



**UNIFORM LAW CONFERENCE OF CANADA  
CIVIL SECTION**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND  
MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**PRESENTED BY**

**Gregory G. Blue, K.C.**

*Readers are cautioned that the ideas or conclusions set forth in this paper, including any proposed statutory language and any comments or recommendations, may not have been adopted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. They may not necessarily reflect the views of the ULCC and its delegates.*

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## **Report of the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management**

**August 2026**

- [1] I am pleased to report on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management (ACPDM) for 2025-26. The functions of this committee under the By-laws of the ULCC are to identify appropriate subject-matter for projects, evaluate and recommend projects, and manage the ULCC's medium- and long-term projects. In practice, the ACPDM principally deals with projects of the Civil Section and joint projects of the two Sections, because the Criminal Section operates primarily through resolutions presented and passed at annual meetings. When the Criminal Section has multi-year projects, the ACPDM provides any requested assistance or guidance.
- [2] The ACPDM meets on a monthly schedule throughout the period between annual meetings. Its current members are listed at the end of this report. I thank all its members for their commitment and diligence over the past twelve months in helping to fulfil the Committee's mandate.
- [3] I also thank the Legal Project and Research Coordinator, Christina Croteau, for her admirable skill, dedication, and insight in performing her demanding role. It falls to Christina to provide day-to-day support to the ACPDM and the working groups for the various projects. Her role includes research and drafting of project proposals, preparation of the Committee agendas and minutes, volunteer recruitment for the working groups, logistical coordination of their meetings, getting in their reports and draft legislation in time to meet translation and distribution deadlines, and staying on top of a constant stream of email correspondence relating to these things. The importance of the Legal Project and Research Coordinator's role in keeping the projects and ACPDM business running smoothly throughout the year is impossible to overestimate.

### ***The 2026/27 ACPDM budget proposal***

- [4] A crucial task in the months immediately following the annual meeting is preparation of the ACPDM budget proposal that must be presented to the Budget and Finance Committee by December to meet the timeline of the overall ULCC budgeting process. The ACPDM budget covers the expenses of the Civil Section and joint projects, including legislative drafting and translation, and contracted-out research, if any. It is a component of the overall ULCC budget.
- [5] In this cycle, following the normal schedule, the ACPDM budget proposal was prepared in November 2025 with invaluable advice and assistance from the Executive Director,

Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, and Christina Croteau. We also met with the Chair and two other members of the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss possible revisions to relieve financial pressures on the organization overall. The proposal that ultimately went forward to the Budget and Finance Committee was a revised one that had fewer allocations for contingencies but achieved reductions of approximately \$12,000. The revised ACPDM budget was accepted and incorporated into the final ULCC budget for 2026-2027 without further change.

### ***Review of project selection and approval process***

- [6] In 2025 the Executive Committee asked the ACPDM to review and make recommendations to further systematize the ULCC's process for selection and approval of projects. The ACPDM formed a subcommittee for this purpose, which has held four meetings as of the time of writing of this report. As no issues had been raised regarding the current practice by which Criminal Section projects are approved, the subcommittee focussed its attention on the selection and approval process for Civil Section projects, including selection criteria. The subcommittee is expected to be in a position shortly to conclude its work and report its conclusions to the ACPDM. After consideration of the subcommittee's report, the ACPDM will consult with the Civil Section Steering Committee and make a formal recommendation to the Executive Committee on the process for project selection and approval, including project selection criteria.

### ***Current projects***

- [7] There are eight Civil Section projects underway and one joint Criminal and Civil Section project. They are listed at the end of this report, together with the Chairs of the respective working groups.
- [8] The Civil Section projects that were underway in 2024-2025 continued in 2025-2026. Two working groups are presenting final reports and legislation at this annual meeting, namely those for Non-Disclosure Agreements and Cash Payments. The others are presenting policy reports describing progress and seeking any needed direction on particular issues.
- [9] It had been anticipated that the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Project Working Group would also present a final report as it appeared to be approaching the drafting stage by the early spring of 2026. Issues arose around March 2026 in connection with the scope of the revised *Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act* in relation to foreign orders in family law matters in light of certain international initiatives and negotiations underway at the federal level. These issues arising at a late stage needed to be addressed, so the UEFJA Working Group will provide a policy report at the 2026

annual meeting. It is hoped that once these issues are resolved with such direction as the Civil Section provides, drafting of the revised UEFJA will proceed in the ensuing months and a final report will come in 2027.

