

MUNICIPAL, PLANNING and ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Thursday, February 6, 2025 | 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Friday, February 7, 2025 | 9:00 am – 4:15 pm

Program Chairs (Municipal Law):

Steven Dickson, Town of Caledon

Jonathan J. Nehmetallah, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Program Chairs (Environmental Law):

Diana Weir, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Denisa Mertiri, Ontario Power Generation

PLENARY SESSIONS

MUNICIPAL and PLANNING
LAW SESSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
SESSIONS

DAY 1 | THURSDAY, February 6, 2025

12:30pm	Inter-sections Networking Lunch	
1:30pm	Welcome & Opening Remarks	
1:35pm	<p>Your Critical Update on the Ontario Land Tribunal</p> <p>Join us for an essential update directly from the OLT on timely and important topics for your practice.</p> <p>Vice Chair William Middleton, Ontario Land Tribunal Lindsay Dale-Harris, Mediation Services Team, Ontario Land Tribunal</p>	
2:05 pm	<p>Critical Legal Issues for Homeless Encampments on Public Lands Ajay Gajaria, Aird & Berlis LLP Jenna Morley, Loopstra Nixon LLP Wendy Walberg, City of Toronto</p>	<p>Navigating Greenwashing Amendments to the Competition Act: What You Need to Know Chris Hersh, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP Jennifer L. King, Gowling WLG Paul Johnson, Rideau Economics Irma Shaboian, Stikeman Elliott LLP</p>
3:05 pm	<p>Key Features of a Municipal Administrative Monetary Penalty System David J. Potts, City of Peterborough</p>	<p>PFAS in Focus: Navigating the Evolving Landscape of Regulation and Litigation in Canada</p> <p>With the surge in PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)-related litigation, these "forever chemicals" are becoming a critical issue for lawyers and businesses alike. This panel brings together leading practitioners who are at the forefront of PFAS regulation, to share an up-to-date look at the current legal and regulatory landscape. Discover the implications for Canadian businesses, key litigation trends, and the future of PFAS regulation as government scrutiny intensifies. Whether advising clients on compliance or defending against claims, this session is essential for understanding the complex challenges posed by PFAS in Canada.</p>



		Krista Barfoot , SLR Consulting Limited Michael S. Hebert , Mann Lawyers
3:30 pm	Inter-sections Networking Break	
3:50 pm	<p>Municipal Finance and Development Projects</p> <p>Don't miss this essential session focused on legal and economic updates to charges on development and the impacts to both the cost of housing and for a municipality's ability to provide services. Join our distinguished panel for an important discussion on legislative updates to Development Charges, the implementation of Community Benefit Charges, other municipal application fees, and other legal updates.</p> <p>Matthew Lakatos-Hayward, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP</p>	<p>RPRA Compliance and Enforcement Update</p> <p>Join us for an insightful discussion on the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority's (RPRA) pivotal role as the province's circular economy regulator. Explore how RPRA applies its progressive compliance strategies and enforcement tools to ensure stakeholders and fulfilling extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations, and what this means for your practice.</p> <p>Michelle Axbey, Senior Compliance Officer, Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority Barbora Grochalova, Legal Counsel, Compliance and Enforcement, Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority</p>
4:20 pm	<p>Case Law Update: The Latest in Municipal Law</p> <p>This ever-popular annual review will bring you up to speed on the latest in municipal case law. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about the most important decisions of the past year.</p> <p>Jody Johnson, Regional Municipality of Halton</p>	<p>Best Practices for Working with Consultants: Tales from the Other Side</p> <p>In this interview-style session, hear a leading practitioner and expert consultant share valuable insights on best practices and common pitfalls to avoid when working with consultants. The topics covered will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing effective instructions • Strategies for efficient drafting • Preparing to deliver expert testimony <p>Janet Bobechko, WeirFoulds LLP (moderator) Tamara Farber, Miller Thomson LLP Gerry Parrott, BlueFrog Environmental Consulting Inc.</p>
5:00pm	Inter-sections Networking Reception	



