



## Matt Saunders

### Counsel

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[Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection](#)  
[Compliance with Privacy & Data Protection](#)  
[Privacy & Security Breaches](#)  
[Personal Health Information & Privacy](#)  
[Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)  
[Commercial Litigation](#)

Matt's dynamic practice in cybersecurity and data protection involves advising regional, national, and international clients on key aspects of privacy compliance, organizational cyber-resilience, and incident response practices in Canada. A seasoned breach coach with a global outlook and a rich professional background, he keeps a keen eye on the evolution of ransomware attacks, insider threats, and other types of cyber incidents in both the public and private sectors. Matt's strategic counsel on such topics benefits from his previous experience in complex commercial litigation, where he helped clients navigate a range of issues including fraud prevention and investigation, breach of contract, injunctive relief, negligence, and asset recovery.

As breach counsel, he assists Canadian companies and public bodies with both preventative and response services such as risk assessment and mitigation, data management and regulatory compliance, privacy policy updates, crisis communications, and post-incident recovery steps.

Matt is also a sought-after speaker on the legal landscape regulating data breaches, the impact of artificial intelligence on privacy practices and corporate compliance, and the intersection of transnational crime, state-sponsored cyber incidents, and law enforcement collaboration.

Matt is recognized by several legal directories, including *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Privacy and Data Security Law; Corporate and Commercial Litigation), *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Data Protection & Privacy), and *The Lexpert® Special Edition on Canada's Leading Technology and Health Sciences Lawyers*.

## Experience

- Provided legal advice to a provincial health care organization in its assessment and development of a framework required to facilitate the sharing of critical cybersecurity-related information across the sector.
- Provided legal advice to an energy sector client to determine the scope and complexity of their obligations surrounding data residency requirements of its customers' personal information.
- Provided legal advice to a large supply chain company during its revamp and upgrade of its cybersecurity incident response program.

## Insights & Events

- Author, "Fear not the black box: How responsible AI adoption can drive innovation and productivity", BLG Article, February 2025
- Moderator, "Youth & Privacy - A Legal Lens on Protecting the Privacy of Youth in Nova Scotia," International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) - Halifax Chapter, October 2024
- Speaker, "Ransomware Tabletop Exercise," Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, E-Crime Cyber Council, October 2024
- Moderator, "Top Privacy Law Issues Facing In-House Counsel in 2024," Access & Privacy Law Section, Canadian Bar Association, October 2024
- Interview, "Increasingly Sophisticated Ransomware Attacks Leave Companies, Lawyers Scrambling to Keep Up," Financial Post, March 2023
- Author, "Canada's Valuable COVID-19 Research Vulnerable to Russian, Chinese Hacks, SaltWire, July 2020
- Co-author, "Remote Work, Data Breaches, and Cybersecurity Considerations during COVID-19," Cox & Palmer, March 2020
- Author, "Foreign-fabricated 'news' a real threat in run-up to federal election," SaltWire, April 2019

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society
- Member, Law Society of Ontario
- Member, Barreau du Québec
- Member-at-Large, National Executive, Access & Privacy Law Section, Canadian Bar Association
- Former Chair, Access & Privacy Law Section (Nova Scotia), Canadian Bar Association

## Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2024) of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Corporate and Commercial Litigation; Privacy and Data Security Law).
- Recognized in the 2025 edition (and since 2023) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Data Protection & Privacy).

- Recognized in the 2024 edition (and since 2022) of *The Lexpert® Special Edition on Canada's Leading Technology and Health Sciences Lawyers*.

## Bar Admission & Education

- Québec, 2024
- Nova Scotia, 2017
- Ontario, 2013
  
- LL.B and B.C.L., Common and Civil Law/Legal Studies/Jurisprudence, McGill University, 2012
- LL.M, International Criminal Law, University of Sussex, 2004
- M.A., Political Science, Simon Fraser University, 2002
- Political Studies & Philosophy, Bishop's University, 2000

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