



# Letters from the LCC President

by Shauna Van Praagh

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The beginning of the spring season is also the start of the last stretch of the academic year. Which week of the month gets labelled “March break” depends of course on where you go to school in Canada. Regardless of location and level of education, the week offers a change of routine and the opportunity to return reenergized. While there may not be a formal “March Break” in the calendar of the Law Commission of Canada, this month seems like the right moment to underscore the LCC’s connections to places and people dedicated to teaching and learning. Our “Obiter” podcast, our ongoing “Listen and Learn” program, and our newly launched “Rule of Law Commitment” are featured here as the obvious three places, all front and centre this March, to find those connections.

One year ago, in a letter dated March 2025, I shared the exciting launch of our brand-new podcast. As listeners will know, the Law Commission named the podcast “Obiter” - a Latin term used to refer to passages not central to a judgment – embracing the fact that words characterized as marginal may turn out to be the most significant. Our freshly released trio of podcast episodes features guests whose words offer inspiring and long-lasting messages for the evolution of law and the pursuit of justice. Despite what appear to be very different roles and titles, Duncan McCue (creator of a program in Indigenous journalism in Canada), Daniel Jutras (president of a Canadian university), and Lisa Grushcow (rabbi of a Canadian Reform Jewish congregation) are all brilliant teachers and leaders. They share a deep and broad commitment to learning, understanding, telling stories, asking questions, and imagining change. It was a delight to spend time in dialogue with each of them and the Law Commission is honoured to showcase their insights and ideas.



Let me excerpt some of their words here. We invite you to listen (or re-listen) to the episodes and to keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming episodes to be released later this spring.

From Duncan McCue:

“Lawyers could help shape the power and the path for First Nations in this country, and it’s quite clear that journalists could do the same...I needed to start incorporating my Indigenous worldview and values into my journalism...When I see my Indigenous students wanting to go on and tell stories of our communities, it gives me a thrill and the hairs on the back of my neck are standing up just thinking about it

because, you know, if I have learned a thing or two and I can help these young people go on to become great storytellers, then I will be incredibly satisfied.”

From Daniel Jutras:

« Réfléchir le droit en dehors des catégories habituelles de la législation ou des activités des juges, de penser aussi aux citoyens comme participants à l'ordre juridique, comme des créateurs de normes dans l'ordre juridique qui doivent prendre conscience de leur pouvoir sur ce terrain-là...Je demeure vraiment convaincu que l'interaction humaine en présence est absolument fondamentale. Je pense que on ne peut pas maîtriser ces éléments-là - interactions humaines, capacité pour dialogue, perspective critique - si on n'est pas en présence les uns avec les autres. »



From Lisa Grushcow:



"I think of both law and religion as old traditions, and yet traditions that change...One of the great benefits of studying those traditions is that you get to engage with big questions...Being answerable to a real life community makes you more aware of the responsibility sometimes to speak up, but also more thoughtful about how you say it, because you really do want to keep as many people in the conversation as possible...Hope is a muscle like anything else. We need to do what we can to exercise and to strengthen that muscle. And it's very hard, if not impossible, to do that alone."

On our ongoing "Listen and Learn" travels across the country, the Law Commission visited three university law schools in three provinces over the past month. Whether scheduled right before March Break or on the first day back, the roundtables brought together scholars eager to share innovative projects and to talk about issues they see on the horizon. At the University of New Brunswick, at McGill University, and at the University of Windsor, the Law Commission heard about a striking range of projects aimed at enriching and responding to challenges of today and tomorrow for law and justice.

Here are just some of the activities in which researchers are immersing themselves: assessing social and legal implications of increasingly sophisticated robotics; expanding modes of citizen participation in law reform; intertwining law and urban design; exploring language and norms of Haudenosaunee law; examining the potential of artificial intelligence for improved access to justice; drawing on lessons



from science fiction to imagine the future of international law. And here are some of the priorities identified as warranting attention: basic understanding of structures and concepts crucial to democracy and lawmaking; productive intertwining of postsecondary legal education and provincial governance; capacity of lawyers to work with Indigenous legal orders; adequate support for migrant workers across the country; including individuals with disabilities in legal institutions such as jury service; support for building tangible confidence in law and justice institutions. Law teachers at Canadian universities continue to demonstrate unflagging levels of responsiveness, determination, and infectious curiosity.

Finally, the LCC has been delighted to receive an enthusiastic response to its offer to support a 2026 series of public lectures focused on the Rule of Law. To be hosted by university law faculties across the country, the lectures promise to challenge members of the Canadian public to identify, question, and engage with the principles and promise of a complex yet fundamental concept in our collective life. This is one initiative within the Commission's Rule of Law Commitment. Through the upcoming lectures and related projects, we aim to nourish exploration and reflection related to the meaning and practice of rule of law. Watch

for a rule of law public lecture coming soon to a law school near you!



Students across Canada are back from March Break. Active exploration is in full swing in classrooms, corridors and common rooms across the country. The LCC's podcast guests, the law teachers immersed in their projects, and the public speakers invited to deliver the LCC's rule of law lectures, are all recounting stories and sparking conversations. We are proud to support them and eager to keep learning.

