



Environmental
Law Centre

ALBERTA ENVIRO LAW CONNECT

*Championing laws for
clean air, clean water
and a healthy
environment*

At the Environmental Law Centre (ELC), the law is fundamental to protection of the environment.

To spearhead this, and with your support, the ELC undertakes educational and law reform initiatives that address some of the most pressing environmental issues of our times: climate change, sustainable communities, and conservation of biological diversity. With this launch of our new newsletter *Alberta EnviroLaw Connect*, we invite you to read on for updates on these projects and how you can help.

**Is it possible to develop our resources without destroying the environment or harming people's quality of life?
You can help us address this and other critical questions.**

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE

SPRING
2017

CONTACT US:
Environmental Law Centre
#410, 10115 100a Street Edmonton,
Alberta T5J 2W2
Phone: (780) 424-5099
Toll Free: 1-800-661-4238

elc@elc.ab.ca
elc.ab.ca

Charitable Registration
#11890 0679 RR0001

Welcome Jason Unger as ELC's new Executive Director

Perhaps you've read a few of Jason's blog posts and wondered about his unique sense of humour and talent with the written word. Jason has been staff counsel with the ELC for more than 10 years. We are delighted that Jason will now bring his talents and commitment to protecting the environment to the ELC as Executive Director.

Jason agreed to a brief Q&A so we could find out a few other tidbits about our new fearless leader. [Read our interview with him online.](#)



Partner with us today to champion this vision of a better future where our children and grandchildren continue to enjoy our clear air, clean water and a healthy environment.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Climate Change blog series is
generously funded by:

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION



On climate change, the climate leadership plan, carbon taxes and more

In late 2015, the Alberta Government released its Climate Leadership Plan, a high-level policy document based upon the recommendations of the Climate Change Advisory Panel. The Climate Leadership Plan focuses on four key areas for further development:

- implementing a new carbon price on greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution,
- phasing out coal-generated electricity and developing more renewable energy,
- legislating an oil-sands emissions limit, and
- employing a new methane emission reduction plan.

Climate change litigation, in Canada and around the world, is even now only at conception stage and is likely to become an increasingly important point of legal consideration (especially as governments give increased attention to climate change issues and as climate change impacts begin to manifest).

In response to these developments, the ELC is publishing the **Climate Change Legal Roadmap** series and a blog series – exploring climate change law and developments in other jurisdictions, insights from our related law reform research and making recommendations for Alberta.

Are you concerned about climate change and want to better understand recent climate-related policy and legislation? **Your support is needed today** to ensure that we can continue to examine these issues and make this information available to all Albertans.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS and POSTS:

- [Climate Change Legal Roadmap: Carbon Pricing Recommendations for Alberta: Lessons from the Latest Developments in WCI Jurisdictions](#)
- [Climate Change Legal Roadmap: A Snapshot of Alberta's Climate Change Law & Policy](#)
- [Climate Change Law Blog Series: Cities and Climate Change](#)

And much more on the ELC blog on Climate and Energy issues:
elc.ab.ca/category/climate-and-energy/



Environmental
Law Centre

Stay connected! Visit www.elc.ab.ca to check out our blog
or sign up for our e-newsletter.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

PROJECT SUPPORTER:
ASSESSMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN
ALBERTA



PROGRAM SUPPORTER:
ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF
RIGHTS IN ALBERTA

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION



Environmental
Law Centre

Do we have the rights we need?

Most Canadians and Albertans are in the privileged position of living with clean air and clean water yet many in Canada still live with degraded (and often dangerous) water quality, poor air quality and threats to biodiversity. A fundamental question, then, is whether having access to clean air and water and a healthy environment a privilege or a right?

Laws which grant and protect rights to a clean and healthy environment provide us with tools to maintain our environment today and for future generations.

The ELC has undertaken a review of the current state of environmental rights in Alberta and notes there are clear deficiencies in Alberta's current treatment of environmental rights.

The Environmental Law Centre is publishing a series of educational materials concerning legal rights related to environmental quality. This work is in support of enacting laws that will foster environmental quality for future generations of Albertans.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS and POSTS:

- ◆ [ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN ALBERTA: Phase I: Do We Have The Rights We Need?](#)
- ◆ [ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN ALBERTA: Module 1: Substantive Environmental Rights](#)
- ◆ [ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN ALBERTA: Module 2: Third Party Oversight and Environmental Rights](#)
- ◆ [ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN ALBERTA: Module 3: Citizen Enforcement for Environmental Quality](#)



Want to help strengthen environmental rights and responsibilities in Alberta? [Support the ELC today.](#)

Other ELC Projects

OTHER PROJECTS

Municipal Government Act Review: Enabling community environmental action

Municipalities have a central role to play in environmental management. They have the responsibility for local land use planning through the use of statutory plans (for example, municipal development plans and area structure plans) and land use by-laws and development, through subdivision and development permit processes. The ELC would like to see municipalities fully empowered to take actions to protect the environment.

Since 2014 when the Municipal Government Act (MGA) review was first announced, the ELC has commented, reviewed existing and proposed legislation, participated in open houses, and submitted recommendations as it is our view that municipalities have a pivotal role to play in environmental management and protection in Alberta. [See more about this project online.](#)



Environmental Law in High Schools

With support from the Alberta Law Foundation, the ELC has launched a program to bring environmental law education into Alberta high schools.

By partnering with schools and teachers from across Alberta we will design materials tailored to complement existing Science and Social Studies curriculums. Materials are being developed to be introduced to a select number of students in a pilot program, before introducing this critical area of study to 150,000 high school students across Alberta in due course.

