

**UNIFORM LAW CONFERENCE OF CANADA CONFÉRENCE
POUR L'HARMONISATION DES LOIS AU CANADA**

ULCC | CHLC

SPRING 2024

WELCOME TO OUR

✦ **Communiqué** ✦



**President's Report
Matthew Hinshaw, Alberta**

As hard as it is to believe, spring is once again upon us, bringing with it warmer weather and the anticipation of what the coming year has in store. In relation to the feeling of freshness, renewal and promise of this time of year, Prince Edward Islander LM Montgomery perhaps said it best when she wrote, "Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know..." This quote is particularly fitting this year, as I reflect on the rousing success of our 2023 annual meeting in Charlottetown and look forward to our upcoming 2024 annual meeting in Ottawa.

In the Fall Communiqué, I set out a number of key areas of work that I hoped to focus on during my tenure as President of the ULCC. While I am pleased to report that progress has been made in all of the identified areas, further work still remains to be done.

The work of the Roles Review Committee continues, with the end goal of refining and defining the roles and responsibilities of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management (ACPDM). It is hoped that this work will be completed and ready for implementation in advance of the annual meeting in August.

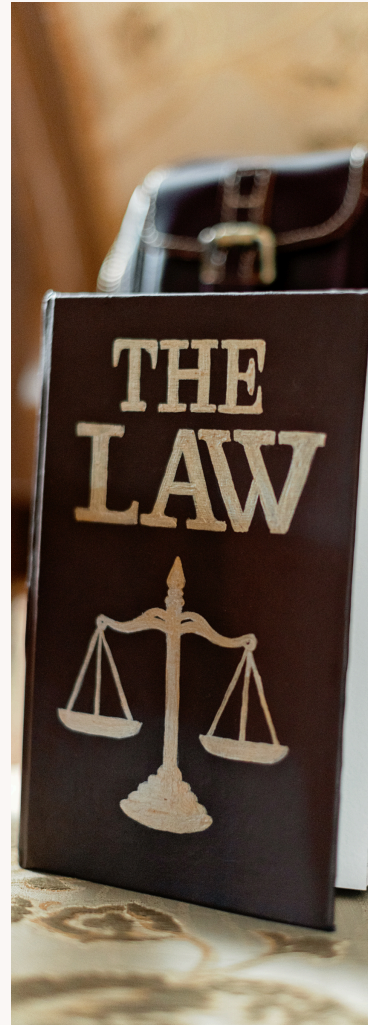


On the topic of the annual meeting, and as foreshadowed in the Fall Communiqué, for the first time in ULCC history, arrangements have been made to incorporate a limited virtual attendance option at the in-person meeting. This limited option will allow virtual delegates to visually observe and to listen to the plenary sessions and the meetings of the Civil Section in the official language of their choice. However, given the one-way nature of the technology being used, virtual delegates will not be able to offer interventions directly through the AV system in the room. If virtual delegates wish to offer interventions for consideration during the meeting, they will need to do so via private messages sent to an in-person delegate, who can pass along the intervention to the other in-person delegates. As this is the first attempt at using this technology, it is expected that some unanticipated challenges may arise. That said, I am confident that in the collegial, respectful and, above all, resourceful spirit the ULCC is known for, any barriers will be successfully overcome.

The use of a limited virtual attendance option leads directly in to the third priority item I noted in the fall, that being implementing the recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. It is hoped that making a limited virtual attendance option available will increase the number of delegates who can be involved in the work of the ULCC, thereby including a greater diversity of opinions and viewpoints, leading to more robust final products. Additional recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee are also in the process of being actioned, including a reminder provided to all Jurisdictional Representatives at the annual JRs' meeting held on January 29 of the importance of considering diversity and inclusion when delegations are being formed.

Further recommendations being put into place by the Executive Committee include the consideration of sample invitation letters to be made available to JRs, a thorough review of all of the ULCC's policy documents along with a plan to make them easily accessible to JRs and delegates, and review and actioning of recommendations made through the annual ULCC demographic survey. A further update on the results of the 2023 demographic survey will be provided at the annual meeting in Ottawa.

Lastly, the fourth priority item mentioned in the fall relates to the finances of the ULCC. Work is underway to develop a clear, transparent process for review of the annual assessment amounts to ensure prudent fiscal stewardship of the resources entrusted to the ULCC by jurisdictions. It is hoped that a draft framework will be available for consideration in advance of the annual meeting.



All of the work noted above has been undertaken in the context of organizational change for the ULCC, as our previous Executive Director, Michelle Lemieux, moved on from her role at the end of December 2023. I am extremely grateful to Michelle for all of the work she did on behalf of the ULCC, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Although Michelle's departure was challenging, the ULCC is extremely fortunate to have obtained the services of Pierre Daigneault as our new Executive Director. Although Pierre has only been with the ULCC since the beginning of January 2024, he has quickly come to understand the work underway, and has become an essential member of the ULCC team. I look forward to the annual meeting in August when we will all have the chance to meet Pierre in person!

