



Environmental  
Law Centre

# 2021 *in Review*



# 2021: A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

*Dear Friends of the ELC,*

With the Covid pandemic still with us and a year of unstable oil and gas prices behind us, there is no question that Alberta is facing significant economic challenges ahead. With this, comes increased pressure and risk to Alberta's wild spaces and ecosystems. Recent disputes over coal mines and parks in Alberta illustrate the current and future policy choices that need our attention. These, and other increasing and conflicting recreational and economic demands on the environment, will need to be reconciled in a way that ensures the long-term protection and health of our ecosystems.

From climate action to contaminated sites, the Environmental Law Centre (ELC) is here to help sustain a healthy environment through policy evaluation and innovation. For 40 years, the ELC has played a key role in finding an effective law and policy path forward to ensure clean water, clean air, abundant species, and effective management of pollution in the province. Your support continues to ensure independent, balanced, and objective research, review and analysis of environmental and natural resources policy and regulation in Alberta.

As we look back on 2021, the ELC has been working to ensure foundational legal education resources are available to Albertans. This includes ongoing work on habitat laws, climate mitigation and adaptation and will soon be rounded off with a guide to water law in Alberta. We have set the stage for future work in ensuring climate mitigation efforts can occur efficiently and effectively and we have started new partnerships to leverage our work to tackle the difficult environmental challenges the province faces.

In the near future, our work will be focused on two priority areas. First, the ELC is pursuing programming to progress the rights of nature which includes educating on the different legal frameworks

for the protection of nature and sharing legal education resources. Second, the ELC will continue to proactively expand our partnerships with watershed planning councils, academics, nonprofit groups, and interested citizens to seek interdisciplinary solutions to Alberta's environmental challenges.

The ELC is also launching a campaign in 2022, titled the "Rights of Nature", to elevate the discourse on legislative approaches to better protect the environment. The work of advocating for laws that will sustain ecosystems and engaging with citizens to promote participation in legal processes continues to be critically important in Alberta. With your support, we will continue to pursue our vision of a society where our laws secure an environment that sustains current and future generations and supports healthy ecosystems.

Should you wish to learn more, we invite you to contact us directly for a conversation about our plans for 2022.

*JoAnn Jamieson  
President,  
Board of Directors*



*Jason Unger  
Executive Director*



# 2021: RESOURCES AVAILABLE

... A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

## WEBINARS

- [Here Comes the Sun: Solar Law in Alberta](#) with ELC's Rebecca Kauffman - October 2021
  - [Alberta's Agricultural Lands: A Policy Toolbox for Moving from Conversion to Conservation](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell - February 2021
- Reimagining Rivers Series**  
*in Partnership with the Centre for Constitutional Studies:*
- [Reimagining Rivers: Animals as Legal Beings](#) with Professor Maneesha Deckha and Associate Professor Jessica Eisen - October 2021
  - [Reimagining Rivers: Indigenous Jurisdiction and the Environment](#) with Professor Darcy Lindberg and Lawyer Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson - June 2021
  - [Reimagining Rivers: Magpie River as Person](#) with Yenny Vega Cárdenas, President of the Observatoire international des droits de la nature/ International Observatory of Nature Rights - June 2021

## REPORTS

- [Geothermal Energy Development in Alberta Brief: Liability Issues in Geothermal Resource Development](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell
- [Alberta's Geothermal Resources Regulatory Scheme](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell
- [Oil & Gas Liability in Alberta at a Glance](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell
- [So, you want to start a solar co-op?](#) by Rebecca Kauffman
- [Leasing your Condo for Solar Energy](#) by Rebecca Kauffman
- [Leasing your Land for Solar Energy](#) by Rebecca Kauffman
- [Here Comes the Sun: Solar Access in Alberta](#) by Rebecca Kauffman
- [Alberta's Agricultural Lands A Policy Toolbox for Moving from Conversion to Conservation](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell

In early 2022, watch for:

[Managing Forests Not Just Forestry: Law and Policy Recommendations for Ecosystem-Based Management for Alberta's Forests](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell

