

Introduction

The cover illustration depicts a scale of justice upon which the environment and society hangs in the balance with a purse full of money, a visual representation of the governmental spending power. This theme of the balance between governmental policy objectives and the use of financial incentives to obtain them was the focus of a symposium entitled "The Power of the Purse: Financial Incentives as Regulatory Instruments," held at the University of Calgary in October 1990. This special issue of the *Alberta Law Review* is a collection of the principal papers presented at that symposium which was sponsored by the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

At the symposium, it was recognized that there has been a growing trend towards the use of a wide variety of "incentive-based" government programs to fulfil regulatory objectives rather than overtly "sanction-based" regimes. While the academic literature in the administrative and economic sciences have canvassed this issue, the Law Reform Commission symposium sought to expand the discussion of incentive based programs by examining the administrative and constitutional law issues arising from this use of the governmental spending power. Since incentive based programs now pervade every area of government's interaction with the business community, including for instance, taxation, environmental regulation and broadcasting, these papers represent a valuable contribution to the legal literature in the area of administrative and regulatory law.

On behalf of the *Alberta Law Review*, I wish to thank the Law Reform Commission of Canada, the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary and the Canadian Institute for Resources Law for co-sponsoring this symposium on Financial Incentives as Regulatory Instruments. Particular thanks is due to Mr. John Frecker, previously of the Law Reform Commission, who both chaired the symposium and provided on-going support in the selection and publication of this collection of papers. The *Alberta Law Review* gratefully recognizes the financial support of the Alberta Law Foundation which funded the printing of this special issue in order that the benefits of the symposium could be made available to all Albertans.

This special issue also marks a milestone in the history of the *Alberta Law Review*. In 1990, Scott Bodie, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Alberta Law Review* (Edmonton) and Deirdre Mullen of The University of Calgary, Faculty of Law put forward a joint proposal for the publication of this issue as the inaugural project of the Calgary office of the *Alberta Law Review*. As Associate Editor-in-Chief I wish to apologize for the myriad of delays which arose in the publication of this volume due to the inexperience of the new Calgary office and the untimely demise of the Law Reform Commission. Many thanks is due to the authors for their patience, understanding and cooperation throughout this process. Finally, I wish to thank the present and previous boards of the *Alberta Law Review* for the editorial work done on this volume, Ms. Lorie Huising, who typeset it and Ms. Lori Fillo who provided the cover illustration.

I trust that you will find this a rewarding read and a profitable special issue of the Alberta Law Review, particularly if your practice encompasses the interaction between business and government.

Edward Rowe
Associate Editor-in-Chief
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