



Law Commission of Canada

Call for Contributions

Rule(s) of Law(s) – A Cross-Canada Collage

Winter 2026

The Law Commission of Canada is delighted to extend an invitation and opportunity to Canada's law professors to contribute to a collection of short essays for the Canadian public, provisionally entitled: "*Rule(s) of Law(s) – A Cross-Canada Collage*".

Context

As 2026 gets underway, "rule of law" continues to receive intense and deserved attention. An independent agency dedicated to engaging the people of Canada in the ongoing and dynamic evolution of law, the Law Commission of Canada understands the never-ending work of sustaining the rule of law to be a collective undertaking. Through this initiative, we specifically invite members of the legal academy to share in that foundational work. As teachers and scholars, you have insights and ideas that should enrich knowledge and participation in conversations and projects related to law and justice.

In his recently published book *A Rule of Law for Our New Age of Anxiety* (2023), Stephen J. Toope reflects on how legal education creates a "legal community of practice". In his words, legal communities of practice "are ethically bound to derive insights and critically reflect upon the data of the world in which we find ourselves...Legal communities of practice are also ethically bound to communicate back into that world in ways that inexpert people can understand. Otherwise, they decouple law from the people who must uphold it." (at p. 221)

Opportunity

With this obligation in mind, the Law Commission invites you to contribute a short, compelling essay to what promises to be a thought-provoking and accessible "collage" illustrating rule of law challenges and possibilities across a wide range of domains. The proposed collection provides a forum for sharing experience and expertise on the part of law teachers and legal scholars with respect to questions of concern for rule of law. The target audience consists of curious and thoughtful readers in Canada interested in exploring ways in which law intersects with varied and complex dimensions of governance and interaction. The collection may serve as an effective teaching and learning resource.



The genre is that of short essay (1300-1800 words), rather than of persuasive and documented academic analysis. Contributing authors should not aim to offer a comprehensive definition of the rule of law. Rather they should demonstrate the significance and/or challenges associated with “rule of law” in a particular area of law and justice. How and why does rule of law become visible or obvious in this moment in the domain(s) of law in which you are situated or about which you think? The plural reference to “rule(s) of law(s)” underscores the breadth of possibility for the collection.

Essays may be situated along a spectrum from local to global, micro to macro. They might draw on a particular example or case study; they might share teaching moments or stories; they might delve into mechanisms of accountable governance, challenges to social justice, insights from co-existing legal traditions, or the workings of institutional structures or international cooperation. No footnotes or endnotes are expected or required. Creative and innovative forms of writing are welcome. We hope to have participation from law teachers at all stages of their careers. The Law Commission undertakes to secure a bilingual publication venue appropriate to the number and character of submissions received.

We trust this comes as a welcome opportunity to share your voice and presence. Your reflections and insights will join with those of your colleagues across the country to create a collage unique in its vocation, function, and promise. We suggest you do this fast and soon...jot down your ideas and then find some time to turn them into an original and serious piece that roughly corresponds to the length of an exam question (completed without AI assistance, of course!).

Parameters

- Essays should be between 1300 and 1800 words in length
- Submissions can be made in English or French
- Essays should not contain footnotes or endnotes (include any references within the text itself)
- Essays should be submitted as MS Word documents, written in Segoe UI 11 point font, with one-inch margins on all sides, using 1.5 spacing
- In the subject line of your email and at the top of the attached text, please include: your name, your institution, and “Rule(s) of Law(s) – A Cross Canada Collage”.
- Submissions should be sent by email to: projects-projets@lcc-cdc.gc.ca
- **Deadline: 13 March 2026**

Note: The Law Commission plans to include contributions from across Canada and across a wide range of domains and perspectives. Submissions will be reviewed by a small selection committee made up of members of the Commission and its Advisory Council, and – once accepted – will be subject to a light copy-editing process.