

The current version of the MOPOP chapter 17 deals exclusively with sequence listing submissions and deposits of microorganisms and was prepared in 1998 to provide guidance to examiners and practitioners as a result of amendments to the *Patent Act* and *Patent Rules* in 1996.

The present draft has been written to update, consolidate and codify practices for the various users of the manual in view of jurisprudence, amendments to the *Act* and *Rules*, and emerging technologies. The draft consequently both updates and expands upon the 1998 chapter.

While little has changed in the past 10 years with respect to biological deposits and the Budapest Treaty, there have been a number of amendments to the PCT sequence listing regulations. These regulations have now been incorporated into the Canadian *Patent Rules*, and are reflected in the draft chapter.

The new chapter also includes sections on virtually every area of examination, including patentable subject matter, utility, sufficiency, novelty, ingenuity, and claims. While these topics are not in a broad sense new to the MOPOP, chapter 17 includes a discussion of these in respect of inventions in biotechnology. For many topics, guidance of a general nature as well as specific guidance in the fields of biotechnology has been given in view of limited content in the existing chapters of the manual. A feature of the new chapter is a large number of example claims intended to better clarify Office practice.