



Environmental
Law Centre

2022 *Year Review*

The mission of the Environmental Law Centre is to advocate for laws that will sustain ecosystems and ensure a healthy environment and to engage citizens in the law's creation and enforcement.

Our vision is a society where our laws secure an environment that sustains current and future generations and supports ecosystem health.

2022: A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of the ELC,

A time of reflection and a time of opportunity.

As we make our way in 2023 the ELC is reflective on past challenges and is optimistic for the future. In this year-end review, the ELC reflects on major projects that were rolled out in 2022, including:

- A comprehensive guide to water law in the province;
- A review of forestry law in the province;
- New opportunities to generate revenue for environmental management; and
- Reimagining rivers workshop and webinars.

This was among other projects that are being researched and rolled out in the early 2023, including:

- Detailing the challenges of environmental regulation in the context of the Canadian Constitution;
- Review and analysis of current contaminated sites legislation and jurisprudence.

From an organizational perspective we are optimistic for the ELC's future to increase our strategic focus on robust evaluation of laws and policies and environmental decision making in the province. We recognize that often the letter of the law is only part of the picture and evaluation of decision-making processes must become more of a focus.

New projects launching in Spring of 2023 include a focus on elevating the discussion around species at risk, providing context for new legislation to address species at risk in the province. We will also be starting a project focus on evaluation of decision making and how these decisions are protecting, or failing to protect, Alberta's native grasslands.

Finally, we will be launching our "Rights of Nature" project, a project that will seek to change the current governance approach to protecting our environment.

As the world moves to implement the global biodiversity framework, we reflect on some of Alberta's key environmental challenges around species

and biodiversity that remain unresolved; our laws and policies have been slow to respond to the needs of the most at-risk species. The list of endangered species in Alberta is lengthy, with many iconic species needing legal protection, including Woodland Caribou, Bull Trout, and Greater Sage-grouse.

While some significant challenges lie ahead, the ELC will play an important role in ensuring that government decision making is accountable to nature and ecosystems. With the help of partners - both current and new - we see an opportunity for Alberta to become a regulatory and policy leader in environmental management.

Your ongoing support for the ELC's work is truly appreciated. Together we can ensure that the ecosystems and natural spaces of Alberta thrive and that Albertans have the benefit of a healthy environment for the long-term.

Should you wish to learn more, we invite you to contact us directly for a conversation about our plans for 2023.

*JoAnn Jamieson
President,
Board of Directors*



*Jason Unger
Executive Director*



2022: RESOURCES AVAILABLE

WEBINARS

- [Managing Forests not Forestry, Webinar #1](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell (January 11 2022)
- [Managing Forests not Forestry, Webinar #2](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell (January 25 2022)
- [Geothermal Webinar Series: Alberta's Existing Geothermal Regulatory Framework](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell (May 31, 2022)
- [Geothermal Webinar Series: Recommendations for Geothermal Law & Regulation in Alberta](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell (June 7, 2022)
- [Geothermal Webinar Series: Geothermal Policy Support and Initiatives](#) with ELC's Brenda Heelan Powell (June 14, 2022)
- [Water law and policy: Gaps, opportunities and law reforms](#) with ELC's Jason Unger (June 23, 2022)
- [Accounting for Nature: Increasing Revenues in Support of Environmental Management](#) with ELC's Jason Unger (November 8, 2022)

REPORTS

- [Managing Forests not Forestry: Law and Policy Recommendations for Ecosystem-based Management of Alberta's Forests](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell
- [Water Law in Alberta: A Comprehensive Guide \(Full Guide\)](#) by Allison Boutillier
- [BACKGROUND: What is Tenure?](#) By Brenda Heelan Powell
- [Primer on Surface Water Quality Management Framework](#) by Jason Unger
- [Aquatic Ecosystems – Gaps Opportunities and Law Reforms](#) by Jason Unger
- [Alberta's Geothermal Resources](#) by Brenda Heelan Powell
- [Accounting for Nature: Regulatory approaches to filling environmental budget gaps in Alberta](#) by Jason Unger, Rebecca Kauffman, and Kyra Leuschen

