

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW SEMINAR – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

9:00 – 9:05	Introduction
9:05 – 9:50	<p>Title: Indigenous Relations: Challenges, Possibilities, and the Future of Collaborative Governance.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Reece Harding and Julia Tikhonova</i></p> <p>Description: BC is the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP”) into law. Now that BC has prepared a draft action plan to achieve UNDRIP’s objectives, new possibilities are on the horizon for local governments to collaborate with Indigenous groups. As the impact of the <i>Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> (“DRIPA”) continues to evolve, this session will discuss the current and future role of local governments in Indigenous relations and the impact of DRIPA on new opportunities for reconciliation.</p>
9:55 – 10:40	<p>Title: <i>Vavilov</i> Update.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Alyssa Bradley and Barry Williamson</i></p> <p>Description: It has been a busy year in court for local governments making sense of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in <i>Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v. Vavilov</i>. An update will be provided on the various cases and the current legal landscape with respect to judicial review of local government decisions in light of <i>Vavilov</i>. The question remains: Is it good for local governments?</p>
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Title: Local Government Contracting: Common Pitfalls.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Joe Scafe</i></p> <p>Description: The power to contract is one of the key natural persons powers exercised by local governments. However, local governments are not free to contract in the same way as business corporations and individuals. The power is subject to various preconditions and limitations which if not observed may render a contract void. This session will explore the key requirements that should be considered before executing an agreement.</p>

11:35 – 12:20	<p>Title: Meetings: Selected Topics.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Sukh Manhas and Michael Moll</i></p> <p>Description: We all know that a validly held meeting is fundamental to the valid conduct of local government business. In this session, we will canvass a number of topics that regularly come up in the context of meetings, including, but not necessarily limited to: public notice and participation, maintaining decorum, electronic attendance and electronic meetings.</p>
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Presenters' Biographies:

Alyssa Bradley - graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology, and from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Laws. She practices general municipal law with a particular interest in environmental law.

Reece Harding - has a criminology degree and a law degree. His practice is primarily focused on general civil litigation, assessment law and environmental law with a particular interest in natural hazard risk mitigation.

Sukhbir Manhas - completed his law degree in May 1996 and has since then both advised the firm's clients on all facets of local government law, and represented them in proceedings before the courts, arbitrators and administrative tribunals.

Michael Moll - holds a number of degrees, including an LL.B and an MA in Economics from UBC. Michael has a mixed practice with a focus on litigation and bylaw enforcement, and has been a regular speaker at the Licence Inspectors and Bylaw Officers Association annual conference.

Joe Scafe - holds a degree in History from the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. Joe maintains a general municipal law practice with a particular interest in property, commercial and procurement law.

Julia Tikhonova – holds a law degree from the University of Victoria and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature and Sociology from the University of British Columbia. Julia maintains a broad practice in all areas of local government law.

Barry Williamson - spent his first six years of practice with the Crown Counsel's office, then four years with the City of Vancouver Law Department. Barry is the firm's senior trial litigator.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW SEMINAR – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021

9:00 – 9:05	Introduction
9:05 – 9:50	<p>Title: Workplace Caselaw Update.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Carolyn MacEachern, Michelle Blendell and Pam Costanzo</i></p> <p>Description: The law applying to the workplace is evolving and adapting to the current issues and changes affecting all employers. Join us for a discussion of recent cases of interest in the areas of employment law, labour relations, and human rights. We will review decisions by the Human Rights Tribunal, labour arbitrators and the courts to assist local governments develop effective strategies and reduce legal risks in these uncertain times.</p>
9:55 – 10:40	<p>Title: What’s the Problem with Bias?</p> <p><i>Presented by: Kathleen Higgins and Nick Falzon</i></p> <p>Description: Elected officials are often quick to declare conflicts of interest in respect of matters in which they have a chance to gain a direct or indirect financial benefit. But the <i>Community Charter</i> also requires elected officials to abstain from voting on matters that constitute non-pecuniary conflicts of interest. What is “another interest in the matter that constitutes a conflict of interest”? Along with an update on the most recent conflict of interest caselaw, this session dives into the law around “bias” and considers the interplay between administrative law fairness principles and the conflict of interest provisions.</p>
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Title: What’s New in the World of Freedom of Information?</p> <p><i>Presented by: David Loukidelis, Amy O’Connor and James Barth</i></p> <p>Description: The law and procedure around freedom of information as it applies to local governments is constantly evolving. This session will provide an update on recent significant decisions. It will include recent cases about vexatious requesters, the rights of third parties to notification, and more. We will also explore areas that are often tricky or contentious for local governments to navigate, such as charging fees for commercial applicants and managing access requests affecting bylaw enforcement.</p>

