



# Law Commission of Ontario New Project – Call for Proposals

July 2019



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO  
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE L'ONTARIO



## **1. Introduction**

The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) is seeking public proposals for new law reform projects.

This is a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to work with Ontario's leading law reform agency to develop independent, principled and authoritative advice on important legal issues.

More information about the LCO and our projects is available on our [website](#).

## **2. Who We Are**

The LCO is Ontario's leading law reform agency.

The LCO was created in 2008 by an Agreement between the Law Foundation of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, the Law Society of Ontario, Osgoode Hall Law School and the Law Deans of Ontario. The LCO is governed by an independent Board of Governors that includes a broad cross-section of leaders within Ontario's justice community.

Our mandate is to advance law reform, promote access to justice and stimulate debate on important legal issues. The LCO focuses on law reform issues affecting Ontarians and within provincial jurisdiction.

The LCO is located at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

## **3. What We Do**

The LCO provides independent, evidence-based, and forward-looking advice on some of Ontario's most complex and controversial legal policy issues. The LCO's analysis of provincial laws, policies, and programs is rigorous, collaborative, and based on extensive consultations with the persons and institutions most affected by them. The LCO is a national and international leader in public engagement on law reform issues.



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO  
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE L'ONTARIO

LCO reports are an authoritative, long-term resource for policymakers, stakeholders, academics, and the general public. The LCO is independent of stakeholder interests and is committed to an independent “public interest” perspective on every project.

By definition, LCO reports break new ground in law reform. LCO reports have led to new legislation, regulatory amendments and policy changes in a variety of institutions across Ontario. The LCO’s work is cited in judicial decisions, policy reports, academic articles, and media stories. LCO reports also make significant contributions to public legal education and public debates on important and topical law reform issues.

Since 2014, the LCO has initiated or completed seven major projects and distributed almost 20 reports, consultation papers or issue papers. Major projects during this period include:

- Class Actions
- Digital Rights
- Defamation in the Internet Age
- Legal Issues in Last Stages of Life
- Indigenous Legal Issues in the Last Stages of Life
- Legal Capacity, Decision-making and Guardianship
- Simplified Procedures for Small Estates

The LCO also supports law reform, policy making and critical debate through conferences, events and partnerships. Recent examples include:

- Artificial Intelligence for Lawyers (with Element AI and Osgoode Hall Law School)
- Algorithmic Decision-Making in the Criminal Justice System (with CitizenLab, the Criminal Lawyers Association and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law)
- Panel on Internet Intermediary Liability (at RightsCon 2018)
- LCO International Defamation Conference
- LCO/Mozilla Roundtable on Digital Rights (with the Mozilla Foundation)
- Last Stages of Life Indigenous Engagement Experts Roundtable
- Palliative Sedation Roundtable (with the Trudeau Foundation)
- LCO/Ryerson Multi-faith Roundtable (with Ryerson University)
- Forum on Open Data and the Justice System (with Legal Aid Ontario)



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO  
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE L'ONTARIO

## 4. Call for Proposals

### Who Can Submit a Proposal?

Any person or organization residing in Ontario can submit a proposal. This includes legal professionals, legal organizations, NGOs, governments, academics and members of the public.

### What Kinds of Projects Is the LCO Considering?

The LCO will consider any project or idea that fits within our mandate and meets our selection criteria. The criteria are set out in the Project Proposal and Selection Criteria section on the following pages. These criteria are designed to ensure LCO projects:

- Address important legal issues affecting a significant number of Ontarians;
- Focus on issues in which law reform is timely and necessary;
- Result in specific, concrete recommendations to provincial laws or legal policies;
- Promote access to justice; and,
- Engage stakeholders involved in the subject area.

The LCO will generally not support projects in areas already studied by the LCO or duplicative of recent legislation, inquiries, reports, etc. The LCO is not a funding organization.

Most LCO projects result in a report or recommendations on an issue. The LCO also supports law reform, policy making and critical debate through conferences, forums and other initiatives. The LCO will consider both kinds of law reform projects. The LCO will also consider partnerships with organizations to undertake joint projects.

### Process and Deadline

Proposals should be submitted to the LCO at [lawcommission@lco-cdo.org](mailto:lawcommission@lco-cdo.org). There is no page limit for proposals. The deadline for submitting a project proposal is Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. The LCO Board of Governors will decide on new project(s) after the deadline. The LCO expects projects to commence in late 2019/early 2020.



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO  
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE L'ONTARIO

## 5. Project Proposal Guidelines and Criteria

Proposals submitted to the LCO should address the following issues and questions:

### Applicant Information

- Tell us about yourself and/or your organization, including
  - Applicant name and contact information
  - Organization description, mandate and contact information, if applicable
  - Have you or your organization worked with the LCO before?
  - Why are you or your organization interested in this area of law/project?

### Description of Proposed Project

- Please provide a description of your proposed law reform project, including
  - A summary description of the proposed project
  - What area of law, statutes or legal issue will be addressed?
  - What kind of project are you proposing: a report, a conference, workshops or other kind of event?
- Why is this project timely and relevant?
  - Why is this an important law reform project?
  - Who is affected by this area of law/legal issue?
  - Is this area of law or legal issue controversial? If so, why?
  - Why does the law need to change?
  - Who are the potential stakeholders in this project?
- Have there been previous studies, reports or law reform initiatives in this area?
  - Please describe any previous studies, reports or law reform initiatives that may have already been undertaken in this area
  - When did these occur? What was their outcome?



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO  
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE L'ONTARIO

- Why is the LCO the right organization to undertake this work?
  - Does the proposal fit within the LCO's mandate to promote access to justice and independent, multi-disciplinary research?
  - Are the legal issues within provincial jurisdiction?

### **Support for the Project**

- External support, funding and experts?
  - Can you provide letters of support from individuals or organizations knowledgeable about the issues address in your proposal?
  - Are there potential partners who would be willing to work with the LCO on the project?
  - Are there opportunities for external support, either financial or in kind?
  - Who are the legal experts, academics, NGOs or others who might want to be involved in the project?

## **6. Questions, Comments and Contacts**

The LCO encourages individuals and organization to contact the LCO to discuss their ideas or proposals. Questions or comments can be sent to [lawcommission@lco-cdo.org](mailto:lawcommission@lco-cdo.org).

More information about the call for proposals is available on the [LCO project proposal webpage](#).