



RICK WILLIAMS

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[Regulatory and Project Approval Litigation and Arbitration](#)

[Litigation and Arbitration](#)

[Environmental Law](#)

[Expropriation](#)

[Oil and Gas](#)

[Energy](#)

[Indigenous Law](#)

Education / Bar Admissions

LLB, University of Victoria, 1999

BA, University of Ottawa, 1995

British Columbia, 2000

Professional Involvement

Business Council of British Columbia
Environmental Policy Advisory
Committee

Business Council of British Columbia
Climate & Energy Policy Advisory
Committee

Canadian Bar Association

American Bar Association

Member, Air & Waste Management
Association

(Past) Vice President
Communications, Environmental
Managers Association of British
Columbia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rick Williams is a partner in our Vancouver office. He is the National Leader of the Environmental Law group and the Regional Leader of the Regulatory and Oil and Gas groups.

Rick regularly represents and advises clients on the commercial, regulatory and litigation aspects of project development, permitting and operations in the energy and natural resource sectors, including land, environmental and Indigenous issues. Rick also represents and advises clients on dispute resolution including regulatory proceedings, corporate/commercial litigation and arbitration, with a particular focus on the areas of oil and gas, transportation, forestry and mining.

Rick has appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. He has represented clients before the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), the Surface Rights Board, the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal, the B.C. Safety Authority, the Environmental Appeal Board as well as the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) and the National Energy Board (NEB). Rick also has significant experience advising clients on their applications and dealings with the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

Oil & Gas

- Lead counsel in the first common carrier/common processor hearing before the BCUC in over 30 years, which established the test to be applied in BC.
- Lead counsel in the successful challenge of a public utility's discriminatory security deposit policy before the BCUC.
- Acted on successful applications to the ERCB, obtaining one of the largest interim shut-ins ever.
- Lead counsel on number of appeals to the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal.
- Lead counsel on many successful arbitrations/motions before the BC Surface Rights Board.

Environmental

- Acted in a precedent-setting environmental case, the first trial in BC to consider what are reasonably incurred costs of remediation under BC's legislation.
- Represented the British Columbia Ministry of Forests on a 20-day trial resulting in its acquittal of all charges under the federal *Fisheries Act*.

Maritime

- Lead counsel for a foreign bank in the arrest and judicial sale of a vessel, including overseeing a courthouse auction (part of global efforts to enforce a \$77-million judgment from a US court).
- Acted for an international shipping company in successfully defending the validity of an arrest to the Supreme Court of Canada.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Co-Author, "British Columbia Court Acquits Shipping Company for Marine Pollution Incident," *HazMat Mag*, May 2019.
- Co-Author, "MV Marathassa acquitted of all charges resulting from 2015 English Bay pollution," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, April 2019.
- Co-Author, "BC Court of Appeal affirms that the Province upheld the Honour of the Crown in William v. British Columbia (Attorney General), 2019 BCCA 74," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, April 2019.
- Contributor, 12 Ways Canada's Gas & LNG Will Bring Both National And Global Benefits (Canada Gas & LNG ebook), February 2019.
- Co-Author, "2018 Top Ten: Regulatory Decisions of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*.
- Co-Author, "2017 Year In Review: Top 10 Regulatory Decisions of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry", *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*.
- Co-Author, "Forced Labour Case To Go To Trial," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, December 7, 2017.
- Quoted, "Liquefied Courage," *Lexpert Magazine*, November 2017.
- Co-Author, "Time Keeps Ticking: Implications of the New Undue Delay Framework on Regulatory Prosecutions," *BLG Environmental Law Newsletter*, Fall 2017.
- Speaker, "Responding to Regulatory Investigations," Environmental Law Seminar, October 2017.
- Co-Author, "Wrong Turn Has Court Certify Environmental Class Action," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, July 17, 2017.
- Speaker/Author, "The New Normal? Energy Development, Civil Disobedience, and Injunctive Relief," Canadian Energy Law Foundation Jasper Seminar, June 14-16, 2017.
- Co-Author, "Canadian Companies and the Effects of Foreign Operations - Out of Sight, Front of Mind," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, March 14, 2017.
- Co-Author, "2016 Year in Review: Top 10 Regulatory Decisions and Trends of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 17, 2017.

- Co-Author, "2016 Year in Review: Top 10 Judicial Decisions and Trends of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 12, 2017.
- Co-Author, "2016 Year in Review: Top 10 Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Changes and Trends of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 08, 2017.
- Co-Author, "Renewables in Alberta: New Policies, New Opportunities," Volume 54, Issue 2, *Alberta Law Review*, November 2016.
- Co-Author, "Impact of Redwater Energy outside Alberta: a British Columbia perspective," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, July 5, 2016.
- Co-Author, "BC Responds to Mount Polley Dam Failure with Proposed Amendments to the Mines Act," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, March 3, 2016.
- Co-Author, "2015 Year in Review: Top 10 Regulatory Decisions of Import to the Canadian Energy Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 13, 2016.
- Co-Author, "2015 Year in Review: Top 10 Judicial Decisions of Import to the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 7, 2016.
- Co-Author, "2015 Year in Review: Top 10 Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Changes of Import to the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 5, 2016.
- Author, "Significant Legislative Reform?," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, December 8, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Court Refuses to Hear Corporate-Veil Case," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, December 3, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Environmental Appeal Board Revokes Company Water Licence," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, September 22, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Another Setback for Site C Opponents," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, September 20, 2015.
- Co-Author, "All Shook Up: New Amendments to B.C.'s Drilling and Production Regulation Requiring Seismic Event Reporting," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, August 30, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Have Your Say: BC Government Seeks Feedback on Proposed Water Sustainability Act Regulations," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, August 12, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Update on BC Oil and Gas Commission's Area Based Analysis", *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, August 3, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Private Parties Not Liable for Public Interest Costs," *BLG Publication*, July 2015.
- Co-Author, "Canada Shines Spotlight on Extractive Sector," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, June 03, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Aboriginal Rights do not have to be Proven before a Claim in Tort can be Advanced," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, May 11, 2015.
- Co-Author, "New Amendments to the B.C. Fee, Levy and Security Regulation,"

The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog, April 29, 2015.

