

# Preface

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**U***nderneath the Golden Boy*, originally published in 2003 as a special edition of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, has served to highlight case law developments in Manitoba. Its mandate was to provide a forum to study both the content of current legislation and the strengths and weaknesses of the legislative process. Our mission has proven worthy in the eyes of those closely associated with the process, including the Honourable Andrew Swan, Hugh McFadyen, and Dr. Jon Gerrard.<sup>1</sup>

We have addressed a number of issues of national importance, including a noteworthy series on voting system reform and proportional representation. In our primary focus on Manitoba developments, we consider study and evaluation important to this community, but also in wider national and international contexts. This includes ways and means for public contribution to the formation of legislation, for opposition parties to play an effective role even in majority government situations, and for the need for democratic reforms such as fixed election dates and the imposition of limits on the the ability of governments to use public funds for partisan advertising.

The *Manitoba Law Journal* will henceforth return to its original focus on developments in Manitoba and, in particular, events in the courts and the administration of justice. This is an auspicious time, therefore, for *Underneath the Golden Boy*, while retaining a distinctive identity, to reappear as a special issue of the *Manitoba Law Journal*. This will inform readers about local developments and contribute to the much wider debate about understanding the history and future of our legal and democratic processes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Honourable Andrew Swan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Manitoba, has praised *Underneath the Golden Boy* as “a valuable review of legislative developments in Manitoba” that also provides “insightful analysis” (Letter from Andrew Swan (5 July 2010)). Hugh McFadyen, Leader of the Official Opposition, has commented on the “thoughtful analysis, attention to detail, and informed commentary” offered by this publication. (Letter from Hugh McFadyen (18 February 2011)). Dr. Jon Gerrard, Manitoba Liberal Party Leader, has lauded *Underneath the Golden Boy* as “the best current assessment of laws being passed in Manitoba today” (Letter from Dr. Jon Gerrard (8 April 2010)).

