

**UNIFORM LAW CONFERENCE OF CANADA
CONFÉRENCE POUR L'HARMONISATION DES LOIS AU CANADA**

**Minutes of the Closing Plenary Session of the 107th Annual Meeting
of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada
at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel
in Halifax, Nova Scotia
on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:15 AM ADT**

Opening Remarks

President Maria Markatos welcomed the delegates to the last session of the 2025 annual meeting and said that it had been a very busy and productive week. She hoped that everyone would take away positive observations of the meetings, having had meaningful interactions with fellow delegates. She congratulated the winners of the annual softball game, the West team, and said she would like to dedicate the win to Darcy McGovern, K.C., and Kathryn Sabo, who weren't in attendance but for whom the delegates were playing for in spirit. She also recognized the game's MVP, Matthew Hinshaw, who really led the team.

Ms Markatos stated that the Section Chairs would present summaries of the week's events.

Reports from the Section Chairs

i. Criminal Section

James Meloche said that the Criminal Section discussed 29 resolutions, 21 of which were approved, on diverse issues ranging from bail to editing of victim impact statements and many topics in between. They also accepted a final report on the records regime provisions in sections 278.1 and onward of the *Criminal Code*, which was approved with recommendations, as well as approved four status reports for working groups that will continue their work, including the joint Working Group on the Treatment of Animals.

Mr Meloche stated that it had been a tremendously successful week, and they look forward to the work that will take place over the coming year with incoming Chair Alisia Adams from British Columbia. Lastly, he indicated that Nicolas Abran from Québec was named Chair of the Criminal Section for 2026-2027.

ii. Civil Section

Christine Badcock said that the Civil Section had a very productive meeting and that they received nine policy reports from their various working groups. The Section provided direction on the Non-Disclosure Agreements project led by Jennifer Khor and anticipates receiving a draft Act for adoption at the 2026 annual meeting. They also received a first report on the Defamation Law project led by Hilary Young, a first report on the Intestate Succession project, and policy reports on Charities from Mark Gillen, on the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments from Geneviève Saumier, on Class Actions from Jérémy Boulanger-Bonnely, on Joint Ventures from Maya Cachecho, and on Cash Payments from Michelle Cumyn.

Ms Badcock said that they were delighted that Lisa Jacobs, President of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) of the US, was able to update the Section on developments and projects being undertaken by the ULC. She thanked Ms Jacobs and ULC Executive Director Eric Weeks for their attendance and participation. Just before this closing plenary, the Section received an update from Justice Canada on Private International Law. The Section also received the Advisory Committee on Program Development and Management (ACPDM) report and a project proposal from the Quebec Institute for Law and Justice Reform, as well as a review of reforms in civil law

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jurisdictions. She said that the Civil Section welcomed a number of new delegates and JRs this week and appreciated their new perspectives.

Ms Badcock concluded by thanking Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Christina Croteau, Greg Blue, K.C., and the Nova Scotia organizing committee for making this such a great week.

Thank-You Resolution

Ms Markatos said that the annual meeting would not have been possible without the work and support of numerous individuals and that she would like to acknowledge them all. She proposed the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Uniform Law Conference of Canada express its thanks to:

1. The Nova Scotia Government and Department of Justice for hosting the 2025 annual meeting of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada;
2. The panelists at the Earl Fruchtmann Memorial Seminar: Susan MacKay (facilitator) from the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service, Grace Campbell from the Office of L’Nu Affairs in the Policy and Indigenous Relations Division, Rhonda Fraser from the Nova Scotia Highest Risk Domestic Violence Table, and advocate Lynn Gallant-Blackburn;
3. Lisa Jacobs, President of the Uniform Law Commission of the United States, for her presentation to the Civil Section; and both Ms Jacobs and Executive Director Eric Weeks for their ongoing support and collegiality;
4. The annual meeting planning committee for creating such a comfortable and friendly environment for all of our discussions and social events: from our host jurisdiction, Tanisha Blackmore, Angus Gibbon, Allyson O’Shea and Lori-Anne Thomas; as well, from the ULCC, Maria Markatos and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson;
5. The secretariat and registration staff for being on call to help us as needed: Bianka Calvert, Chantal Desrochers, Heather-Anne Gillis; Victoria Nickerson, and Lori-Anne Thomas;
6. The 2024-2025 Executive Committee, whose members met monthly for the past year to manage organizational, policy and strategic issues that arose. They did so with dedication and great consideration: President Maria Markatos, Vice-President Chloé Rousselle, Immediate Past President Matthew Hinshaw, Civil Section Chair Tyler Nyvall, Criminal Section Chair James Meloche, Criminal Section Secretary Aleksander Godlewski, ACPDM Chair Greg Blue, K.C.; and members-at-large Christine Badcock, Sarah Dafoe, Manon Dostie, Laura Pitcairn and Elizabeth Strange; as well as Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator;
7. The 2024-2025 Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Chloé Rousselle, who went above and beyond in this role, and the members of that Committee who diligently worked through all the numbers every month; Maria Markatos, Matthew Hinshaw, James Meloche, Tyler Nyvall, Christine Badcock, Aleksander Godlewski, Laura Pitcairn, Valérie Simard, and Elizabeth Strange; and as well as Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator, and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator;
8. Greg Blue, K.C., Chair, ACPDM; and Peter Lown, K.C., Chair, International Committee; Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator; and Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator, who are on call all the time to help with whatever issues may arise;

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9. A special thank you to Christine Badcock for chairing the Civil Section meetings during the week;

10. The interpreters, for ensuring that delegates could all follow the meetings in the language of their choice: Cindy Célestin, Cynthia Desnoyers, Laura Garfinkel, Carly Johnson, Aimée Lavoie, and Sara Vafai;

11. The audio-visual technicians from Encore Global, for meeting all of delegates' technical needs and ensuring everything ran smoothly: Liam Fowler-Purdy, Rob Hamilton, and Sahil Malhotra;

12. From the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Lesley MacLeod and all of the wonderful staff onsite this week, for making everyone very comfortable;

13. The jurisdictional representatives (JRs), delegates, observers, presenters, and working group and committee chairs and members, without whom the week would not have happened;

thank you very much.

