



BRITISH COLUMBIA LAW INSTITUTE

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Media Release

British Columbia Law Institute Announces Formation of Committee to Study Commercial Tenancy Law

for immediate release

Vancouver, 18 July 2007—The British Columbia Law Institute has commenced a major project to study reform of this province’s statutes that apply to commercial leasing. This project was made possible by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia and the Notary Foundation of British Columbia.

Rapidly increasing activity and rising land values have thrown a spotlight on British Columbia’s commercial leasing sector. This important area of the province’s economy is not well served by the legislation that currently governs it.

The major statute in this area is the *Commercial Tenancy Act*. Committee chair Richard Olson described the *Commercial Tenancy Act* as “a fragmentary and incoherent statute that is primarily geared to seventeenth-century concerns with agricultural leases. It is badly in need of reform if it is to be relevant in the twenty-first century.”

The project is scheduled to run for two years. It will examine such questions as modernization of the language and concepts of the *Commercial Tenancy Act*, the need for new provisions to respond to new leasing practices (such as those associated with shopping centres and warehouse complexes), the desirability of enacting a fair and comprehensive set of default rules for commercial tenancies (which sophisticated parties could contract out of), and the need for changes to allied legislation (such as the *Rent Distress Act*, and certain provisions of the *Law and Equity Act*, the *Property Law Act*, the *Land Title Act*, and the *Land Transfer Forms Act*).

The Law Institute has formed a volunteer project committee to study these questions and make recommendations for reform. The members of the committee are:

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| Richard Olson—chair
<i>(associate counsel, McKechnie & Co.)</i> | Arthur L. Close, Q.C.
<i>(director, British Columbia Law Institute)</i> |
| Sandy Lloyd
<i>(former partner, Borden Ladner Gervais)</i> | Ann McLean
<i>(chair, British Columbia Law Institute)</i> |
| Justice Mary V. Newbury
<i>(Court of Appeal for British Columbia)</i> | Greg Umbach
<i>(partner, Blake, Cassels & Graydon)</i> |

The British Columbia Law Institute is a leader in law reform by carrying out the best in scholarly law reform research and writing and the best in outreach relating to law reform.

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