

## **EDITORS' PREFACE**

### **Forum: “Contemporary Private and Public Law Responses to Climate Change”**

In October of 2022, Professor Janis Sarra presented the Ivan C. Rand Memorial Lecture, and it is her talk which is the focus of this Journal. Her talk begins to answer the critical question of how private parties can address climate change. Hers is a vision beyond advising citizens to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Instead, she highlights how private parties can sue in contract and in tort, gain public interest standing against the government, and use regulatory and legislative structures to advance public interests in climate change. This volume of the University of New Brunswick Law Journal examines the legal structures which can be utilized to combat climate change.

The climate crisis is one of global proportions. In that vein, there is a great deal of interaction between governments of different countries, raising conflict of laws issues. Climate change knows no boundaries, so international law is a vital tool in its management. Of course, governments are working to legislate in this area as well. Topics covered in this volume range from domestic legislative efforts to combat climate change, international approaches to climate change, conflict of laws issues, and the nexus between trade, emission regulation and the challenges that those regulators face. This volume also asks the question: how can we hold ourselves, and governments to come, accountable?

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This volume is somewhat brief. Its brevity is not a representation of a lack of effort. We searched far and wide for contributors. This is a burgeoning area of the law. What we have presented here is thinking from legal scholars from around the country on what Canada is doing, what other countries are doing, what international organizations are doing, and what we should be doing to address one of the most significant catastrophes and existential threats of this century. For certain, more research is necessary in this area. As such, this volume represents a call to action for more investment in the legal research and training that will generate solutions to a problem of increasing urgency.

Rebekah Robbins & Graham Manderville  
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