- [10] The Working Group of the Joint Project on the Treatment of Animals has made substantial progress over the last year and is presenting a lengthy and detailed policy report setting out policy choices that the Civil Section will need to make so that drafting of model provisions for provincial and territorial legislation can proceed.

### ***Proposed new projects***

- [11] In late 2025 the ACPDM considered a project proposal originating with the Canadian Criminal Justice Association for harmonization of provisions in Canadian human rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of past criminal conviction. While there is variance between jurisdictions in the extent of protection against discrimination on this ground, most jurisdictions indicated they would not legislate in this area or change existing legislation, making the achievement of harmonization unlikely.
- [12] In addition, the ACPDM questioned whether human rights legislation was the most direct or effective means of relieving against stigmatization and reducing barriers to rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society in comparison to other potential avenues of reform, such as the conviction expiry scheme implemented in the UK.
- [13] The ACPDM recommended against pursuing this project and communicated this recommendation to the Civil Section Steering Committee, which concurred. The proponent of the project was informed of the decision by letter explaining the reasons why the ULCC declined to proceed with the proposal. A reply was received from the Canadian Criminal Justice Association expressing appreciation for the extent of consideration the ULCC had given to the proposal.
- [14] A proposal for a project on coerced debt arising from human trafficking is in abeyance to await measures expected to be implemented in Saskatchewan and Ontario. When these precedents are in place, the ACPDM intends to put consideration of this proposed project back on its active agenda.
- [15] From within the ULCC, a project on harmonization of statutory exceptions to the general age of majority and another on a legislated right to repair in relation to consumer goods have been suggested. These ideas for projects are in the course of development, and information is being gathered to prepare formal project proposals for the ACPDM to consider.

## ***Conclusion***

[16] Once again, I thank the ULCC for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of ACPDM Chair and look forward to reporting on progress made over the next twelve months at the 2027 annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory G. Blue K.C.

Chair, Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management

## **ACPDM Members in 2025-2026**

- Gregory G. Blue, K.C. (Chair) (BC)
- Chloé Rousselle (President) (CA)
- Valérie Simard (Vice-President) (CA)
- Tyler Nyvall (Chair, Civil Section) (BC)
- Alisia Adams (Chair, Criminal Section) (BC)
- Peter Lown, K.C. (Chair, International Committee) (AB)
- Laurence Bergeron (representative from the Government of Quebec) (QC)
- Manon Dostie (representative from the Government of Canada; expert in private international law) (CA)
- Christine Badcock (YT)
- Michelle Cumyn (QC)
- Michel Deschamps (QC)
- Maria Markatos, K.C. (SK)
- Darcy McGovern, K.C. (SK)
- Elizabeth Strange (NB)
- Christina Croteau (Legal Project and Research Coordinator)
- Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson (Executive Director and Administrator)

## **Active Civil Section and Joint Projects**

### **1. Reform of General Partnership Law / Joint Ventures Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Maya Cachecho

### **2. Hague Convention / Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Geneviève Saumier

### **3. Charities Project**

#### ***Definition of Charity***

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Mark Gillen

#### ***Hybrid Organizations***

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Mark Gillen

### **4. Cash Payments Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Michelle Cumyn

### **5. Non-Disclosure Agreements Project**

Chair of Working Group: Jennifer Khor

### **6. Class Actions Act Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. J  r  my Boulanger-Bonnely

### **7. Intestate Succession Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. David Freedman

### **8. Defamation Law in the Internet Age Project**

Chair of Working Group: Prof. Hilary Young

### **9. Treatment of Animals in Canadian Law Joint Project**

Chair of Working Group: Nadine Nesbitt