

# RECONCILING TITLE

## ABORIGINAL TITLE AND THE FUTURE OF FEE SIMPLE TENURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LAND AND  
ENERGY PROFESSIONALS

**THE  
NEGOTIATOR**

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# SURFACE RIGHTS & REGULATORY REVIEW



Bennett Jones

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**Alberta Court of King's Bench Corrects  
Unreasonable Errors in an Initial Compensation  
Decision Made by the Land and Property Rights  
Tribunal**

**Decision: Remington Development Corporation v  
ENMAX Power Corporation, 2025 ABKB 526**

**Date: September 15, 2025**

On September 15, 2025, the Alberta Court of King's Bench (the "Court") issued its latest decision concerning a land-related dispute between Remington Development Corporation ("Remington") and ENMAX Power Corporation ("ENMAX") that began more than two decades ago. This dispute involves two overhead transmission lines that were, until their removal in 2024, owned and operated by ENMAX and located on certain parcels of land owned by Remington. The Court's decision provides helpful guidance on development-related compensation claims under the Surface Rights Act ("Act") in the context of a particularly complex and unique set of facts.

Remington is the owner of 13 separate titled parcels of

land, comprising a total of 11.27 acres, in the east Beltline area of Calgary (the "Interlink Lands"). Remington acquired the Interlink Lands from Canadian Pacific Railway Company ("CP") through transactions that occurred in 2002 and 2010. The ENMAX transmission lines had been located and operated on portions of the Interlink Lands continuously from at least as early as 1948. By 1970, ENMAX and CP had signed three Right of Way Agreements with respect to the transmission lines, which allowed for termination by either party on three months' notice. Upon termination of the Right of Way Agreements, ENMAX was required to remove the transmission lines from the Interlink Lands at its own expense.

On March 31, 2005, Remington notified ENMAX that it was terminating the Right of Way Agreements and that ENMAX was required to remove the transmission lines from the Interlink Lands by June 30, 2005. ENMAX refused to comply.

In November 2008, Remington commenced an action alleging breach of contract and trespass against ENMAX, and seeking damages from ENMAX. Further

litigation and regulatory proceedings followed, including applications to the Alberta Utilities Commission, the Alberta Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada. Ultimately, after failed attempts to obtain approval to remove the transmission lines, ENMAX applied for and was granted four right of entry orders (the "ROE Orders") in respect of the Interlink Lands. The ROE Orders gave ENMAX the right to enter portions of the Interlink Lands (1.23 acres of total area across four of the thirteen parcels) for purposes "incidental to the construction, operation or removal of" its existing transmission lines. A lengthy compensation hearing was held in the fall of 2020, after which the Land and Property Rights Tribunal ("Tribunal") ordered ENMAX to pay Remington a lump sum of \$7,916,482 and annual payments of \$356,989. Both ENMAX and Remington appealed the Tribunal's compensation decision to the Court. In considering whether the Tribunal's compensation decision was reasonable, Justice Simard examined the Tribunal's findings under paragraphs 25(1)(a) through (d) of the Act. With respect to paragraph 25(1)(a) of the Act, Justice Simard agreed with the Tribunal that the "small parcel" approach to valuation was inapplicable because the lands covered by the ROE Orders were very narrow and long, not completely contiguous, and landlocked.

The bulk of the Court's 77-page decision addresses the Tribunal's compensation award under paragraph 25(1)(b) of the Act, which was not found to be reasonable. Overall, Justice Simard found that the Tribunal made five unreasonable errors by: (i) failing to identify the true nature of Remington's actual loss (i.e., the cost of Remington's delay in developing the areas covered by the ROE Orders); (ii) unreasonably interpreting its jurisdiction under paragraph 25(1)(b) of the Act to prevent it from awarding compensation "beyond the titled units" at issue; (iii) unreasonably assessing Remington's reversionary value in the Interlink Lands; (iv) making unreasonable findings of fact regarding the cause of Remington's delay in developing the Interlink Lands; and (v) unreasonably assessing Remington's residual value in the Interlink Lands.

Regarding the true nature of Remington's actual loss,

the Court disagreed with the approach taken by the Tribunal, which involved simply determining the "en bloc" value of the area taken and reducing that amount by a factor of 25 percent to account for residual value. Instead, the Court noted evidence from both ENMAX and Remington that the transmission lines would, in fact, be removed sometime after the effective date of the ROE Orders (May 17, 2018) and that the Interlink Lands as a whole would then be developed. Accordingly, given the evidence that the ROE Orders amounted to only temporary takings, Remington's actual loss at the effective date was not simply the value of the area taken; it was the delay that Remington would experience in realizing the value of the Interlink Lands as a package – either through selling the Interlink Lands or developing them. Importantly, the Court's findings in this regard were based on evidence that the whole of the Interlink Lands simply could not be developed until ENMAX's transmission lines were removed.

