

A new model *Interpretation Act* (and more?)

Project description

The project involves a review and updating of the present model *Interpretation Act* but extends beyond that to consider whether it might be useful to adopt a model Act that, in addition, addresses issues traditionally dealt with in separate legislation – issues such as the publication of primary and subordinate legislation, the registration of subordinate legislation, the status of digital versions of legislation published by way of the Internet, the consolidation and revision of primary and subordinate legislation and administrative powers to make corrections of various kinds in legislative texts (considering, for example, the approach taken in the relatively recent Ontario *Legislation Act*, 2006).

Project team

Clark Dalton, Q.C., is leading the establishment of a two-level team – a core group of 4 persons who will work most closely with the two drafters, and a broader group who will act as a further sounding board for decisions provisionally taken by the core group. In order to be able to support the development of both language versions of the model Act, at least one member of the core group and several of the broader group should be able to provide comments on the French version. This team will work with two drafters from the Legislative Services Branch of the Department of Justice Canada – Luc Vachon, acting senior counsel in the Legislation Section and Edgar Schmidt, general counsel and director of the Advisory and Development Services Section.

Project schedule

As the project potentially involves a considerable number of issues on which policy choices can vary, it is reasonable to expect that it may require considerable discussion and consultation among the team members. For this reason, it is anticipated that this will be a multi-year project, perhaps along the following lines:

- Approval to proceed with project – August 2010

- Establishment of the core group – Summer 1010

- Core group begins working with drafters – September 2010

- Establishment of the broader group – Early fall 2010

- Report setting out the agreed scope of project and some policy recommendations – summer 2011

- Presentation of a draft of proposed model Act – summer 2012