2022: ADVOCATING FOR REFORM



Visit all of the ELC blog posts at:
<https://elc.ab.ca/blog/>

Moving toward ecosystem-based forestry

- 10 Jan [New ELC Publication: Managing Forests not Forestry](#)
by Brenda Heelan Powell
- 18 May [A Focus on Forest Management Agreements](#)
by Brenda Heelan Powell

Generating revenue for environmental management

- 17 Nov [Engaging new regulatory approaches to generate revenue for environmental management: ELC report](#)
by Jason Unger
- 13 Oct [Accounting for nature: Increasing revenues in support of environmental management](#)
by Jason Unger

Water law, challenges and opportunities

- 25 May [Water law and policy: Gaps, opportunities and law reforms \(report and webinar\)](#)
by Jason Unger
- 08 Mar [Water Law in Alberta: A Comprehensive Guide](#)
by Allison Boutillier

2022: IN THE NEWS

ELC in the News

- July 2022: Alberta needs to be proactive in planning and managing water for environmental outcomes
- May 2022: Epcor solar farm in Edmonton river valley sparks controversy
- August 2022: Saskatchewan alleges federal employees illegally taking water samples from farmers

Media Releases

- May 16, 2022: OpEd Submission: The Other Battle of Alberta

2022: HOW YOU ENGAGED WITH US

From December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022

FOLLOWERS 4,030
+32.22%

1,143
+17.11%
Facebook

1,404
+0.5%
Twitter

1,483
+119.7%
LinkedIn

IMPRESSIONS 28.99K
+24.89%

2,897
+102.59%
Facebook

18.85K
-12.58%
Twitter

7,244
+3207.76%
LinkedIn

WEBSITE (elc.ab.ca)

44.37K
+440.41%
Page views

27.77K
+422.76%
Visits

25.79K
+417.2%
Visitors

2023: WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

Environment and Constitutional Law

Upcoming legal reports setting out the state of the law in areas of constitutional conflict and setting about ways to harmonizing our environmental regulations, an issue that is particularly timely in Alberta:

- species at risk, fisheries, toxic substances, impact assessment and more.
- impact of environmental regulation on Indigenous treaty rights, with a report forthcoming in early 2023.

Clean Energy Improvement Tax Analysis Project

Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), or the Clean Energy Improvement Tax in Alberta, is an innovative tool that provides access to long-term financing for energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency measures. We will undertake law and policy research, analysis and recommendations in relation to the legislative framework of PACE in Alberta.

Alberta's Native Grasslands

This evaluation project is aimed at assessing decisions of regulators and tribunals and how their decisions are protecting, or failing to protect, Alberta's native grasslands.

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* project will bring broad awareness to laws and policies and their interlinkage with nature and offer alternative paths forward. The *Rights of Nature* project 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 2023 and be expanded to include rights of nature more generally.

Endangered Species Act for Alberta

The ELC's project includes drafting and advocacy around an Endangered Species Act for Alberta.

2022: WHO WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR

In 2021-22, 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

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION



CALGARY
FOUNDATION
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER

LEGAL CHARACTERIZATION OF PACE ALBERTA PROJECT



ALBERTA
REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

**Arnie J.
Charbonneau
Foundation**

**Palmer Family
Foundation**

[View our 2021
Financial Statement
& Donor Listing
online](#)

*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 SUPPORT ELC

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: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ PC. _____

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: _____

WHO WE ARE

The ELC extends a special thank you to the dedicated team of volunteers and staff who provide leadership and strategic direction in 2022-2023

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Environmental
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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTRE (ALBERTA) SOCIETY

#410, 10115 100 A
STREET
EDMONTON, AB T5J 2W2
(780) 424-5099

EMAIL: ELC@ELC.AB.CA
WEBSITE: WWW.ELC.AB.CA
BLOG: ELC.AB.CA/BLOG/
FACEBOOK: [@ENVIRONMENTALLAWCENTRE](https://www.facebook.com/ENVIRONMENTALLAWCENTRE)
TWITTER: [@ELC_ALBERTA](https://twitter.com/ELC_ALBERTA)

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TO SIGN UP FOR THE ELC E-NEWSLETTER: ELC.AB.CA/NEWSANDMEDIA/NEWS/

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