As I anticipate the annual meeting in August, I can't help but reflect on the incredible work that has been accomplished by the ULCC over the years. The vision, creativity and passion underlying each and every project, resolution and working group report is nothing short of astounding. Given that I started with an LM Montgomery quote, it seems fitting to close with one. It's as though she were speaking specifically about the ULCC when she wrote, "...because when you are imagining, you might as well imagine something worthwhile..." Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing everybody soon!

New Team Member Alert

THIS IS PIERRE DAIGNEAULT, OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

Pierre comes to us with extensive legal and management experience from a wide variety of industries, including tech, hospitality, real estate and the not-for-profit sector. On the legal side, Pierre was formerly a Partner in a firm where he specialized in business development, financing and real estate transactions. He also held positions with a number of organizations, including as Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director (Canada-Europe) with the Clean the World Foundation, a global health organization committed to improving the quality of life for vulnerable communities around the world.



Pierre lives in Montreal, is fluently bilingual and has a Master's degree in law from Montreal University.



**CRIMINAL SECTION CHAIR
CRAIG SAVAGE , MANITOBA**

The 2023-2024 Criminal Section Steering Committee is actively preparing for the next annual meeting, which will be held in Ottawa, Ontario from August 12 to 16, 2024. I want to acknowledge the incredible support I receive from my colleagues on the Committee: Aleksander Godlewski, Alisia Adams, Andrew Davis, Anny Bernier, Laura Pitcairn and Matthew Hinshaw.

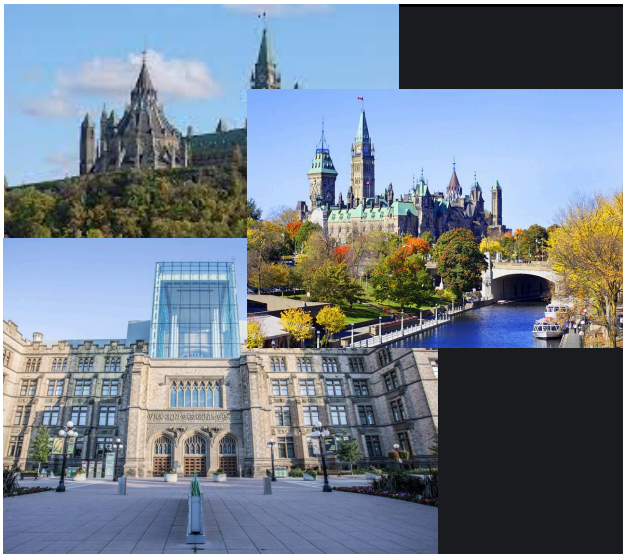
In January of this year, Michelle Lemieux left her position as Executive Director of ULCC and I would like to thank her for her hard work and contributions. While Michelle will be missed, I am grateful to our new Executive Director, Pierre Daigneault, who has been hard at work getting up to speed on various aspects of his new role.

Jurisdictional Representatives will submit their resolutions to Aleksander Godlewski by April 30, 2024, unless translation is required in which case the deadline is April 16, 2024. This year marks the first time we will be using SharePoint to organize resolutions and other materials, which will hopefully result in increased efficiency.

In addition to the debates on the resolutions, we expect to receive progress or final Working Group reports relating to:

- Section 490 of the Criminal Code (detention of things seized)
- Section 672.26 and related sections of the Criminal Code (juries and fitness hearings) • Legal treatment of animals
- Section 278 of the Criminal Code (personal records regime)
- Statutory Exemptions to Mandatory Minimum Penalties The ULCC's strength is a result of bringing together people from across the national legal community.

I want to thank all of you who contribute your time and effort to the ULCC. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Ottawa.



**The ULCC 2024 annual meeting:
in the nation's capital!**

**PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE ULCC
2024 ANNUAL MEETING,**

**WHICH WILL BE HELD IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN OTTAWA,
FROM AUGUST 12 TO 16.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MORE INFORMATION TO COME



**CIVIL SECTION CHAIR
CHRISTINE BADCOCK, YUKON**

It is a great privilege to continue my term as Chair of the Civil Section again in 2023-24. The Civil Section continues its hard work on many projects and I must thank our jurisdictional representatives (JRs), for their contributions to ULCC projects and to the implementation of our uniform acts in their jurisdictions. I also wish to thank Peter Lown, K.C., our indefatigable ACPDM chair, and Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator for their continued hard work and support.

In December 2023, the ULCC adopted amendments to our Uniform Benevolent and Community Crowdfunding Act, to ensure harmonisation with the civil law version of the Act, the Uniform Gratuitous Crowdfunding Act, which was adopted in 2022.

