



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCCL Fellows Gather Virtually for 24th Annual Conference

Montreal, June 22, 2021



John Murphy, President

The Canadian College of Construction Lawyers held its Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference on May 28 and 29, 2021. Under the theme of ***“It’s Complicated!” Dealing with Construction’s Increasing Complexity***, more than eighty Fellows gathered virtually to hear colleagues, guest speakers, and panelists share their industry insights and foresights covering a wide range of topics. While the Fellows were unable to meet in person this year, the conference proved to be a success with insightful topics and good discussion.

The agenda kicked off on Thursday evening with the Annual Meeting of the CCCL Board of Governors.

The next day’s Conference modules began with a panel discussion moderated by Marni Dicker (Toronto) addressing the challenges related to contractual risk allocation in a post-COVID-19 world. The Panel consisted of Fellows from across Canada: Richard Shaban (Toronto), Yvan Houle (Montreal), Matt Hayes (St. John), and Andrew Wallace (Edmonton).

The Fellows were pleased to hear from guest speaker Dr. Tanya (Toni) De Mello on the important topic of understanding unconscious bias. Dr. De Mello explored how to build better relationships at work and in the broader community. Her presentation was followed by a session addressing the role of equity, diversity and inclusion in the CCCL moderated by Doug Stollery (Edmonton). Day One continued with a discussion titled *Litigating Concurrent Project Delays in the Common Law and Civil Law – What works and what doesn’t*, moderated by Chris O’Connor and featuring panellists Lorna Tardif (HKA Canada), Zey Emir (Revay and Associates), Simon Grégoire (Montreal), Scott Hammel (Edmonton). Following remarks by outgoing president, Karen Martin, the evening concluded with an entertaining performance by comedian Steve Patterson.

Day Two of the Conference began with the College’s Annual General Meeting.

New appointments and designations made at the AGM included:

- **John G. Murphy** – President
- **Karen Martin, Q.C.** – Immediate Past President
- **D. Geoff Machum, Q.C.** – Vice-President
- **Glenn Ackerley** – Treasurer
- **Patricia Morrison** – Secretary
- **Nicolas Gagnon** – Program Coordinator
- **Stephanie Hickman, Q.C.** – Assistant Program Coordinator

Following the AGM, a panel was held titled “Ethical and Professional Challenges in Challenging Times.” The discussion was moderated by Andrea Lee (Toronto) and featured panellists Kenneth Crofoot (Toronto), Stephanie Hickman (St. John’s), and Jeff Vallis (Calgary).

Following the panel, outgoing president, Karen Martin, incoming president, John Murphy and Treasurer, Glenn Ackerley presided over the induction and introduction of seven (7) new Fellows from across Canada to the College:

- **Kevin Gibson**, Partner, Pink Larkin (Halifax)
- **James MacNeil**, Managing Partner, Boyne Clarke LLP (Dartmouth)
- **Greg Moores, Partner**, Stewart McKelvey (St. John’s)
- **Patrice Morin, Partner**, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Montreal)
- **Collin Hirschfeld Q.C.**, Partner, McKercher LLP (Saskatoon)
- **Beth Allard**, Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright (Vancouver)
- **Tyler Galbraith**, Partner, Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP (Vancouver)

Day Two also featured a fast-paced session of Hot Topics in Construction Law covering the latest developments in reprisal or past performance clauses, the pandemic and politics South of the border, limitation periods, virtual arbitration hearings, pass through claims, and good faith and discretion in contract termination. The conference concluded with remarks by incoming president John Murphy on the future of the College.

The 2021 Conference was expertly steered by Program Coordinator Glenn Ackerley (Toronto) and Assistant Program Coordinator Nicolas Gagnon (Montreal), who successfully faced the many challenges of organizing a virtual event. Incoming president John Murphy is looking forward to leading the College to the 25th Annual Conference, which is currently scheduled to take place in person in St. Andrews by-the-Sea, NB in May 2022.

The Canadian College of Construction Lawyers strives to facilitate and encourage the association of outstanding lawyers who are distinguished for their skill, experience and high standards of professional and ethical conduct in the practice or teaching of construction law, and who are dedicated to excellence in the specialized practice of construction law. For more information about the College and its Fellows, visit their website at www.cccl.org.

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