



Rick Williams

Partner and National Business Leader, Environmental, Municipal,
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Rick represents and advises clients on commercial and regulatory aspects of project development, permitting and operations in the energy and natural resource sectors, including land, environmental and Indigenous issues. Rick also represents and advises clients on dispute resolution including regulatory proceedings, corporate/commercial litigation and arbitration, with a focus on energy, transportation, forestry and mining.

Rick is the National Business Leader of the Environmental, Municipal, Expropriation and Regulatory Group and a member of the [Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#) leadership team.

Rick has appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. He has represented clients before the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), the Surface Rights Board, the Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal), the Safety Authority, the Environmental Appeal Board as well as the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) and the National Energy Board (NEB). Rick also has significant experience advising clients on their applications and dealings with the British Columbia Energy Regulator (formerly Oil and Gas Commission).

Experience

- Acted for a developer organization in a hearing before the BCUC successfully opposing the approval of a Neighbourhood Energy Agreement and issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a district energy project.
- Lead counsel on a number of appeals to the Energy Resource Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal), including an oil and gas producer in the successful defence of a series of appeals – the first in British Columbia that directly addressed issues concerning the impact of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater and induced seismicity, and the sufficiency of regulations relating to such issues.
- Advised Pacific Northwest LNG on all regulatory aspects relating to its proposed LNG facility.
- Advised a project proponent on all regulatory matters relating to the PTP pipeline and KM LNG facility.
- Represented a ski resort in a dispute with a mining company regarding regulatory approvals for a power line project to provide service to a skiing lodge and issues regarding historical power service.
- Acting for the province of British Columbia in defence of an action by Blueberry River First Nations alleged breach of Treaty.
- Lead counsel in the first common carrier/common processor hearing before the BCUC in more than 30 years. This hearing established the test to be applied in BC.
- Lead counsel in the successful challenge of a public utility's discriminatory security deposit policy before the BCUC.
- Acted on successful applications to the ERCB (now AER), obtaining one of the largest interim shut-ins ever.
- Lead counsel on number of appeals to the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal.
- Lead counsel on many successful arbitrations/motions before the BC Surface Rights Board.
- Counsel on a number of contaminated site cases, including the first trial in BC to consider reasonably incurred costs of remediation under BC's legislation.
- Represented the British Columbia Ministry of Forests on a 20-day trial, resulting in its acquittal of all charges under the federal *Fisheries Act*.
- Lead counsel for a foreign bank in the arrest and judicial sale of a vessel, including overseeing a courthouse auction (part of global efforts to enforce a \$77-million judgment from a U.S. court).
- Successfully defended an international shipping company on the validity of an arrest to the Supreme Court of Canada. Acted for an international shipping company in successfully defending the validity of an arrest to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Insights & Events

- Auteur, « B.C. government launches public engagement on Infrastructure Projects Act: What you need to know », article de BLG, juillet 2025
- Auteur, « La Cour fédérale confirme le processus de modification des projets évalués en vertu de la LCEE de 2012 », article de BLG, juillet 2025
- Auteur, « Canada's greenwashing crackdown: New guidelines & private right of action », article de BLG, juillet 2025
- Auteur, « New legislation alert: Streamlined approval processes for major projects in B.C. and Canada », article de BLG, juin 2025
- Auteur, « Déclaration obligatoire au Registre fédéral sur les plastiques (RFP) du Canada : Ce que vous devez savoir », article de BLG, avril 2025
- Auteur, « Rapport du gouvernement du Canada sur les SPFA : Vers un resserrement de la réglementation sur les produits chimiques éternels, jugés toxiques », article de BLG, mars 2025

- Auteur, « Regulation of renewable energy projects in B.C.: Streamlined approval processes for project development », article de BLG, février 2025
- Auteur, « Canada's mandatory PFAS reporting deadline: Be cautious relying on prior compliance », article de BLG, janvier 2025
- Auteur, « New proposed guidelines regarding environmental claims - Canada's Competition Bureau holds a public consultation », article de BLG, janvier 2025
- Presenter, "Rise of the Environmental Class Action," BLG Environmental Seminar, Vancouver, November 20, 2024
- Presenter, "Environmental Class Actions: Climate Change, Floods, Wildfires, and Greenwashing - New Frontiers?", Western Canada Class Actions Conference, CLEBC, November 19, 2024
- Auteur, « Canada's proposals for implementing a modernized CEPA », article de BLG, novembre 2024
- Auteur, « Déclaration obligatoire des SPFA au Canada : ce que doivent savoir les fabricants, les importateurs et les utilisateurs », article de BLG, août 2024
- Auteur, « Déclarations ESG : gestion des risques et des responsabilités pour les entreprises canadiennes », article de BLG, juillet 2024
- Presenter, "Environmental Law: Case Law Update," BEST Conference, BCEIA, May 9, 2024
- Auteur, « Nouveau projet de règlement sur les COV au Canada : encore et toujours la même bataille constitutionnelle? », article de BLG, mars 2024
- The future of Canadian energy: A review of 2023's top energy issues and what to expect in 2024, points de vue de BLG, janvier 2024
- Presenter, "Regulation of Toxic Substances: Forever Chemicals (PFAS) – A Persistent and Growing Concern," CBA Environmental Law South (Alberta), 2023
- Auteur, « BC Supreme Court issues rare damages award for misfeasance in public office », article de BLG, octobre 2023
- Auteur, « Climate related disasters, claims and human rights », article de BLG, octobre 2023
- Pistes de réflexion, points de vue de BLG, septembre 2023
- Auteur, « Réglementation des produits chimiques éternels (SPFA) au Canada : ce que les entreprises canadiennes doivent savoir », article de BLG, septembre 2023
- Tendances entourant les facteurs environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance (ESG) : dossiers à suivre et choses à savoir, points de vue de BLG, juin 2023
- Auteur, « Canada enacts into law the right to a healthy environment and more stringent chemical management requirements », article de BLG, juin 2023
- Auteur, « Kitselas First Nation and British Columbia reach Environmental Assessment Agreement », article de BLG, juin 2023

Beyond our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Director, British Columbia Environmental Industry Association
- Business Council of British Columbia Environmental Policy Advisory Committee
- Business Council of British Columbia Climate & Energy Policy Advisory Committee
- Canadian Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Member, Air & Waste Management Association
- Past Vice-President Communications, Environmental Managers Association of British Columbia

Bar Admission & Education

- Colombie-Britannique, 2000
 - LLB, Université de Victoria, 1999
 - BA, Université d'Ottawa, 1995
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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.

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