



Letters from the LCC President

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It has been a long, rainy and cool spring in Ottawa. In late May, many maple seedlings were still waiting to be released from their trees. Others twirled through the air in search of a hospitable patch of earth; still others were putting down roots and starting to change shape. There is an intergenerational feel to this time of year as pale green leaves unfurl, and bright spring flowers pop out. The promise of renewal is in the air.

At the Law Commission of Canada, this is a season of celebration. The 6th of June marks two years since the Law Commission of Canada woke up from a long hibernation. At age two, this LCC is thriving and looking forward to year three with energy and determination. Well nourished and growing with confidence, it might be compared to a young maple tree firmly planted and stretching up to the sky. Here too there is an intergenerational feel and a promise of renewal.



The combination of springtime and a second birthday invites a focus in this letter on the “renewing hope” piece of our three-part *raison d’être* (Living Law, Pursuing Justice, Renewing Hope). Two initiatives recently launched at the Commission – our Emerging Scholars program and our Beyond Tomorrow Reports – illustrate a commitment to the renewal of hope and to future generations.

The LCC’s *Beyond Tomorrow Reports* are designed to support legal research that identifies and addresses challenges in law for Canada’s next generations. Produced by established scholars at Canadian universities, commissioned reports will look to law and justice issues on the horizon. In doing so, they will include a significant public engagement component. As spring gets underway, our first commissioned author of a Beyond Tomorrow Report - Professor France Houle of Université de Montréal - is exploring the future of Canadian immigration law and governance for a report to be published in early 2026. At the same time, we are sitting down to review recently received proposals and circulating a call for the next round of applications due at the end of the summer. Each season will bring fresh ideas and possibilities.

There is a similar rhythm to our freshly minted Emerging Scholars program, aimed at supporting the next generation of legal thinkers and law reformers. Selected doctoral students at Canadian universities are provided with modest financial support over an academic semester, during which they are expected to design and implement a public outreach initiative based on their work. This spring, three inaugural Emerging Scholars – Alexandra Bouchard at Université de Sherbrooke, Michael Law-Smith at University of Toronto, and Esteban Vallejo Toledo at University of Victoria –





had the opportunity to combine their doctoral research with meaningful community engagement at an early stage of their academic careers. We were delighted to learn from them, to welcome them into the LCC community, and to share their projects via our website.

Both the Emerging Scholars program and the Beyond Tomorrow Reports nourish hope for the future. Both reflect the Commission's commitment to facilitating curiosity and imagination, encouraging ability to explain and work with complexity, and ensuring meaningful links between research and community outreach. With one, we count on senior scholars to guide law reform with lasting impact for future generations. With the other, we support the next generation of law reformers by including the Law Commission of Canada on the path of tomorrow's teachers and researchers. The authors of Beyond Tomorrow Reports might be likened to mature trees, solidly rooted and responsible for sending out seedlings for the future. The Emerging Scholars are more like young saplings - past the seedling stage but still in need of care as they grow and stretch.

Finally, the renewal of hope and the importance of intergenerational investment were central to the late May gathering of Canada's law reform agencies in Vancouver. Hosted by the British Columbia Law Institute, the LCC and our provincial counterparts (all members of FOLRAC- Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada) met over two days for an annual exchange of ideas, plans, and projects. We learned about comparative approaches to Indigenous conflict resolution, innovative ways to support citizen participation in legislative change, creative family law reform initiatives, paths forward for artificial intelligence and access to justice, and responsiveness to legal needs of young people. Across the speakers and their projects, there was striking optimism, imagination and dedication.

Participants in the FOLRAC conference were also reminded of the diverse histories and contexts of law reform agencies across Canada. Each is distinctive in terms of age, size, scope, organization, funding support, and relationship with government, universities, and other law and justice institutional actors. What we share is critical engagement with law in ways attuned to today's needs and tomorrow's aspirations. In a last nod to springtime growth, I suggest that this annual get-together effectively demonstrates how people and ideas thrive on conversation, connection, nourishment, and the right combination of sunshine and rain.



Let me end with an invitation to readers to enjoy the Law Commission's second birthday from wherever you are. You are welcome to plant an LCC seedling in your own gardens and to send your own seedlings twirling through the air in our direction!