

important aspect of this Convention for Canada was the inclusion of a Federal State Clause without which Canada could not be a participating party. The sale of goods is, under the Canadian Constitution, primarily a matter of provincial jurisdiction and accordingly requires the agreement of the provinces to enact enabling legislation within their jurisdictions. The Department of Justice is seeking the views of the provinces respecting ratification of the Convention.

In October 1973 the first Diplomatic Conference in the field of Private International Law convoked by the Government of the United States, was held in Washington, D.C. The Conference's purpose was to develop a standard form of will which would simplify procedures regarding estates of deceased persons leaving assets in two or more countries. The Governments of forty-two states were represented at the Conference. The draft Convention and Uniform Law which formed the basis of the Conference's work were prepared by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, known familiarly as UNIDROIT. The Conference drew up a Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of International Will, with annex. The annex contains the Uniform Law which must be introduced into the domestic legislation of states before it can become effective. Its principal attractive feature is that the international will is valid as regards form irrespective of the place where it is made, of the location of the assets, and of the nationality, domicile or residence of the testator. The Department of Justice is in contact with the competent provincial officials with a view to eventual implementation of the Uniform Law into domestic legislation.

In response to a growing number of requests from private groups and individuals concerned with international adoption, the provincial Deputy Ministers of Welfare formed an International Adoption Committee for the purpose of standardizing and harmonizing both inter-provincial and international adoption policies and procedures. A member of the Section served on the Committee as Department representative. At the same time, at the request of concerned groups, the Canadian Embassy has intervened with the competent Vietnamese authorities to attempt to obtain an earlier release of Canada-bound adoptive children. Talks are continuing in this respect.