

# Privacy Rights in Crisis Across Country

A major international conference in Montreal last month raised concerns about diminishing privacy rights in Canada. Although a general right to privacy is constitutionally protected under sections 7 and 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the extent to which the state will

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## Go Online or Stand In Line

The Provincial Court of Alberta, Edmonton Criminal Division, is set to launch an innovative electronic filing program through the Alberta Courts website. The program will allow lawyers arguing a Charter of Rights and Freedoms violation to file notices of applications, briefs, and case

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## French Interpretation Is a Protected Right, But Who Pays?

Mr. Caron is an Albertan born man who was educated in Quebec. As a result, his primary language is French and his English is rudimentary, making English interpretation necessary for him to comprehend court proceedings. The relevant court proceedings arose

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# **Deportee May Remain in Canada to Complete Religious Conversion**

In an order dated September 4, 2007, Justice Harrington of the Federal Court of Canada postponed the deportation of Diogo Cichaczewski to Brazil on the basis that he had yet to complete his conversion to Judaism. The applicant, Mr. Cichaczewski

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# **New Gas Terminal Authorized to Alberta's Chagrin**

TransCanada Pipelines Ltd (Re) , a decision of the National Energy Board (NEB) dated July 1, 2007, the NEB approved a new receipt terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Gros Cacouna, Quebec . In the decision, the NEB confirmed that

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# **First Urban Treaty Ratified Under the BC Treaty Commission**

Canada's first urban treaty was ratified by the Tsawwassen First Nation on July 25, 2007. Despite needing the approval of only 50% of the registered voting population, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations voted 90% in favour of negotiating the treaty under

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# **Supreme Court Will Not Hear Panhandling Case**

The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear an appeal from the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision in *R v Banks*. The case concerns the constitutionality of provisions in Ontario's Safe Streets Act which prohibit certain types of solicitation and panhandling. The Ontario

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## **Paralegals to Receive Solicitor-Client Privilege?**

In a judgment dated July 20, 2007, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice decided the novel legal issue of whether the solicitor-client privilege extends to paralegals. The case is timely given that Ontario passed a law in 2006 (to take

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## **Off-Reserve Indians Allowed to Participate in Band Council Elections**

A man born on one of the reserves of the Leq'à:mel First Nation, successfully challenged provisions of the Leq'à:mel First Nation Election Regulations, arguing that they violated section 15(1) (equality) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Applicant, an off-reserve band member,

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# Reducing the Number of Frivolous Lawsuits

On June 19, 2007, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta passed Bill 18, or the Judicature Amendment Act, 2007 . The Bill is a legislative response to the growing number of frivolous lawsuits before Alberta courts. It expands section 23 of the previous Act by