- Co-Author, "The Full Montney? NEB Recommends NGTL's North Montney Mainline Project - With Conditions," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, April 22, 2015.
- Co-Author, "New Requirements For Proposed BC Mines With Tailings Ponds - Response to Mount Polley," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, March 29, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Proposed Changes to BC Oil and Gas Legislation – Scope of "Oil and Gas Activity" Broadened and Royalty Agreements Endorsed," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, March 26, 2015.
- Speaker/Author, "An Overview of the Regulation of Water Use in BC for the Oil and Gas Industry," Environmental Managers' Association Workshop - Vancouver, February 2015.
- Co-Author, "2014 in Review: Top 10 Legislative and Regulatory Changes For The Canadian Oil and Gas Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, February 2, 2015.
- Co-Author, "2014 in Review: Top 10 Canadian Judicial Decisions of Import to the Oil and Gas Industry," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 29, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Through the Looking Glass: the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act Receives Royal Assent," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 27, 2015.
- Co-Author, "Dodging the Corporate Veil - Recent Attempts to Hold Companies Liable for the Actions of their Foreign Subsidiaries," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, January 26, 2015.
- Co-Author, "B.C. Oil & Gas Commission to Implement Area-based Analysis in Application Review Process," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, December 23, 2014.
- Co-Author, "A Mountain of a Battle: BC Supreme Court Grants an Injunction Restraining Protestors from Interfering with Trans Mountain's Pipeline Expansion Project," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, November 17, 2014.
- Author, "B.C. Supreme Court Upholds the Practice of Issuing Recurrent, Short-term Water Use Approvals for Oil and Gas Development," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, October 21, 2014.
- Speaker/Author, "An Overview of the Water Sustainability Act," BLG Annual Environmental Law Seminar, Vancouver, October 2014.
- Speaker/Author, "An Overview of the Water Sustainability Act," BLG In-House Counsel Professional Development Seminar, October 2014.
- Author, "New LNG Facility Regulation," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, July 29, 2014.
- Author, "B.C. Government Releases Species At Risk Plan," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, July 21, 2014.
- Co-Author, "Supreme Court of Canada Rules on Key Aboriginal Issues," *The Resource: BLG Energy Law Blog*, July 16, 2014.
- Author, "Administrative Penalties Regulation," *BLG Environmental Law Alert*,

July 2014.

- Speaker, "Surface Access to Private Land For Pipeline Development," B.C. Expropriation Association 21st Annual Fall Conference, November 2013.
- Author, "Changing Waters: Overhaul of the BC Water Act," *British Columbia Real Estate Law Developments*, December 2013.
- Co-Author, "Turn of the Century, British Columbia has Plans to Update its 100-year-old *Water Act*," *Water Canada* magazine, September/October 2012.
- Co-Author, "Navigating through the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*: Assessing Pipeline Projects under the new *CEAA*," Canadian Transport Lawyers Association Conference, September 2012.
- Co-Author, "Environmental Law" chapter, *Annual Review of Law & Practice*, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLE BC), 2004-11 editions.

RANKINGS & RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized in the 2019 edition of the *Lexpert®/ROB Special Edition* – Canada's Leading Corporate Lawyers.
- Recognized in the 2019 edition of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* (Energy, Environment).
- Recognized in the 2019 edition of *Chambers Canada – Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Environmental).
- Recognized in the 2019 and 2018 edition of *Chambers Canada* in Energy: Provincial Regulatory and Litigation – British Columbia.
- Recommended in the 2017 edition of the *Legal 500 Canada* (Environment).
- Recognized in the 2019 edition (and since 2015) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada®* (Energy Regulatory Law, Environmental Law, Oil & Gas Law).
- Recognized in the 2018 edition (and since 2014) of the *Lexpert®/Report on Business Special Edition* - Canada leading Energy Lawyers.
- Recognized in the 2019 (and since 2014) editions of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory* (Energy: Oil and Gas). Also recognized in 2019 for Environmental Law.
- *Martindale-Hubbell® AV®* Preeminent™ 4.8 out of 5 Peer Review Rated.
- Recognized in the 2017 and 2018 editions of *Benchmark Canada – The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys* as a Local Litigation Star: British Columbia, and a Litigation Star: (Arbitration, Energy and Natural Resources, Environmental, and General Commercial).

ABOUT BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) is a leading, national, full-service Canadian law firm focusing on business law, commercial litigation and arbitration, and intellectual property solutions for our clients. BLG is one of the country's largest law firms with more than 700 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals in five cities across Canada. We assist clients with their legal needs, from major litigation to financing to

trademark and patent registration.