

CARLA R. CONKIN LL.B.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Federal Appointments:

- **Arbitrator – Pipeline Arbitration Committee (Natural Resources Canada)**– (as of April 26, 2023) – Ministerial Appointment by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada re: pipeline dispute pursuant to the *National Energy Board Act*
- **Vice Chair– Inuvialuit Arbitration Board** (as of April 29, 2022) – Governor in Council appointment, on the recommendation of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, pursuant to the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.
- **Commissioner - Impact Assessment Agency of Canada** (current as of March 11, 2021)
 - Ministerial Appointment issued by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to sit as a Review Panel member for resource development projects under Federal jurisdiction
 - Cross-appointed for integrated assessments for the Canada Energy Regulator and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Consulting and Expertise Sharing:

Carla Conkin, LL. B., Barrister & Solicitor and CC Consulting – Resource Development, Regulatory and Governance

- Innovative partnerships and strategic system thinking solutions
- Environmental Impact Assessments and Technical Reviews – Full Project Life Cycle Permitting
- Addressing broad base of multi-stakeholder interests, projects and issues in land and water use, management and regulation in Canada
- Permitting/authorization process optimization
- Policy and Government Relations
- Indigenous/Industry partnered projects – EA and strategic/system expertise and capacity building

United Nations Environmental Programme – Expert Reviewer (October 2024 – January 2025) for UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (Geo-7)

Member – International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) (since 2023) – **Speaker at the IAIA May 2025 Bologna Conference – Cumulative Impacts**

Member – Western & Northern Canada Affiliate of IAIA (since 2025)

Standards Council of Canada -Technical Committee Member (current since 2014)– Development of International Mine Reclamation Standards for International Standards Organization (ISO/TC82/SC7) – providing expert input as part of Canada’s team of technical experts

Practice of Law:

Carla R. Conkin, LL.B., Barrister & Solicitor – Environmental, Natural Resource, Regulatory and Indigenous Law including:

- Land, Water (Water Rights and Security), Forestry, Impact Assessment/Regulatory reviews, complex issues, dispute resolution and litigation
- Access to Justice files and funding through West Coast Environmental Law and the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. Areas of focus:
 - Complex multi-jurisdictional and multi-stakeholder environmental issues;
 - Issues at all levels of government – local, provincial, federal and Indigenous
 - Marine and Oceans Law
 - Forestry issues and litigation
 - Conservancies and Land Trusts
 - Gulf Islands and Islands Trust issues

Spruce Notary and Legal -Agent Lawyer practicing land and natural resource law, Kootenay region of British Columbia

PAST ENDEAVORS:

Clean Growth Program Expert Panel Review Member – Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) (2018)

- \$155 million federal program to fund and support clean growth technology and innovation
- Panel is responsible for technical review and recommendations for project proposals, specifically significant reclamation and remediation advancement - energy and mining, including oil sands

Director Territorial Lands Administration (Apr. 2014 – Aug. 2017)

Department of Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

- Responsible for land administration and authorizations for over 80% of the land mass of the Northwest Territories – mining, oil and gas, energy projects, forming part of an integrated regulatory framework of land and water regulation, involving co-management regimes, federal boards and multi-stakeholder complexities
- New and innovative policy development in the area of integrated regulatory reform for land and water regulation, reclamation standards and financial assurances, emphasizing the critical role of land leasing as part of the GNWT’s new regime of land authorities

Director, Liabilities and Financial Assurances (Apr. 2014- Feb. 2016)

Department of Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

- Deputy Minister Special Assignment - Mission: to ensure that environmental and reclamation obligations arising from resource development projects would be met through advanced and unprecedented policy making

- Development of policies, systems, intelligence and processes necessary to identify, quantify and mitigate the environmental risk and financial exposure for the GNWT inherent in resource development while supporting the Government's goals to facilitate industrial investment in a sustainable NWT resource economy
- Direct reporting to the Deputy Minister of Lands, providing advice to a Resource Management Committee of Deputy Ministers, the Financial Management Board and Cabinet, working with regulatory Departments, Central Agencies to inform key decision making at the highest levels of the GNWT
- Accountability for the management of up to a \$1 billion portfolio of financial securities and the associated environmental liability exposure of the GNWT

Senior Legislative Policy Advisor (Nov. 2012 – Apr. 2014 – Seconded from Department of Justice, Canada) Devolution Implementation Office, Department of the Executive, GNWT

- Regulatory subject matter expert for various elements of Devolution Implementation relating to resource development and contaminated sites regarding historic transfer of federal authorities to the GNWT
- Policy and strategic analysis of federal land and resource legislation; multi-faceted operational and risk management advice for Devolution transition (e.g. reconciling the complexities of ongoing federal environmental legislation and oil and gas legislation and new regulatory legislation and roles for multiple GNWT departments)
- Strategy briefings at Deputy Minister and Cabinet/Ministerial levels

Lawyer - Department of Justice Canada (DOJ) (Feb. 2003 – Apr. 2014)

- Specialty: Resource Development Law, Regulatory and Environmental Assessment, Contaminated Sites, Administrative and Indigenous Law
- Representation, strategy and policy support for multiple federal departments (e.g. INAC, EC, DFO, PWGSC)
- Major Project Lead Counsel for various projects – Canada's Diamond Mines (Rio Tinto/Diavik Diamond Mine, BHP Billiton Ekati Mine, De Beers Gahcho Kue); Team Counsel for Mackenzie Gas Pipeline; Department of Justice Project Lead for Giant Mine Remediation Project (5 years)