11:35 – 12:20	<p>Title: Official Community Plans.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Guy Patterson, Timothy Luk and Alexandra Greenberg</i></p> <p>Description: For the first time in the storied history of the firm seminar, we offer a comprehensive look at the law of official community plans: mandatory and optional content; public consultation and other special pre-adoption procedures; legal effect of an adopted plan; designating development permit and temporary use permit areas, and adopting guidelines for the issue of permits in those areas; and relevant decisions of the superior courts.</p>
12:25 – 1:10	<p>Title: Caselaw Update: Tasty Leftovers.</p> <p><i>Presented by: Mike Quattrocchi and Sarah Strukoff</i></p> <p>Description: Interesting local government law cases from the past year (with no discussion of standard of review!).</p>

Presenters' Biographies:

James Barth – holds an honours degree in psychology from Mount Alison University and a law degree from UBC. After obtaining his Juris Doctor in 2021, James joined the firm in May 2021 as an articling student.

Michelle Blendell - practices in the area of workplace law with an emphasis on labour relations, human rights and employment law matters. Before joining the firm, Michelle worked for a boutique union-side labour law firm for more than seventeen years.

Pam Costanzo - holds a Masters degree in Occupational Health and Safety and, prior to joining Young, Anderson, worked for various Vancouver-area firms practicing exclusively in the areas of labour, employment and human rights. Pam's practice at Young, Anderson focuses on the area of labour and human resources and investigations.

Nick Falzon - holds a Bachelor of Arts in Greek and Roman Studies from the University of Victoria and a law degree from Dalhousie University. Nick's practice involves advising on general municipal law issues with a focus on litigation matters.

Alexandra Greenberg - holds a Bachelor and Masters degree in Law. Alexandra joined Young, Anderson as an associate in September of 2021, after completing full articles with the firm. She maintains a broad municipal law practice, with particular interests in real estate and development.

Kathleen Higgins - has an honours degree in history and a law degree from UBC. She has practiced general municipal law for over 25 years with a focus on planning and development, real estate, and environmental matters.

David Loukidelis - is Associate Counsel at Young, Anderson. With over thirty years of practice under his belt, David provides expert, practical advice to the firm's clients on a wide range of issues, including freedom of information law, privacy law, lobbying and conflict of interest law.

Timothy Luk - holds a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning and a law degree from UBC. Prior to joining Young, Anderson, Timothy spent several years as in-house legal counsel for a national insurance provider. He currently maintains a broad legal practice with a focus on land use law.

Carolyn MacEachern - obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Simon Fraser University in 1992 and a law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1997. Carolyn practices in the area of labour and human resources, and also advises clients on freedom of information matters.

Amy O'Connor - obtained her Juris Doctor from Thompson Rivers University and was called to the bar of British Columbia in May 2019. Amy maintains a broad municipal law practice, with particular interests in environmental and aboriginal law.

Guy Patterson - holds a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning. Before Law School he clerked at the British Columbia Supreme Court and worked as a local government planner in British Columbia. Guy joined the firm as an associate after articling with the firm, and now advises local governments on a variety of matters.

Mike Quattrocchi - holds a Masters degree in Economics and a law degree. He was an associate at a large Vancouver law firm before joining the firm. He practices general municipal law, with a particular interest in property law, environmental law and commercial law.

Sarah Strukoff - obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Victoria in 2017 and her Juris Doctor from Thompson Rivers University in 2020. After completing temporary articles and full articles at Young, Anderson, Sarah joined the firm as an associate in May 2021.