Law Commission of Ontario Releases Consultation Paper on Defamation Law in the Internet Age

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TORONTO, November 6, 2017 – The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) today releases a Consultation Paper and launches province-wide consultations for its Defamation Law in the Internet Age project. These consultations will run continuously from November 2017 to the end of March 2018. The Paper will be launched officially at the Law Society of Upper Canada’s Donald Lamont Learning Centre, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto, at 4:00 PM today. For more information, and to confirm your attendance at the launch, please visit www.lco-cdo.org.

The LCO’s project is a comprehensive review of defamation law, a body of law that largely predates both the Charter and the internet. The project will analyze if or how defamation law in Ontario should be updated to account for “internet speech,” including social media, blogs, internet platforms, and digital media.

The Consultation Paper seeks comments and advice from a broad range of Ontarians, including complainants and defendants in defamation actions, traditional and new media organizations, defamation lawyers and academics, government, members of the judiciary, civil society organizations, internet intermediaries, online review businesses and other web platforms and others.

Professor Bruce Elman, Chair of LCO’s Board of Governors, says that “The unique power of the internet to harm reputation is a serious concern in the 21st century. This is the first major project in Canada to consider freedom of speech, reputation and privacy in the internet age, in the defamation law context.”

About the Law Commission of Ontario

The LCO is Ontario’s leading law reform agency. The LCO provides independent, balanced and authoritative advice on some of Ontario’s most complex and far-reaching legal policy issues. The LCO is funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Osgoode Hall Law School, the Law Society of Upper Canada, and York University. The LCO is also supported by Ontario’s law schools. The LCO is located at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

More Information


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