The Civil Section Steering Committee is currently preparing for our upcoming annual meeting to be held in August. This year we anticipate receiving a style guide to accompany the drafting conventions that were adopted at last year's annual meeting.

At the upcoming annual meeting we also anticipate receiving progress reports on a range of projects including non-disclosure agreement, charities, joint ventures, enforcement of foreign judgements and the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters. We also anticipate a progress report from the Treatment of Animals in Canadian Law working group, which is a joint project with the ULCC Criminal Section.

I am pleased to also be able to report that in 2023 a number of the ULCC's uniform acts were enacted by jurisdictions from across the country, including : ·

- British Columbia enacted the Intimate Images Protection Act (2023, c.11) which came into force on January 29, 2024 and is based on the Uniform Non-consensual Disclosure of Intimate Images Act (2021);
- Prince Edward Island enacted the Arbitration Act (2023, c.15) which came into force on March 1, 2024 and is based on the Uniform Arbitration Act;
- Saskatchewan enacted An Act to amend The Wills Act, 1996 (2023, c.45), which is not yet in force, and is based on the Amendments to the Uniform Wills Act (2015) Regarding Electronic Wills (2020); and
- Yukon enacted the Fiduciaries Access to Digital Assets Act (2023, c.15) which came into force on November 15, 2023 and is based on the Uniform Access to Digital Assets by Fiduciaries.

I look forward to seeing delegates at our annual meeting in Ottawa in August!



Plan to Attend the 106th ULCC Annual Meeting



MANON DOSTIE
SENIOR COUNSEL, CAILS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADA

The Host Committee for the Government of Canada is excited to welcome ULCC delegates to Ottawa, the Nation's Capital, for the ULCC's 106th Annual Meeting, taking place August 12-16, 2024. The land on which we will be gathering is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People.

Beyond our full work programme outlined by our Section Chairs in the Communiqué, the usual networking events will be taking place at the National Arts Centre (NAC), the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Ottawa Titans Baseball Stadium.

The meetings will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Kent Street. The hotel is located close to iconic landmarks such as the Supreme Court of Canada, the Parliament Buildings and the picturesque Capital Pathway that extends through Ottawa-Gatineau, the Gatineau Park, and into the Greenbelt. It is also walking distance to the scenic UNESCO-designated Rideau Canal and the ByWard market.

We encourage you to bring your loved ones along and add extra days to your travel to visit the region. There are fun activities for everyone including cultural activities, such as the daily Changing of the Guard ceremony, the National Gallery of Canada, the Ottawa Art Gallery, and the NAC. Of interest, the NAC has a variety of performances scheduled in August, including the acclaimed musical *Come from Away* starting mid-August.

Spend your days off exploring our renowned museums including the Canadian War Museum, the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the Canadian Museum of History which includes the interactive Children's Museum, to name a few. Discover the vibrant ByWard Market featuring a farmers' market, local artisans, multicultural food including the ever-famous Beavertail, and original shops like Ottawa's premier milliner.



For the adventurous among you, there is no shortage of outdoor activities such as renting a scooter or bike to explore the city, swimming at local beaches, hiking in Gatineau Park, enjoying boat rides on the canal or Ottawa River, and for the brave ones – a thrilling zip line from Quebec to Ontario or whitewater rafting down the Ottawa river!

And of course, no visit to Ottawa would be complete without indulging in our thriving culinary scene. With many innovative eateries helmed by local chefs, our city offers something to tantalize every palate. Feel free to ask the members of the Organizing Committee for their favorite spot.

For further details and to explore additional tourist information, please visit:
<https://ottawatourism.ca/en>.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting is by invitation only. Booking details, including information about the special ULCC discounted rate, will be sent to the jurisdictional representatives shortly.



Statement of Policy on Diversity and Inclusion

The Uniform Law Conference of Canada (ULCC) was created in 1918 recognizing that the participation of provincial governments was required to develop uniform legislation. Today, lawyers from across the country work on ULCC projects and criminal law reform. The ULCC is geographically diverse. It operates in both English and French and takes into account both the common law and civil law legal systems that are in place in Canada.

The ULCC is committed to cultivating an inclusive, respectful and welcoming environment. The ULCC believes diversity supports creativity and innovation, which are essential to the successful fulfillment of its law reform mandate and leads to products that are responsive to everyone. Accordingly, the ULCC promotes, encourages and nurtures diversity among its members and leaders.

The ULCC actively reaches out to members of the legal profession to ensure diverse participation in its working groups. Working groups are encouraged to consider broad consultations in order to solicit a wide range of views and perspectives. The ULCC also encourages those responsible for the composition of delegations to consider diversity, among other factors, when choosing delegates.