



Law Commission of Ontario
Commission du droit de l'Ontario

Working with Ontarians
to Reform the Law

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Recommending law reform measures to
make the law accessible to all Ontarians.



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Liaison Online: Fall 2015



Fall 2015

LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO

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Farewell message from Patricia Hughes

Eight years — an intensive eight years since the Law Commission of Ontario's launch in September 2007. This is my last Liaison message as executive director. I leave the LCO feeling that we have established ourselves as an original and trustworthy law reform body that acknowledges that law and justice actors are part of a bigger world to be taken into account in fashioning law reform. We have consulted hundreds of people affected



by areas of the law we have studied, and have established many reciprocally satisfying relationships with community groups and legal institutions in Ontario and elsewhere.

I'm unable to express here the depth of appreciation I have for our staff, legal (Lauren Bates, Sue Gratton and Sarah Mason-Case) and administrative (Laura Caruso and Amanda Rodrigues), our MAG Counsel, our funders and supporters, our advisory groups, the commitment of the Board of Governors, and friends and professional acquaintances I've been fortunate to make.

I know that Aneurin (Nye) Thomas, who assumes the role officially on December 15 after a period of transition, will have a challenging and rewarding time as executive director. And yes, perhaps I'm even envious that I won't be part of the excitement!

Patricia Hughes

[Click here to read Liaison's online tribute to Patricia Hughes](#)

in this issue . . .

- ⦿ **Improving end-of-life care**
 - ⦿ **Two MAG lawyers join LCO**
 - ⦿ **Small estate report approved**
-

LCO Board names new executive director

A legal professional with a long history of experience in policy development, access to justice and legal reform has been named the next executive director of the Law

Commission of Ontario. ([more](#))

LCO seeks to improve last stages of life

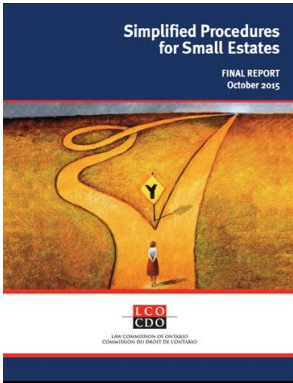
The LCO is wading into the complex and emotional end-of-life debate with the launch of its newest project. The Improving the Last Stages of Life project seeks to explore the role of the law in end-of-life care. ([more](#))

Seeing double: Two MAG lawyers begin secondment

Two Ontario government directors are relishing the opportunity to dig deep into pressing legal issues during year-long secondments at the LCO. ([more](#))

IN BRIEF

Board approves small estates report



A report aimed at providing small estates with a streamlined and affordable alternative to Ontario’s probate system was approved in August by the LCO Board of Governors. The report, which will be publicly unveiled on November 19, is directed at estates worth up to \$50,000.

Board chair renewed

LCO Board Chair Bruce Elman and at-large members Andrew Pinto, Mark Berlin and Maria Páez Victor have each been reappointed for a second three-year term, while Camille Cameron has resigned as the Law Deans of Ontario appointee. Cameron is now dean of Dalhousie’s Schulich School of Law.

Liaising with Lakehead

Canada's newest law school is helping to strengthen the LCO's academic ties as a member of the Law School Research and Liaison Group. Welcome to Dr. Mariette Brennan from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University.

Staff hand-off

Kudos to staff member Andrew Seo, whose term at the LCO concludes this fall. Welcome back Amanda Rodrigues.

Student learning



Thank you to summer students Lisa-Marie Williams (Osgoode), Pia Anthonymuttu (Western), and Jasmine Attfield and Samantha Peters (Ottawa); interns Greg Miles (U of Maryland) and Jenny Kim (Michigan State); University of Ottawa Fellow Ava Karbakhsh; and Radhika Sharma and Priya Khatri, who completed work study and LAWS placements respectively.