



Federation of
Law Societies
of Canada

Fédération des ordres
professionnels de juristes
du Canada

News Release

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Statement from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada on the International Day of Democracy

In Canada, our democracy reflects our shared values: fairness, equality, freedom of expression, and accountability. The rule of law actualizes those values and ensures no one – not even governments – is above the law and every person has access to fair and impartial justice.

It is this system that enables us to vote freely and without intimidation. To speak openly about political issues. To choose the legal advisor we trust. To know we can be judged by impartial courts, not by public opinion or political interference. And, to know the law applies equally to everyone, including those in positions of power.

These rights may seem obvious but this is not the case in many parts of the world. Democratic institutions are facing mounting pressures worldwide. There is a general concern that what is happening elsewhere could also happen here.

We must also acknowledge confidence in these systems is not universal. Many Canadians – particularly those from Indigenous or marginalized communities – feel the administration of justice is inaccessible, unrepresentative, and unresponsive. Recognizing and addressing these concerns is a necessary part of strengthening our democracy. The path forward must include equitable access, transparency, education, and efforts to build greater trust in our legal institutions.

It is more important than ever to protect and promote the values that underpin our legal systems.

Louis-Martin Beaumont, Federation President states, “The rule of law, supported by an independent legal profession and judiciary, is the foundation of a free and democratic society. It’s our duty to remain engaged and uphold these principles – not as an abstract ideal, but as a living commitment to the dignity and equality of everyone in Canada. It is one of our greatest national strengths, and it is ours to protect.”

On this International Day of Democracy, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada reaffirms the essential connection between democracy, the rule of law, and an independent legal profession and judiciary.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is the national association of the 14 law societies mandated by the provinces and territories to regulate Canada’s legal profession in the public interest. It is the body through which Canada’s law societies collaborate at the national level, share information on trends and issues affecting the legal profession, and engage in collective action and decision making.

The Federation is also the law societies’ national and international voice on important issues related to the regulation and core values of the legal profession. For more information on the Federation, please visit our web site at www.flsc.ca.

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