with exceptions to be left to the discretion of the Court. If application for leave is made to a Provincial Court of Appeal or the Federal Court of Appeal, we assume that the present rules for such applications would continue to apply. Statistics show that relatively few applications for leave have been made to Provincial Courts of Appeal since 1949. In particular they have been rare since 1965. It is possible that they might take on some renewed importance if our principal recommendation is accepted. Leaves have been granted sparingly in the Provincial Courts of Appeal up to this time and only in matters of substantial importance to litigants generally, and we expect that this would continue to be the case. Accordingly, if our main recommendation is accepted, we do not believe the granting of leave by Provincial Courts of Appeal or the Federal Court of Appeal would get out of hand and overburden the Supreme Court of Canada with an excessive number of cases. Further, in a country as large and diverse as Canada, the Provincial Courts might, in certain instances, perceive elements of public importance to their areas in an application for leave to appeal that might not be apparent to the Supreme Court in Ottawa.

In other words, if our principal recommendation is accepted, we are also recommending that present procedures for processing applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada should be continued. We expect these procedures to be equal to the greater burden of applications that would then develop, but, should experience prove this not to be so, then other methods would have to be considered.