Law Commission of Ontario
Commission du droit de l'Ontario

COPYRIGHT AND ATTRIBUTION POLICY

This policy applies to all research carried out for the Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) and papers and other documents prepared for the LCO, and to all persons engaged in that work, including staff, students, contract researchers, and other academics who have been given release in any form to carry out research or to prepare papers or other documents for the LCO. It applies to persons paid by the LCO or who are volunteering for the LCO.

1. STAFF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

All staff, students, contractors or researchers assigned work for the LCO in either a paid or volunteer capacity shall be considered to be undertaking work for the LCO and not in their own capacity. The work assigned may be research and/or the preparation of consultation and discussion papers, interim and final reports, submissions, policies and other similar documents, and presentations related to the LCO. Acknowledgement of individual participant names in final materials is at the discretion of the Executive Director and/or project lead.

The LCO holds copyright in any work completed for the LCO by staff and students in either a paid or volunteer capacity.

2. CONTRACT RESEARCHERS

From time to time, the LCO retains contractors to carry out research, consultations, and writing of discussion papers, reports or other materials. In developing a policy about ownership of these materials and giving credit for them, it is important to consider the interests of both the LCO and the contractors, including the LCO's interest in retaining the discretion to disseminate materials produced for it and the contractors' interest in receiving credit for the work they produce for the LCO. This is of particular significance for academic researchers for whom the work they produce for the LCO may be relevant for promotion or tenure applications or provides the basis of other written work or presentation to be included in their curriculum vitae or in conjunction with promotion or tenure applications.

Contractors will assign copyright to the LCO. Contractors retain the moral rights to their work. Materials resulting from the work of contractors will be the property of the LCO to use as the LCO considers appropriate.

Without limiting the use of the materials, the LCO may publish the material as written, select portions of the material or include the materials among other materials. In doing so, the LCO undertakes to respect the intent of the author. The LCO may post commissioned research papers on its website; however, it will indicate that the views and conclusions expressed in such papers do not necessarily reflect the views of the LCO.

Contractors will be given credit for the work they produce when the LCO publishes materials resulting from their research in any format. For example, if a contractor produces a discussion paper, should the LCO publish the paper, it will identify the contractor as the author. If the LCO combines the work of several contractors to produce synthesized material, the contractors will be given credit for their contributions to the synthesized material; contributions will be used in a way that maintains their integrity. The LCO may publish collections of research and discussion papers on particular project topics and will, in these cases, identify the author(s) of each separate contribution to the collections. The LCO's objective will be to ensure that contractors receive public credit for authorship of materials they produce.

Contractors may include reference to the materials they have produced in their curriculum vitae or other lists of their scholarship.

Contractors may write separate materials, such as articles, or give presentations arising out of the work they did for the LCO, but must acknowledge that they initially carried out the research as a contract researcher for the LCO and that the views expressed in any subsequent work are not necessarily those of the LCO.