



## Melissa L. Eldridge

Partner & Co-Chair, National School Boards Practice

T 416.367.6231

F 416.367.6749

Toronto

[MEldridge@blg.com](mailto:MEldridge@blg.com)

[Conseils scolaires et écoles privées](#)

[Travail et emploi](#)

[Éducation](#)

[Négociations collectives](#)

[Griefs et arbitrages](#)

[Droits de la personne](#)

Melissa L. Eldridge is a dynamic advocate who is singularly focused on achieving results for her clients. As the Co-Chair of [BLG's National School Boards Practice](#), Melissa is an experienced school boards lawyer with extensive knowledge of school board operations.

Melissa excels in high-stakes cases. She is a trusted advisor to educational institutions in Ontario and across Canada, including Catholic and public school boards, and independent schools. Melissa has a deep understanding of how schools and school boards operate. She advises school boards and independent schools on a range of education law issues, including those pertaining to student discipline, human rights, teacher misconduct, and special education. She brings her unique perspective to her commitment to client service: she is the former General Counsel of one of the largest school boards in Canada and former Governor of the Board of an independent school in Toronto.

Melissa is proactive and practical: she has negotiated dozens of local collective bargaining agreements on behalf of school boards for multiple rounds of local bargaining and she has represented school boards at hundreds of grievance mediations, arbitrations, and human rights cases.

Melissa recently represented school board trustees in response to an application for judicial review related to their decision to sanction a fellow trustee. She regularly appears before administrative tribunals and labour relations boards, including the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, the Ontario Labour Relations Board, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and the Ontario Divisional Court.

## Insights & Events

- Autrice, « Supreme Court of Canada rules on privacy rights in schools », article de BLG, juin 2024
- Autrice, « Règles sur l'utilisation des cellulaires et le vapotage dans les écoles ontariennes : ce que les conseils scolaires doivent savoir », article de BLG, avril 2024
- Autrice, « Le projet de loi 124 jugé inconstitutionnel; l'arbitre Kaplan consent une augmentation salariale de 2,75 % aux enseignantes et enseignants ontariens », article de BLG, février 2024
- Autrice, « Court of Appeal rules mandatory math test for teachers is constitutional in Ontario », article de BLG, décembre 2023
- Autrice, « Canada's proposed Trusted Institution framework: Implications for Designated Learning Institutions », article de BLG, octobre 2023
- Autrice, « Ontario's new Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act: What school boards need to know », article de BLG, juin 2023
- Autrice, « Effects of the COVID -19 pandemic on students and practical tips for educators », article de BLG, juin 2023
- Autrice, « Bill 98: What school boards need to know about Ontario's new education bill », article de BLG, avril 2023
- Autrice, « Legal implications of the hybrid work model », article de BLG, juillet 2022

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Ontario Bar Association
- Member, Advocates' Society

### Community Involvement

- Board of Directors, Portuguese Canadian Lawyers Association
- Board of Directors, Canadian Association for the Practical Study Law in Education

## Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2011
- JD, Université d'Ottawa, 2010
- BA (Honours), Université de Toronto, 2007

---

## **BLG | Vos avocats au Canada**

Borden Ladner Gervais S.E.N.C.R.L., S.R.L. (BLG) est le plus grand cabinet d'avocats canadien véritablement multiservices. À ce titre, il offre des conseils juridiques pratiques à des clients d'ici et d'ailleurs dans plus de domaines et de secteurs que tout autre cabinet canadien. Comptant plus de 725 avocats, agents de propriété intellectuelle et autres professionnels, BLG répond aux besoins juridiques d'entreprises et d'institutions au pays comme à l'étranger pour ce qui touche les fusions et acquisitions, les marchés financiers, les différends et le financement ou encore l'enregistrement de brevets et de marques de commerce.

[blg.com](http://blg.com)

© 2025 Borden Ladner Gervais S.E.N.C.R.L., S.R.L. Borden Ladner Gervais est une société à responsabilité limitée de l'Ontario.