Moved by Neil Karkut. Seconded by Cassandra Cunningham. Motion carried.

Ms Markatos invited Matthew Hinshaw to present the report of the Nomination Committee.

Report from the Nomination Committee

Nomination Committee Chair Matthew Hinshaw said that, further to the Committee members having met, the individuals being put forward by the Nomination Committee are Chloé Rousselle for President and Valérie Simard for Vice-President. Although Ms Simard could not attend the annual meeting in person, Mr Hinshaw said that she is aware of the nomination. Before calling for a formal resolution, Mr Hinshaw asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for the roles of President and Vice-President. There being no other nominations from the floor, Mr Hinshaw put forward a resolution as follows:

THAT Chloé Rousselle and Valérie Simard be nominated for President and Vice-President of the ULCC respectively for 2025-2026. Moved by James Meloche. Seconded by Alisia Adams. Motion carried.

Ms Markatos congratulated them and passed the microphone to Ms Rousselle.

Incoming President's Remarks

Ms Rousselle thanked Ms Markatos and the Nomination Committee. She said she wanted to express her gratitude for the trust that is placed in her at the start of her term. From her first participation in 2017, she realized that one of the ULCC's greatest strengths lies in the collaboration between members with diverse expertise. She gave examples of how this collaboration manifests itself, including between delegations and within working groups and committees. She knows that the ULCC has never been the work of one person and that, like her predecessors, she will be surrounded by talented, dedicated, and committed individuals.

In the coming year, Ms Rousselle is looking forward to working with an outstanding Executive Committee, whose members she presented: Tyler Nyvall, Chair of the Civil Section, and Alisia Adams, the new Chair of the Criminal Section, both from British Columbia; Immediate Past President Maria Markatos from Saskatchewan, new Vice-

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President Valérie Simard from Canada, and the Chair of the ACPDM, Greg Blue, K.C., from British Columbia; and, subject to confirmation at the Executive Committee meeting immediately following the closing plenary, Christine Badcock from the Yukon, Laurence Bergeron from Québec, Elizabeth Strange from New Brunswick, Matthew Hinshaw from Alberta, Laura Pitcairn from Canada, and Aleksander Godlewski from Canada.

Ms Rousselle stated that it was an important objective to ensure that the Executive Committee has representation from across the country, including francophones and anglophones, a balance between the Civil and Criminal Sections, and both experienced and newer members. She said that the Executive Committee will also benefit from the invaluable support of Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, Executive Director and Administrator, and Christina Croteau, Legal Project and Research Coordinator.

She indicated that beyond the substantive work of the ULCC, several major organizational projects will capture the ULCC's attention in 2025-2026, including: the first review of the annual contributions according to the new procedure, and reassessing the annual meeting format by evaluating the experience of the past two years during which it was possible to observe certain sessions virtually. It also includes updating the ULCC website and continuing to welcome and integrate members who have recently joined.

Ms. Rousselle said that her priority this year will be to ensure that all these projects are part of a broader goal: to ensure the ULCC's sustainability and continued relevance. In 2018, the CHLC celebrated its 100th anniversary, which was an opportunity to celebrate its successes, strong traditions, and commitment to its mission. But since then, the ULCC has also faced new challenges, while seeking to diversify its delegations, make judicious use of technology, and demonstrate financial stewardship. In an organization as old as the ULCC, taking up and passing on the torch allows the organization to remain a key player in the Canadian legal landscape, to innovate, and to respond acutely to contemporary issues. She therefore invited the more experienced members to mentor the next generation and the new members to get actively involved in the ULCC. Furthermore, she encouraged every one of them to see themselves as ambassadors of the ULCC within their respective organizations and legal communities. She invited them to contact her or the members of the Executive Committee if they have any suggestions for carrying out the projects that await them.

She also thanked Maria Markatos, indicating that the week provided just a glimpse of all the work she accomplished over the past year. She thanked her for her unifying leadership and solution-oriented approach. Finally, and without repeating everything that has already been said, she thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the annual meeting and in particular the delegates, the special guests from the ULC, Executive Director Michelle Lemieux Wilkinson, and also Nova Scotia for the warm welcome that all have received. She said that she looks forward to seeing many, and hopefully all, of those in attendance, as well as new faces, in Winnipeg in August 2026.

Ms Rousselle turned the mic over to Craig Savage for the report from the host jurisdiction for the 2026 annual meeting.

2026 Annual Meeting

Craig Savage said that Manitoba is very excited to host the annual meeting next summer and indicated that they last hosted in 2011. The annual meeting will be held from Monday to Friday, August 17 to 21, at the Fairmont Winnipeg, which is at the corner of the very famous Portage and Main intersection in Winnipeg. After 46 years, this is now open to pedestrians. Mr Savage said that delegates may be interested in going to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which is open from 10:00 am from 5:00 pm every day except for Mondays. He

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encouraged the delegates to reach out to him directly if they have any questions and said that he will be putting together a document with restaurants and other locations that may be of interest. He said that they are very excited to host the annual meeting next year.

Mr Savage presented a Manitoba and Winnipeg tourism video. Ms Roussele thanked Mr Savage, indicating that she was already looking forward to attending next year.

Other Business

Ms Roussele reminded the delegates to complete and submit the website questionnaire if they hadn't yet done so.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Ms Roussele adjourned the 2025 annual meeting of the ULCC.