If you are a high school teacher or know one who would be interested in participating in the development of this program, please contact elc@elc.ab.ca



Environmental
Law Centre

Want to help strengthen environmental rights and responsibilities in Alberta? [Support this work today.](#)

GREEN REGS 'N' HAM

EVENT SPONSORS



Community Initiatives Program
Alberta Culture and Tourism



PROGRAM SUPPORTER:



Environmental
Law Centre

GREEN REGS 'N' HAM OCTOBER 5, 2016:

100 people from a variety of fields: oil and gas, environmental consulting, government agencies and other industry gathered for the *Green Regs 'n' Ham* breakfast. Hosted by the ELC, speakers Andrew Leach and Sharon Mascher tackled the topic: *Is a carbon tax our next Lorax?*

Energy and environmental economist Andrew Leach - who was Chair of the Climate Leadership Panel in Alberta and is Associate Professor at the Alberta School of Business at the University of Alberta - provided an excellent overview on the development and implementation of Alberta's carbon tax. In the course of his discussion, he noted that carbon taxes are already included in most companies' planning and many other factors rank higher on investor concerns than the potential impacts of a carbon tax.

Sharon Mascher, from the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, noted that a carbon tax alone cannot solve the climate change problem. Carbon taxes must be supported with other instruments to make a real difference in mitigating climate change. Sharon further noted that carbon taxes may need to be increased in order to meet Canada's obligations under the Paris Agreement, which may be likely to shift behaviours to lower carbon emissions. She encouraged Albertans to be leaders and innovators, as there is now significant and positive international attention on British Columbia and Alberta for taking positive steps towards addressing climate change.



L-R: Sharon Mascher, Greg Taylor (Director, ELC), Ian Murray (Director, ELC), Jason Unger (ED, ELC), Andrew Leach, Sean Parker (Director, ELC)

THANK YOU to our sponsors who made this event possible: **Devon Canada, Community Initiatives Program (Alberta Culture and Tourism)**. University of Alberta law students (from the Environmental Law Students Association) enjoyed the breakfast, courtesy **Burnett Duckworth and Palmer LLP**.

SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU!

In 2016, you gave generously to stronger environmental laws and rights in Alberta that ensure Albertans continue to enjoy our clean air, clean water and healthy environment. We just can't say it enough: **THANK YOU!**

Garry Appelt

Cheryl Bradley

Pam Bryan

John Cuthbertson

Corbin Devlin

David Duggan

Dr. Raquel L. Feroe

Timothy Haufe

David Y.F. Ho

Thomasine A. Irwin

James Gendron

Josephine V. Yam

Arlene Kwasniak

John Lawson

Debra Lindskoog

Alastair R. Lucas

McLennan Ross LLP

Michael & Barbara Morin

Letha MacLachlan Environmental
& Resources Law Professional
Corporation

Glen and Lois Mumey

Rod Olstad

Sarah Palmer

Sean Parker

David Poulton

Mary Richardson

Kara Tersen

Donna Tingley

Cliff Wallis

and other donors who prefer to
remain anonymous

CONTACT US:

Environmental Law Centre

#410, 10115 100a Street Edmonton,
Alberta T5J 2W2

Phone: (780) 424-5099

Toll Free: 1-800-661-4238

elc@elc.ab.ca

elc.ab.ca

Charitable Registration

#11890 0679 RR0001



Environmental
Law Centre

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

JoAnn Jamieson, President

Tim Haufe, Vice-President

Ian Murray, Secretary/
Treasurer

Directors at Large

Robert Nichol

Gregory Taylor, Ph. D.

Cameron MacLennan

Dave Poulton

Dr. Damilola Olawuyi

Sean Parker

Dr. Ludwig (Lu) Carbyn

[Read more about our Board of
Directors and their bios online](#)

As a charity, the Environmental Law Centre depends on the support of your charitable donations, as well as grants and sponsorships to fulfill its mission to educate and champion for strong environmental laws and rights so that all Albertans can enjoy clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. **Your support makes a difference!**



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We'd love to hear from you. We appreciate all feedback and suggestions. Mail to: #410, 10115 100A Street, Edmonton AB T5J 2W2; Fax: 780-424-5133; email your scanned reply to: elc@elc.ab.ca or [make your gift securely online](#).

Thank you for your support!

| | |
|--|--|
| What kind of events would you like to attend? | |
| Do you have a message you'd like to share with our Board of Directors or our Executive Director? | |
| How can we improve our communications to you? | |
| Why do you support the Environmental Law Centre? | |

Please accept my gift to the Environmental Law Centre:

My Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ PC. _____

May we publicly acknowledge your gift?

Yes No, I prefer to remain anonymous

Make a secure donation online: www.elc.ab.ca

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

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 Am/Ex

Card Number: _____

CVC Code: _____ Expiry: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

CONTACT US:

Environmental Law Centre

#410, 10115 100a Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2W2

Phone: (780) 424-5099

Toll Free: 1-800-661-4238

elc@elc.ab.ca

elc.ab.ca

Charitable Registration #11890 0679 RR0001



Environmental
Law Centre

Your tax-creditable donation makes a difference. You support the thousands of people who annually access our online and in-person environmental information services. This year, we plan to raise \$135,000.* Please contact our Fund Development and Marketing Director, Kara Tersen at ktersen@elc.ab.ca with any questions you may have.

**it will cost us approximately \$25,000 (18.5%) to reach our fundraising goals*