of beads invited curiosity and inspired creativity.

On the radio one morning this past week, I heard the host speak with a mother about how to encourage children to value and enjoy giving at this time of year. In a season when kids are excited about receiving gifts, the conversation focused on the joy that comes with offering gifts. Along those lines, LCC team members appreciate the kind words and colourful beads, and at the same time take real pleasure in working hard to create and share meaningful gifts in the form of projects, engagement, and accountability to Canadians.

As we reach the Winter Solstice, the days will start to get longer. We are reminded of how precious light is in our lives, and of how important it is to share and treasure gifts infused with kindness, commitment and creativity. Thanks go to the Commissioners, Advisory Council members, Associates, partners, friends, and team members who sustain, nourish and support the LCC. Together we wish all readers holidays filled with joy and brightness, laughter and love. The Law Commission of Canada looks ahead to a good new year marked by living law, pursuing justice and renewing hope. Happy 2025!