

Preface

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Democratic and parliamentary reform has been a major focus of *Underneath the Golden Boy* from its outset, and is a theme in this issue. Our lead article is an extensive and collaborative exploration of whether and how Manitoba should reform its regulatory system in light of best practices at the federal and international level.

The *Corporations Act* is a foundational piece of Manitoba legislation, and Professor Darcy MacPherson has produced a thoughtful proposal for reform to one aspect of it. Along with his co-author Ned Brown, he has also analyzed the Court of Queen's Bench's interpretation of the *Personal Property Security Act* in relation to all-terrain vehicles and farm equipment.

Ralph Chatoor's interviews with lawyers who transitioned to the role of politician provides fresh and systematic insight into both occupations and the relationship between the two.

This publication regularly features profiles of particular pieces of legislation—the story of their intellectual origins, the way in which the parliamentary process did or did not affect their content, and their policy merits and demerits. These annual explorations are intended as part of a long term research program which attempts, by looking at various bills, to help identify and illuminate patterns in the way the democratic process in Manitoba—a representative Canadian legislature—is operating in practice and evolving through time. This issue continues this project. One of this year's profiles is in effect a follow-up from volume 6 of *Underneath the Golden Boy* which included a series of papers from a conference sponsored by the Asper Chair of International Business and Trade Law on the potential enactment of Manitoba's first franchising law. That conference sought to learn from the legislation and models in other jurisdictions, and it is interesting to see these issues subsequently reflected in practice.

Last issue marked the first time, in many years, that *Underneath the Golden Boy* was, while retaining its own editorial and creative identity, released as a special edition of the *Manitoba Law Journal*. This issue is

released as Issue 2 of Volume 35 of the Manitoba Law Journal. We thank the editors and staff of the *Manitoba Law Journal* for the opportunity again this year to find a wider audience, both through the print version and by sharing with us in the creation and operation of the new *Manitoba Law Journal* website.

To mark the renewed coordination of the *Manitoba Law Journal* and *Underneath the Golden Boy*, we commissioned a new version of our cover art, executed by the same artist, Brian Seed, who allowed his watercolour of the Great Gray Owl to serve as cover art for the *Manitoba Law Journal's* rebranding in 2011.

Looking ahead, we are actively exploring whether we can add yet another major dimension to *Underneath the Golden Boy*, which would be the analyses, by scholars of political science and other disciplines, of public policy issues facing our community. This issue includes a pioneering piece by political science Professor Karine Levasseur. We hope next year's issue will be enriched by more of such creative collaborations.