Example: Giant Mine 2007-2012

- Lead Counsel, Department of Justice, Canada, for the federal government's mega project and remediation plan for one of Canada's most contaminated sites
- Developed new system approaches to efficiently anticipate the strategic needs and leadership required as the site and project requirements shifted and adjusted
- Pioneered approaches to risk assessment and management, drawing from international standards, stretching beyond the role typical of counsel
- Major challenges to move the federal government's remediation plan through the multiyear regulatory system (the same one used for resource development projects) while maintaining the fragile site, and managing risks to human health and the environment that could be exacerbated by any delay
- 2010 – National Award received: Department of Justice Deputy Minister National Award of Excellence for exemplary legal work on the Giant Mine project
- Giant Mine is located within the city limits of the capital, Yellowknife, and contains over 237,000 tonnes of water soluble arsenic trioxide stored in underground stopes next to one of the world's largest fresh water lakes, Great Slave Lake. This massive water body feeds the Mackenzie River which flows north into the Arctic Ocean. Project uses novel remediation methods that must withstand melting permafrost and the impacts of climate change.
- Created DOJ Pan Northern Contaminated Sites Working Group (Chair)
- Created DOJ NWT Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Working Group (Chair)

Lawyer - City of Edmonton Law Branch (Mar. 2001 – Dec. 2002)

Edmonton, Alberta

- Expertise: Municipal, Administrative, Property, Commercial and Intellectual Property Law.
- Representing Asset Management and Community Services departments for a major Canadian municipality.

Lawyer/Solicitor 1994-2001–Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories
Expertise: Commercial Law and Financing; Real Property and Land Development:

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2021 to present (1996-2001) – Law Society of British Columbia

2003 to present - Law Society of Northwest Territories

1994 to present - Law Society of Alberta

2022 to present – Member of ADR Institute of British Columbia, affiliate of ADR Institute of Canada

EDUCATION

1990-1993 Bachelor of Laws, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

1986-1990 Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction), University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

RECOGNITION and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nomination/Short Listed: 2017 Fellowship – Harvard University Advanced Leadership Initiative

Awards:

- **Justice Canada Deputy Minister National Award of Legal Excellence** - Lead Counsel Giant Mine Remediation Project (June 2010)
- Justice Canada - Northern Region Merit Award: Mentorship
- Justice Canada - Northern Region Merit Award: Legal Advice Excellence
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Award – Diavik Water Licence Hearings

Policy/Papers/Articles:

- **International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) May 2025 Bologna, Italy Conference Speaker – Paper and Presentation: “Cumulative Impact Assessment – Local Action, Emerging Implications and What To Do About It”**
- United Nations Environmental Programme – Expert Reviewer (October 2024 – January 2025) for UNEP’s Global Environment Outlook (Geo-7)
- “BC Coastal Residents Hire Lawyers as Battle Against Shipbreaking Operation Intensifies”, Paul Johnson, Global News, December 24, 2024. <https://globalnews.ca/news/10932990/bc-coastal-residents-lawyers-battle-against-shipbreaking/>
- “Shipbreaking – Regulatory Maze” Baynes Sound Lambert Channel Ecoforum, November 2024,

- *“Natural Resource Sector- Impacting the Future of ADR”* – Presentation for 2024 ADRBC Symposium: Adapting and Thriving in a Rapidly Changing World, June 2024
- *“Integrated Risk Management – Reconsidering Financial Assurances and Environmental Liabilities”* – Presented to Makeway c/o Northern Confluence Initiative, September 2021
- *“Regulatory Regime Integration: Hitting the Reset Button”*, Canadian Mining Magazine, Winter 2020
- *“Guidelines for Financial Assurances”* - Liabilities and Financial Assurances Division, Government of the Northwest Territories (Draft -December 2015); unprecedented guidelines, drawing from international trends, addressing estimation methodologies and management of financial assurances as a policy and operational tool for risk/reward management
- *“Financial Assurances and Environmental Liabilities in the Northwest Territories – Lessons from Canada’s Arctic”*(Abstract and Paper accepted October 2015) - 11th International Conference on Mine Closure, Perth Australia
- *“Best Practices -Giant Mine Remediation – One of Canada’s Most Highly Contaminated Sites”* Legal Risk Management, Scanning News, Department of Justice Canada, May 2010

Courses: Completed “The Professional Development Institute – Leadership, Strategic Negotiation and Risk Management”: Alain Paul Martin, Harvard/MIT leadership, negotiation and project/risk management expert and 2012 Harvard Fellow in Advanced Leadership

PAST PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY BOARD POSITIONS

Vice Chair - Canadian Bar Association Commercial/Real Property (Okanagan Subsection), Kelowna, British Columbia
 Director - YWCA, Edmonton, Alberta
 Director - YMCA-YWCA, Kelowna, British Columbia
 Board member - City of Kelowna Water Quality Task Force - cryptosporidium outbreak 1996
 Member - Urban Development Institute, Kelowna, British Columbia

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Co-Founder, Former Director/Secretary – East Kootenay Equestrian Association
 Member – Horse Council of British Columbia
 University of Guelph – enrolled: Diploma in Equine Studies
 Past Director at Large - Aurora Horse Association, NWT
 Former member - Alberta Equestrian Federation