



Environmental
Law Centre

2020 *Year* Review



2020: A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends of the ELC,

We end 2020 looking back at a year when a pandemic shook the world. The lives of many loved ones were lost, in Alberta and beyond, and the full impact of the pandemic will only be revealed in the months and years to come.

An optimist would note that the challenges we now face as a province have happened before, and in many ways, we are better equipped to mitigate their impacts. Yet, the impacts are very real and stark, from the impacts to the health of our loved ones, the stress put on our health care providers, to the impacts on jobs and mental health flowing from restrictions to flatten the curve. And through it all, many of us have found solace in the natural world.

In this regard, 2020 has allowed Albertans and Canadians to reconnect and appreciate, or perhaps really connect for the first time, with nature and its healing qualities.

To emerge from our days of isolation and to be nurtured by the outdoors: This is the good the pandemic has brought, along with all the bad.

The restart of the Alberta economy, however, will put additional pressure on our environment - diminishing our ability to monitor and enforce meaningful protection measures in our laws. And, worryingly, to the possible dismantling of legal protections in the name of short-term gain.

Alberta is at an economic and environmental crossroads. How do we move forward while still protecting and preserving the natural world that supports and nourishes us? The ELC looks forward to advocating for laws and policies that walk the sustainable path; for water, for species, for climate, for all of us.

*JoAnn Jamieson
President,
Board of Directors*

*Jason Unger
Executive Director*



2020: HOW WE ADVOCATED FOR REFORM

... A FEW HIGHLIGHTS



- [Gaining Steam: Geothermal Regulation and Policy In Alberta with Brenda Heelan Powell \(December 2020\)](#)
- [Extended Producer Responsibility with Allison Boutillier \(October 2020\)](#)
- [Polluter Pays Principle in Alberta with Jason Unger \(June 2020\)](#)

- 29 Jan [Climate Change Litigation – 1 step forward, 2 steps back](#)
- 03 Jun [The polluter pays principle in Alberta: Meeting economic challenges with regulatory certainty](#)
- 08 Jun [A bad start to Environment Week: Alberta rescinds its Coal Policy](#)
- 16 Jun [Good Riddance: Reduce, Reuse, Reread](#)
- 30 Jun [This Report is \(All About\) Garbage – Extended Producer Responsibility: Designing the Regulatory Framework](#)
- 10 Aug [Optimizing Alberta Parks?? Without Public Consultation, the Government has announced removal of 175 sites from the parks system](#)
- 28 Sep [Updates on Oil & Gas Liability and Rehabilitation in Alberta](#)
- 05 Nov [New ELC Publication: Gaining Steam](#)
- 18 Nov [Still can't see the forest for the timber](#)

REPORTS

- [Agricultural Lands Law and Policy in Alberta](#)
Published: November 14th, 2019
- [The Polluter Pays Principle in Alberta Law](#)
Published: December 16th, 2019
- [Extended Producer Responsibility](#)
Published: May 27th, 2020
- [Good Riddance – Waste Management Law in Alberta](#)
Published: May 27th, 2020
- [Clean Slate, Contaminated Land](#)
Published: June 2nd, 2020
- [Geothermal Energy](#)
Published: October 26th, 2020

total downloads of
all our publications
since 2016

186,000+



total publications
available for
download on the
ELC website

76

total
downloads of
our 2020
publications

4,809



media hits
in 2020

8

13

past webinars
available for
viewing on the
ELC website



1,750

ELC's website
visitors every month



550

people reached
every month on
Facebook

3,500

impressions
every month
on Twitter



2021: WHAT'S ON THE WAY



Law and the sun: common law and statutory rights related to the sun and solar energy

We will develop an up-to-date guide of legal rights and regulatory frameworks related to solar energy. This project will include review and updates to both codified and common law rights related to solar energy as well as provide a review of jurisdictional approaches to regulating solar energy generation.

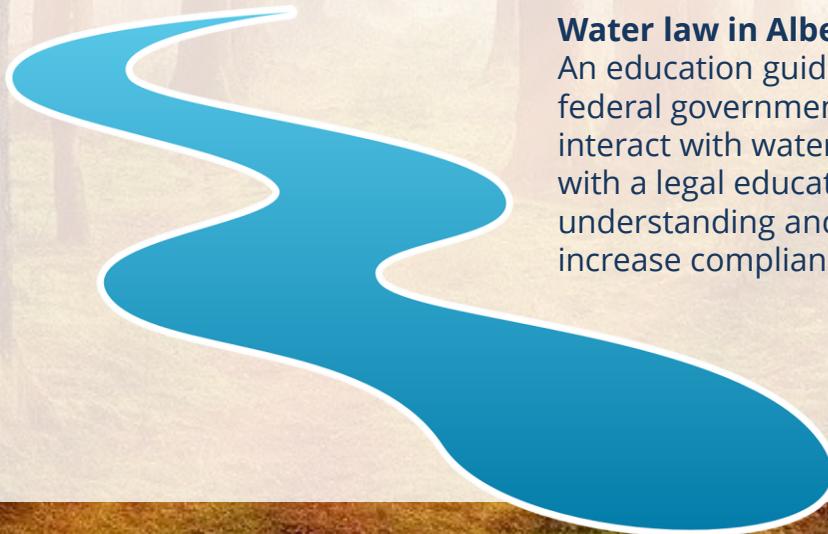


Regulatory approaches to funding conservation and environmental protection

How do we pay 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.

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.



2020: WHAT WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR

In 2020, 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.

Thank You!

Along with special thanks to:

MAJOR PROJECT SUPPORTER

The Alberta Law Foundation supported several major projects in 2020

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROJECT

This project is made possible through a grant from the Alberta Real Estate Foundation and an anonymous foundation.



FORESTS ACT PROJECT

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



Your support makes all the difference

2020: ONE WAY YOU CAN HELP

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](#)

2020: MORE WAYS TO HELP

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: _____

Our 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 with any questions. *it will cost us approximately \$25,000 (3%) of our annual budgeted revenues in 2020 to reach our fundraising goals.

2020: 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 2020

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Environmental
Law Centre

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

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