[Water Law in Alberta: A Comprehensive Guide](#) by Allison Boutillier

# 2021: ADVOCATING FOR REFORM



- 21 Jan [Alberta's Oil & Gas Liability Management Framework](#)
- 26 Jan [Procedural Fairness and the Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns](#)
- 03 Feb [Alberta's Agricultural Lands: A Policy Toolbox for Moving from Conversion to Conservation](#)
- 04 Feb [Take a Stand, Make Decisions Better](#)
- 07 Apr [I Read the Carbon Tax Decision So You Don't Have To: A Detailed Summary of the Main Issues](#)
- 20 Apr [ELC Submission on the Coal Policy](#)
- 27 Apr [An Update to CEPA – A long time coming or too little, too late?](#)
- 05 May [The Inquiry Into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns: What's Next?](#)
- 25 Jun [Coal, Climate & Cutthroat Trout: Some updates on coal in Alberta](#)
- 13 Jul [Coal Policy Engagement: Submissions to the Coal Policy Committee](#)
- 14 Jul [On the Road to 2050: The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act](#)
- 27 Jul [Bank Swallows and Motorsports](#)
- 23 Aug [Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying](#)
- 03 Sep [Geothermal Resource Development in Alberta: The ELC's comments on the Alberta Energy Regulator's proposed directive](#)
- 21 Oct [Accounting for Nature: The Kananaskis Conservation Pass](#)
- 26 Oct [A Yearly Update on Climate Change Litigation, the 2021 Edition](#)
- 28 Oct [Changes made to Alberta's forest laws in May 2021 but has anything really changed?](#)
- 29 Oct [The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is recognized as a universal human right](#)
- 03 Nov [On the wrong path: the proposed Trails Act needs changes to ensure trail management reflects science](#)
- 25 Nov [Extended Producer Responsibility in Alberta: A Few Inches Forward](#)
- 02 Dec [Action on Climate Needed Now!](#)
- 09 Dec [Managing oil and gas liability in Alberta: Changes are being made \(kind of\)](#)
- 14 Dec [Policy Tools To Support Geothermal Resource Development](#)
- 16 Dec [Still simmering... Alberta's geothermal resources development regulatory scheme](#)



# 2021: HOW YOU ENGAGED WITH US

**Website**  
2,700+ visitors per month

**Facebook**  
1,100+ reach every month

**Twitter**  
2,700+ impressions per month

**VISITORS & REACH**

This infographic features a yellow circular background with a megaphone icon on the left. It lists three data points: Website (2,700+ visitors per month), Facebook (1,100+ reach every month), and Twitter (2,700+ impressions per month). A black banner at the bottom contains the text 'VISITORS & REACH' in white.

18  
Webinars available to view on ELC website

This infographic shows a photograph of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop, looking at a computer monitor displaying a presentation. The background is a lush green forest. A green banner at the bottom contains the text '18 Webinars available to view on ELC website'.

**DOWNLOADS**  
OF ELC PUBLICATIONS SINCE 2016

230,000+

**PUBLICATIONS**  
AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD  
89

This infographic features a blue background with a green speedometer icon. It displays two main statistics: '230,000+ DOWNLOADS OF ELC PUBLICATIONS SINCE 2016' and '89 PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD'. The text is in white and black.

# 2022: WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON



## **Regulatory approaches to funding conservation and environmental protection**

How do we account for the costs of conservation and environmental protection? This project investigates different approaches to generate funding for environmental stewardship. This includes looking at Alberta and other jurisdictions for regulatory approaches: authorization specific levies, conservation specific tax allocations, and other regulatory tools.



## **Rights of Nature & Reimagining Rivers**

Alberta's habitat, water and species are often harmed due to failures in Our legal system. The *Rights of Nature* campaign will bring broad awareness to laws and policies and their interlinkage with nature and offer alternative paths forward.

The *Rights of Nature* campaign was initiated as part of ELC's work regarding how our laws and policies protect rivers. This focus on rivers, called "Reimagining Rivers", involves a collaboration with the Centre of Constitutional Studies based at the University of Alberta. This work will continue into 2022 and be expanded to include rights of nature more generally.



## **Water law in Alberta: An education guide**

An education guide on how laws of the province, the federal government and municipalities impact how we interact with water. This guide will provide Albertans with a legal education resource that aims to broaden understanding and knowledge about water law and to increase compliance with the law.

