



ONTARIO
BAR ASSOCIATION
A Branch of the
Canadian Bar Association

CURRENT ISSUES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRACTICE

A Conference for Lawyers working in the Broader Public Sector

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Deer Creek Golf Club, 2700 Audley Road N. Ajax, Ontario

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| 8:00 | Registration & Networking Breakfast |
| 9:00-10:00 | Public Sector Purchasing Post Pandemic Panel Lead: Ashley Bridgeman, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Marianne Smith, <i>Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP</i> , Robert McFarlane, <i>The Regional Municipality of York</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovations in Procurement, including Team Based Project Management• What you need to know about BOBIA and Social Purchasing Policies |
| 10:00-11:00 | Building Back Better Panel Lead: Kelly McDermott, <i>Ontario Bar Association and The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Wendy Law, <i>City of Vaughan</i> , Kelly McDermott, <i>Ontario Bar Association and The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Charlene Theodore, <i>McCarthy Tetrault</i> , Peter Cuff, <i>Ontario Power Generation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating the Public Sector Legal Workplace of the Future• Supporting the Profession – Peer Support Program Case Study• What is the Role of the Legal Department in Supporting Organizational EDI?• The role of the Legal Department in Work Space Modernization |
| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:15-12:00 | Critical Legal Issues in Hybrid Work Panel Lead: Kelly McDermott, <i>Ontario Bar Association and The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speaker: John Saunders, <i>Hicks Morley</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key Considerations in Using Surveillance Tools• WSIB in a Work-From-Home World• Responding to Workplace Harassment in Online Meetings |
| 12:00-12:30 | Networking Lunch |

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| 12:30-1:30 | Mental Health in the Workplace Panel Lead: Kelly Rodrigues, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Kelly Rodrigues, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Laura Russell, <i>Compclaim Legal Services PC</i> , Dan Kuzmyk, <i>The Regional Municipality of York</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather Helpful Advice on Handling Mental Health in the Workplace, including Workplace Programs and Matters Before the Tribunal or Programs. |
| 1:30-2:15 | The Path to Truth and Reconciliation Panel Lead: Kira Clarke, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Kira Clarke, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Christa Big Canoe, <i>Aboriginal Legal Services</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the BPS play a role in advancing reconciliation? |
| 2:15 | Break |
| 2:30-3:00 | Unique Issues in the Public Sector Workplace Panel Lead: Arend Wakeford, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Arend Wakeford, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Frank Santaguida, <i>Town of Whitby</i> , David Potts, <i>City of Peterborough</i> , Rhonda Vanderlinde, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigating Political Interference • Strategies for Remediating Unsafe Workplaces • De-escalation: How to Handle an Aggressive Member of the Public |
| 3:00-4:00 | AI and the Public Sector Panel Lead: Kira Clarke, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Kira Clarke, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Alex Constantin, <i>Durham Children's Aid Society</i> , Safiyya Vankalwala, <i>LawPRO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Considerations and Essential Advice for Implementing AI tools in Public Sector Legal Practice |
| 4:00-4:45 | Making the Connections Panel Lead: Jason Hunt, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> Speakers: Jason Hunt, <i>The Regional Municipality of Durham</i> , Sara Gottlieb, <i>Ontario Tech University</i> , Alex Constantin, <i>Durham Children's Aid Society</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your own experiences on how broader public sector lawyers can work more effectively as a collective. • Let's explore how we can help and support each other as BPS Legal Departments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we offer job enrichment through secondments and placements? • How has virtual / online work changed the dynamic and opened new opportunities? • Can we connect our jobs with a larger sense of purpose? • Can we pool/share resources – are we duplicating effort? |
| 4:50 | Closing |
| 5:00 | Networking Reception |
| 6:00 | Gala Dinner Keynote Address: The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario |