

In 1985, the Law Reform Commission of Canada (LRCC) decided to work on a new *Criminal Code*. Criminal Codes have two parts, a General Part and a Special Part. The General Part contains the general principles applicable to all offences (e.g. defences, sentencing etc.). The special part contains the offences.

In December 1986, the LRCC published its report 30 *Recodifying Criminal Law: Volume I*. (available at <http://www.lareau-law.ca/DigitalLibrary.html>). The report contained the General Part of a new criminal code and some portions of a new the Special Part. One major omission in the LRCC proposals on the General Part was the general provisions on sentencing. The LRCC had decided to leave this matter to the Canadian Sentencing Commission which eventually submitted its report in February 2007.

In December 1986, there were two separate entities working on criminal law policy at the Department of Justice Canada, the Criminal Law Review Section (under Mr. Ed Tollefson) and the Criminal Law Amendment section (under Mr. Mosley). In summary, the Criminal Law Review Section dealt with the criminal law reform initiated by the LRCC and the Criminal Law Amendment Section dealt with ad hoc issues. Again, in summary, the LRCC would come up with proposals, the Criminal Law Review Section would consider it and consult on these proposals and thirdly, Parliament would act.

Around 1986, the formal process of consultations with the provinces had started to take shape: a meeting of senior officials, followed by a meeting of deputy ministers to culminate with a meeting of ministers of Justice. The December 1986 publication of a new proposed criminal code was an important event. At a meeting of senior officials, it was decided to create three working group composed of federal-provincial officials that would study and report on the General Part of the LRCC proposed criminal code. Thus, Working Groups on Chapter 2, 3 and 4 of the LRCC proposed criminal code were created. These working groups submitted three reports in January 1988.