

February 1, 2017

Dear Members of the Academic Community,

Re: *Ottawa Law Review* Winter 2017 Update

The *Ottawa Law Review* (*OLR*) continues to strive to become the fastest publishing student-run law journal in Canada. With tremendous help from our previous and current Editorial Boards, we have adapted the editing cycle to improve our publishing speed without compromising the quality of our editing work. We are excited to share our accomplishments and plan for the future with you.

1. New Editing Cycle

Starting from the 2016/2017 academic year, the *OLR* accepts submissions on a rolling basis. In light of this approach, we created a new editing cycle that permits an efficient allocation of workload for the editors throughout the editing cycle, allowing them to work on smaller chunks of edits every few weeks. Reallocation of the workload within our editing cycle significantly shortens our editing time and, as a result, improves our publishing speed.

2. Collaboration with our Expert Reviewers

To increase our efficiency, we created an Expert Advisory Panel, a pool of peer reviewers who are available to review articles throughout the academic year. When a submission falls outside of our Expert Advisory Panel's expertise, we seek external peer reviewers with the relevant subject area expertise.

3. Continue improving the website

We are working to continue to improve our website for a better user experience and to strengthen the *OLR*'s online presence.

4. Symposium with the Public Law Group

This year, the *OLR* annual Symposium will be unlike any held in the past. In light of the 150th Anniversary of Confederation, we partnered with the Public Law Group of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law to host the conference: *The Charter and Emerging Issues in Constitutional Rights and Freedoms: From 1982 to 2032*. This conference, held on March 8–10, 2017, will bring together leading constitutional scholars, as well as community leaders and policy makers to discuss and examine the possibilities and challenges for constitutional rights and freedoms over the next 10–15 years.

5. Testing the current trends in publishing

The *OLR* leverages technology to make the editing process more efficient. We are currently testing a few web platforms that are specifically designed for legal journals. These platforms allow editors to conduct all edits on a single platform, in addition to communicating with authors and independent assessors. With possible incorporation of this model into our management system, we hope to improve the service we provide to our authors and readers.

6. The 21st century report is coming up

Building on the hard work of our previous Editorial Board, the *OLR* is very close to finally publishing the *21st Century Report* on the role of the law review in the new digital age. This report will guide the future direction of the *OLR*. We expect to complete the report by the end of February, 2017.

Yours very truly,



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Editor-in-Chief,
Administration 2016–17



Fabienne Duffet
Editor-in-Chief,
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