

OBA | Professional Development

Critical Issues in the Enforcement of Indigenous Laws

Aboriginal Law Section

Webcast

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Webinar

This program is eligible for up to 3hrs Substantive

Program Chairs: R. Martin Bayer, Weaver, Simmons LLP
Naomi Sayers, Barrister & Solicitor

There is a problem facing many Indigenous Peoples — the lack of an effective enforcement mechanism that can render any law ineffectual. Historically, attempts to enforce Indigenous laws have been hamstrung by a lack of legislative authority, jurisdictional uncertainty and procedural pitfalls.

For Indigenous Peoples and the governance of their communities, the absence of a means to successfully enforce Indigenous laws created through inherent jurisdiction, and federally-empowered Indigenous laws and by-laws is a source of significant concern and frustration. What means are available for communities to enforce Indigenous laws and federally-empowered First Nation laws and by-laws? Join us to explore the challenges and hurdles that arise, and the opportunities that exist for enhancing the enforceability of these laws.

9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:05 am Band By-Laws under the Indian Act
Chief Dave Mowat, Alderville First Nation

Kaitlin Ritchie, Legal Counsel - Indigenous Justice Division at Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General Moderator: **William Taggart,** Fogler, Rubinoff LLP

- Challenges in getting local police and/or the OPP to enforce Band by-laws
- Alderville's "Green Mile": A case study into the Indigenous cannabis industry – Is a band by-law the answer?
- Intersecting issues with the enforcement of criminal law

9:45 am Break

9:50 am Laws Created Pursuant to Recognition Agreements

R. Martin Bayer, Weaver, Simmons LLP Andrew Beynon, Law Making & Enforcement Advisor, First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Moderator: Kevin Scullion, Scullion Law

- How are laws enacted by Indigenous Peoples under recognized authority enforced?
- Critical drafting advice to ensure laws are not struck down by the Courts
- What assistance is available to Indigenous communities in enacting laws?
- The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement: How will the laws be enforced under that Agreement?

10:40 am Break

10:45 am Indigenous Laws Enacted under Inherent Jurisdiction

Derek Fox, Deputy Grand Chief, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation **R. Martin Bayer**, Weaver, Simmons LLP

Andrew Beynon, Law Making & Enforcement Advisor, First

Nations Land Management Resource Centre Moderator: **Prof. Patricia Hania**, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University

- Exploring the path toward Indigenous enforcement of laws passed under inherent jurisdiction
- Is there an inherent right for First Nations to create their own Constitution?
- Ensuring laws are in line with the Canadian Constitution
- Challenges of enforcing Indigenous laws in Canadian courts: jurisdictional and judicial review considerations

11:45 am Questions and Concluding Remarks

12:00 pm Program Concludes