



## Melissa L. Eldridge

Partner & Co-Chair, National School Boards Practice

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[School Boards and Independent Schools](#)

[Labour & Employment](#)

[Education](#)

[Collective Bargaining](#)

[Grievances & Arbitrations](#)

[Human Rights](#)

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

- Author, "Supreme Court of Canada rules on privacy rights in schools", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "Ontario's rules on cellphone use and vaping in schools", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Bill 124 ruled unconstitutional, and Arbitrator Kaplan Awards 2.75 per cent compensation increase for Ontario teachers", BLG Article, February 2024
- Author, "Court of Appeal rules mandatory math test for teachers is constitutional in Ontario", BLG Article, December 2023
- Author, "Canada's proposed Trusted Institution framework: Implications for Designated Learning Institutions", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, "Ontario's new Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act: What school boards need to know", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "Effects of the COVID -19 pandemic on students and practical tips for educators", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "Bill 98: What school boards need to know about Ontario's new education bill", BLG Article, April 2023
- Author, "Legal implications of the hybrid work model", BLG Article, July 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, University of Ottawa, 2010
- BA (Honours), University of Toronto, 2007



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