# 2021: WHAT WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR

*In 2021, you gave generously to stronger environmental laws and rights in Alberta that ensure Albertans continue to enjoy our clean air, clean water and a healthy environment.*

## MAJOR PROJECT SUPPORTER

*The Alberta Law Foundation  
supported several major  
projects in 2021*

Alberta **LAW**  
**FOUNDATION**

## FORESTS ACT PROJECT

*This project is made possible  
through a grant from Arnie J.  
Charbonneau Foundation and the  
Edmonton Community Foundation.*

**EDMONTON**  
**COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION

*Thank You!*

## GEOHERMAL WEBINAR SERIES

*This joint webinar series with  
CanGEA, the Canadian  
Geothermal Association, is  
made possible through a grant  
from The Calgary Foundation  
and the Alberta Law Foundation*

Alberta **LAW**  
**FOUNDATION**



**CALGARY**  
**FOUNDATION**  
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER

[View our 2020  
Financial Statement &  
Donor Listing online](#)

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS

**Arnie J.  
Charbonneau  
Foundation**

**Palmer Family  
Foundation**

*Your support makes  
all the difference*

# PARTNER SITES

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN ALBERTA

This Conservation Easements in Alberta website was created by the Environmental Law Centre and Miistakis Institute to help landowners, land trusts, municipalities and others find answers to questions related to conservation easements in Alberta.

VISIT



## COMMUNITY CONSERVE

Community Conserve was created to generate the environment and conservation research that municipalities need. Community Conserve is a partnership project of the Miistakis Institute, the Environmental Law Centre, with the support of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and Rural Municipalities Alberta.

VISIT



## ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS 101

Alberta Environmental Laws 101 is for Albertans interested in learning more about environmental law in our province. Check out the navigation guides for Teachers, Students and for those interested in environmental law to understand how to best access the site for your specific learning needs.

VISIT



# HELP OUR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE ENDOWMENT FUND AT THE EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In late 2019, the Environmental Law Centre announced it has opened an endowment fund.

The ELC Fund is held at the Edmonton Community Foundation. As the fund grows it will provide operational revenue to continue the Centre's work to ensure that our laws and policies protect the environment on which we all depend.

The Environmental Law Centre, since 1982, provides credible, comprehensive and objective legal information regarding natural resources, energy and environmental law, policy and regulation in Alberta. With your help, we have a unique opportunity to create and grow an endowment that will help ensure we can keep doing so well into the future.

There is no better opportunity to invest in protecting Alberta's environment today and for the future. The fund was created to allow for a truly lasting legacy for the Environmental Law Centre. Your donation qualifies for a charitable tax receipt from the Edmonton Community Foundation or the ELC. The fund dollars will be invested in perpetuity, generating funds for the ELC forever.

*Help us build our future and create your legacy. Please help us grow the Environmental Law Centre endowment fund today.*

**[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE FUND](#)**

# HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Please accept my gift to the Environmental Law Centre:

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$25.

Mail to: #410, 10115 100A Street, Edmonton AB T5J 2W2; or [make your gift securely online](#).

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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May we publicly acknowledge your gift?

Yes  No, I prefer to remain anonymous

*Yes, I'd like to become a Monthly Sustaining Donor!*

Please debit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month from my:

Bank Account (enclose a voided cheque)

Credit Card (fill out details below) or

*Enclosed is my one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_*  
*(Cheques payable to Environmental Law Centre)*

Please charge my  Visa  MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your tax-creditable donation makes a difference. You support the thousands of people who annually access our environmental information services. This year, we plan to raise \$100,000.\* Please contact our Fund Development and Marketing Director, Kara Tersen at [ktersen@elc.ab.ca](mailto:ktersen@elc.ab.ca) with any questions.  
\*it will cost us approximately \$25,000 (3%) of our annual budgeted revenues in 2022 to reach our fundraising goals.

# WHO WE ARE

*The ELC extends a special thank you to the dedicated team of volunteers and staff who provided leadership and strategic direction in 2021*

## **BOARD EXECUTIVE**

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TO SIGN UP FOR THE ELC E-NEWSLETTER: [ELC.AB.CA/NEWSANDMEDIA/NEWS/](http://ELC.AB.CA/NEWSANDMEDIA/NEWS/)

*Photos Courtesy: Kara Tersen, [Travel Alberta](#), [Unsplash.com](#), [Pixabay.com](#)*