



ELC Associates Program Fact Sheet

What is the Environmental Law Centre Associates Program?

The Environmental Law Centre (ELC) Associates Program started in September 2007 at the University of Victoria with funding from the Law Foundation of BC. The purpose of the ELC Associates Program is to enhance the capacity of the public interest environmental law Bar in BC while enriching learning opportunities for ELC students through a unique collaboration between the Bar and the ELC Clinic. Since 2007, the ELC has coordinated Program activities for six cohorts of ELC Associates. We are currently recruiting Associates for Cohort 8.

Who can be an Environmental Law Centre Associate?

Any lawyer practicing in BC with an interest in public interest environmental law. Each cohort of ELC Associates will be selected based on a variety of factors including demonstrated interest and/or expertise in public interest environmental law; mentor role potential; geographic distribution; and diversity/length of experience.

- Cohort 1 (2007-2009): Bill Andrews, Alyssa Bradley, Wally Braul, Jo-Anna Cowan, Stacey Edzerza Fox, Mark Haddock, Jennifer Millbank, Richard Overstall, John Rich, Krista Robertson, Stuart Rush, QC
- Cohort 2 (2009-2011): Mitchell Couling, Michelle Ellison, Robin Gage, Judah Harrison, Jennifer Milligan, Sean Nixon, Linda Nowlan, Jennifer Griffith
- Cohort 3 (2011-2013): Scott Bernstein, Susan Blanchet, Oliver Brandes, Karen Campbell, Jason Gratl, Patricia Lane, Drew Mildon, Josh Paterson, John Pennington, Melinda Skeels, Tim Thielmann, Amber van Drielen
- Cohort 4 (2013-2015): Lani Gibson, Patrick Canning, Brenda Gaertner, Marie Potvin, Barry Robinson, Eric Regehr, Reidar Mogerman, Anna Johnston, Ethan Krindle, James Tate, Maya Stano
- Cohort 5 (2015-2017): Hannah Askew, Morgan Blakley, Lisa Fong, Brenda Gaertner, Maegen Giltrow, Nathan Hume, Rosanne Kyle, Drew Mildon, Carrie Moffat, Matt Nefstead, Richard Overstall, Paul Seaman
- Cohort 6 (2017-2019): Lawrence Alexander, Patrick Canning, Rachel Forbes, Glenn Grande, Erin Gray, Reece Harding, Ian Moore, Sonya Morgan, Jim Quail, Larry Reynolds, Kris Statnyk, Zaria Stoffman
- Cohort 7 (2019-2021): Jamie Arbeau, Stephanie Hewson, Matt Hulse, Meredith James, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Lilina Lysenko, Jessica Magonet, Angela McCue, Leo McGrady, QC, Kegan Pepper-Smith, Mae Price, Noah Ross, Melinda Skeels, Fraser Thomson

ELC Associate lawyers have been called to the Bar from three to 52 years. Most of the lawyers from previous cohorts remain involved with the Associates Program and participate in the continuing legal education (CLE)-type activities that the Program offers.

What are the expectations of Environmental Law Centre Associates?

ELC Associates may provide mentoring and advice, as appropriate, to Clinic students working on cases or projects within their area of expertise and/or in their geographic region. With approval of the ELC Board, Associates may also be able to secure student assistance for public interest environmental cases. Associates will stay abreast of developments in public interest environmental law through videoconferences hosted by the ELC and through networking with other Associates. These videoconferences are approved for



Continuing Professional Development Credits by The Law Society of BC. Some of the topics covered in videoconferences include:

- Professional reliance;
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;
- Civil disobedience and the Law of Protest;
- Mining law reform;
- Indigenous laws;
- Private Prosecutions;
- Empowering First Nations Guardians;
- Climate change litigation;
- Green development;
- International law, the Pacific Salmon Treaty and aboriginal rights;
- Water sustainability; and
- New developments in protecting species at risk.

Associates usually participate in an initial meeting in order to meet one another and typically have the opportunity to exchange information in person (however, the initial meeting for Cohort 8 Associates will likely be online). Associates also participate in continuing legal education (CLE)-style conferences. ELC Associates participated in the first public interest environmental law CLE and the first ever National CLE on public interest environmental law,

What are the benefits of participating in the Program?

- Staying current with emerging environmental law practice issues;
- Networking with other lawyers engaged in public interest environmental law;
- Receiving advice from knowledgeable colleagues;
- Obtaining student assistance on ongoing public interest environmental cases or files;
- Working with highly motivated students that share similar practice-area interests; and
- Building the capacity of the public interest environmental bar in BC.

What do former Associates say about the Program?

- *I have gone back to the CLE materials and teleconference backgrounders for information when faced with a client issue. They are a helpful starting point in my practice.*
- *The background materials for the teleconferences were concise, to the point, and directed the discussion very well. Even for areas in which I have no knowledge, the teleconferences were excellent. It was really helpful to hear from the other lawyers because they are leaders in their fields.*
- *A huge benefit of the Program is becoming acquainted with lawyers who have addressed similar issues and who are willing to have me call them for moral support and legal assistance. They often suggest alternative strategies and novel legal arguments.*
- *The networking opportunities were my favourite part. It was very valuable to have an opportunity to talk with like-minded people. It makes the possibility of doing environment work when it comes up in my work more likely because I have other lawyers I can consult with and bounce ideas off of.*
- *I was able to get outside of my usual files and get a better appreciation for these other intellectually fascinating issues that I have no acquaintance with. I found it useful as a professional to observe and take mental notes on the issues presented.*
- *I write to thank you for one of the best conferences I have attended in my 35 years of practice.*

- *The ELC Associates Program has been an invaluable resource to my professional development and private practice. The teleconferences have been opportunities to hear a variety of legal perspectives on current issues in environmental law. As an aboriginal law practitioner, my practice intersects regularly with environmental law issues, and hearing from the program staff at the ELC as well as other Associates on these issues has allowed me to bring a more broadly informed approach to advising my clients.*
- *As a solo, I am appreciative of every opportunity to network and discuss ideas with colleagues, and particularly since I have not yet been able to incorporate environmental law into my practice to any significant extent.*

How do I apply?

Submit the following information to Holly Pattison, ELC Director of Operations and Communications at elc@uvic.ca:

- Name and contact information, including email, phone number and firm address;
- Call year;
- Areas of practice;
- Scope of public interest environmental law to date or an expression of your interest in the Associates Program;
- References; and
- Bio.

If you have any questions, contact Holly Pattison at elc@uvic.ca or 250-721-8188.