DAY 2 | FRIDAY, February 7, 2025

9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
9:05 am	<p>Advanced Roundtable on Land Use Planning</p> <p>The legal landscape for your practice is undergoing a seismic shift with Bill 185, the <i>Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2023</i>, which received Royal Assent on June 6, 2024, and the new <i>Provincial Planning Statement 2024</i>, which came into effect on October 20, 2024. Find out how leading practitioners in Ontario are navigating this new landscape including contentious and interesting topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits on third-party appeals • Expanded list of “specified persons” who have a right to appeal official plan and zoning amendments • Fundamental changes growth planning throughout Ontario under the new PPS <p>Chris Barnett, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP Christie Gibson, McCarthy Tétrault LLP Robert Howe, Goodmans LLP Stefan Krzeczunowicz, Hemson Consulting Ltd.</p>	
10:05 am	<p>A New Approach to Affordable Housing</p> <p>Governments are implementing initiatives aimed at meeting the significant housing needs of Canadians but, with demand reaching a crisis point, current approaches are unable to keep pace. Hear about the emerging Housing as Infrastructure model aimed at utilizing established infrastructure approaches to scale up housing delivery to better meet the ongoing need.</p> <p>Dante Capannelli, OBA Chair of Sections (moderator) Nick Gefucia, Senior Vice President, EllisDon Community Builders Alex Cheng, Director of Programs, Housing and Health, Blue Door</p>	
10:45 am	Networking Break	
11:00 am	<p>Advocacy before the Ontario Land Tribunal</p> <p>Hear valuable practitioner perspectives on tried-and-true approaches to issues that frequently arise before the OLT and how to effectively advance your client’s case.</p> <p>Paula Boutis, Town of Caledon J. Mark Joblin, Loopstra Nixon LLP</p>	<p>Prosecuting Environmental Offences in an Expanding AMPs Regime: MECP’s Enforcement Powers</p> <p>As administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) expand to cover more environmental contraventions, understanding the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks' (MECP) enforcement powers is essential. Our distinguished panel of public and private sector experts will share valuable insights into the evolving AMPs regime.</p> <p>Learn where AMPs can be imposed, how they interact with traditional environmental prosecutions, and the critical factors the MECP considers when determining penalty amounts. Whether advising clients or navigating enforcement actions, equip yourself with the knowledge to navigate this expanding regulatory landscape effectively.</p> <p>Matthew Gardner, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP Paul McCulloch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks</p>
11:30 am	<p>Need-to-Know Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act</p> <p>Get up-to-speed on the key issues affecting your practice due to the recent legislative changes to the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>.</p>	<p>Best Practices for Managing Environmental Issues in Infrastructure Projects</p> <p>Environmental issues can affect every phase of an infrastructure project, from planning to completion. Gather best practices from our expert speakers for</p>

	<p>Nancy Smith, TMA Law</p>	<p>managing critical environmental legal challenges. Learn practical strategies for dealing with Records of Site Condition, contamination and excess soil management.</p> <p>Discover how these environmental factors can influence other project risks and gain insights to mitigate potential legal and financial impacts. Whether you're managing large-scale infrastructure projects or advising on compliance, this session will equip you with essential tools to navigate complex environmental issues effectively.</p>
12:00 pm	<p>Case Law Update: The Latest in Expropriation Law</p> <p>Don't miss your essential review of recent case law to ensure you stay ahead of the curve in this ever-changing area of law.</p> <p>Sarah Spitz, Rayman Harris LLP Irene Wong, Scargall Owens-King LLP</p>	<p>Lana Finney, Blakes, Cassels & Graydon LLP Talia Gordner, McMillan LLP Geoff Mens, Ontario Power Generation – Denisa Mertiri, Ontario Power Generation (moderator)</p>
12:30 pm	Networking Lunch	
1:35 pm	<p>Professionalism in Multi-Party Environmental and Land Use Litigation: The Advice and Pitfalls You Need to Know</p> <p>Join our distinguished panel of advocates for an in-depth discussion on navigating the complexities of multi-party environmental, municipal, and land use planning disputes. Learn key professionalism strategies and how to avoid common pitfalls in these high-stakes cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing conflicts of interest, common interests, and diverging interests • Handling difficult and unreasonable opposing counsel • Implementing partial settlement agreements effectively • Navigating disclosure requirements for settlements or other litigation agreements • Maintaining effective client communication throughout the process <p>David Bronskill, Goodmans LLP Ted Brook, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP / S.E.N.C.R.L., s.r.l (moderator) Rosalind H. Cooper, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Signe Leisk, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP</p>	
2:35 pm	<p>Update on Recent Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act</p> <p>What is considered a prohibited activity under the <i>Act</i>? When can conservation authorities attach conditions to their permit? How does the <i>Act</i> now define “watercourse”? You’ll walk away with an important understanding on how these changes apply to your practice, especially the new O.Reg. 41/24: <i>Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits</i>.</p> <p>Alex Ciccone, Garrod Pickfield LLP Kristi M. Ross, Aird & Berlis LLP</p>	<p>Plastics Update: Key Legal Developments and Impacts on Environmental Law</p> <p>The federal government’s regulation of plastics is a pivotal issue for Canada’s environmental future. Hear critical insights into the latest legal developments impacting your environmental law practice, with a focus on the most recent updates from the Federal Court proceeding challenging Canada’s single-use plastics prohibition.</p> <p>Lindsay Beck, Ecojustice Canada Jennifer Fairfax, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP</p>
3:00pm	Networking Break	
3:15 pm	<p>Key Changes to the Expropriations Act</p> <p>This presentation will update recent development to procedural and substantive issues in Expropriation law, including recent decisions on constructive expropriation.</p> <p>Hear from a leading practitioner on these new developments.</p> <p>John S. Doherty, Gowling WLG</p>	<p>Environmental Case Law Update</p> <p>Join us for this session on the most important cases in environmental law in the past year. Ensure you have the insights you need to know to best represent your clients in the years ahead.</p> <p>Aditi Kara, Pro Bono Ontario Franz Lopez, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP</p>



3:45 pm	<p>Case Law Update: The Latest in Planning Law</p> <p>This essential annual review will bring you up to speed on the latest in planning case law. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about the most important decisions of the past year.</p> <p>Ian Flett, Ian Flett Professional Corporation</p>	<p>Waste Management in Ontario: Exploring Hot Topics and Emerging Trends</p> <p>Join us for an expert-led session delving into the latest hot topics in Ontario's waste management landscape from regulatory updates to innovative waste reduction strategies.</p> <p>Jessica Boily, Gowling WLG Peter Hargreave, Policy Integrity Inc.</p>
4:15pm	Program Concludes	