Based on the evidence that the transmission lines would be removed in the future and the Interlink Lands would then be developed, the Court also took the view that the Tribunal unreasonably concluded that Remington would not realize any reversionary value. The Court also found that the ROE Orders and the transmission lines were the cause of Remington's development delays and viewed the Tribunal's findings that these delays were attributable to "a number of reasons other than the existence of the transmission lines" as being unreasonable. With respect to residual value, the Court determined that Remington would have access to 65 percent of the residual value of the Interlink Lands while the transmission lines were present, and applied a 65 percent reduction to the net cost to Remington in recognition of this retained residual value.

Lastly, the Court found that the Tribunal had unreasonably awarded \$500 annual structure payments for each of the six transmission line towers located on the Interlink Lands, and that no loss of use compensation was warranted under paragraph 25(1)(c) of the Act. The Court also found that the Tribunal unreasonably awarded annual compensation for

adverse effect under paragraph 25(1)(d) of the Act. Justice Simard's findings in this regard were made on the basis that the compensation award under paragraph 25(1)(b) of the Act fully compensated Remington for the delay in developing the Interlink Lands, and that any further amounts in the form of annual payments would result in overcompensation.

**Land and Property Rights Tribunal Applies Substantial Reduction to Landowner Costs Claim Arising from a Settled Rent Review Proceeding**

**Decision: The Good-To-Fare Ranch Ltd. v Cenovus Energy Ltd., 2025 ABLRT 721**

**Date: November 4, 2025**

On November 4, 2025, the Tribunal issued its decision on an application for costs under section 39 of the Act, which was filed in connection with a proceeding involving four annual compensation review applications filed under section 27 of the Act. The applicant in both cases, The Good-ToFare Ranch Ltd. (the "Landowner"), sought representation costs in the amount of \$22,409.10 and personal costs in the amount of \$2,000.00. The Landowner's personal costs were halved, while the representation costs (consisting of legal and land agent fees) were reduced by nearly sixty percent.

The Landowner's section 27 applications were filed on December 29, 2023. The Landowner and the operator, Cenovus Energy Ltd., subsequently took part in several Pre-Hearing Conferences ("PHCs") and Follow-up Pre-Hearing Conferences ("FPHCs"), which ultimately resulted in a merit hearing being scheduled for March 5, 2025. At the final FPHC on January 28, 2025, the parties resolved the issue of compensation payable, such that the merit hearing was cancelled. After this FPHC, the parties attempted to reach a settlement on costs but ultimately filed submissions with the Tribunal on this topic.

The Landowner's claim for personal costs was not based on an hourly rate or detailed records of time spent, but rather was presented as "a reasonable

estimate of the Landowner's direct participation" in the proceeding. In its decision, the Tribunal highlighted the need for the Landowner to provide a detailed description of costs in support of its personal claim and found that the Landowner's personal claim did not meet the requirements of the Tribunal's Rule 31(1). That said, the Tribunal took the view that there was evidence of the Landowner's participation in the proceeding and waived the need for strict compliance with Rule 31(1). The Landowner's claim for representation costs included \$11,897.00 in legal fees, reflecting more than 24 hours of time recorded by a lawyer and articling student. Also included in the Landowner's claim was \$9,445.00 in fees for more than 30 hours of time recorded by two land agents. Notably, land agent time was charged at a rate of either \$295.00 or \$350.00 per hour. The Tribunal commented that the hourly rate of \$295.00 was almost double the rate that is typically awarded for land agent time. The Tribunal rejected this rate and applied a rate of \$150.00 per hour for the land agent's time included in the Landowner's costs claim.

In assessing the reasonableness of the Landowner's costs claim as a whole, the Tribunal found that the Landowner's \$2,000.00 claim for personal costs was excessive, and that an amount of \$1,000.00 was reasonable given the Landowner's decision to hire multiple representatives. With respect to the legal fees claimed, the Tribunal found evidence of significant duplication between the four section 27 files, repeated file reviews being undertaken by the same lawyer, and numerous instances of administrative tasks being unnecessarily performed by lawyers at high hourly rates. In aggregate, the Tribunal reduced both the rate and the number of hours for the two land agents retained by the Landowner, while also reducing the number of hours recorded by legal counsel. This ultimately reduced the \$22,409.10 claim to a total award of \$10,725.00.

**Land and Property Rights Tribunal Clarifies Requirements for Amending Right of Entry Orders through the Reconsideration Process**

**Decisions: Archer Exploration Corp. v Brons, 2025**

**ABLPRT 567; Grizzly Resources Ltd v Richard, 2025****ABLPRT 570**

**Dates: September 10 & 12, 2025**

In a pair of decisions issued two days apart, the Tribunal clarified the circumstances under which an operator can successfully amend an existing right of entry order ("ROE Order") through a reconsideration application filed under section 29 of the Act. While both decisions acknowledged that the Tribunal "in the past has accepted applications under section 29 of the Act to amend [ROE Orders] where the applicant has asked that additional lands be added to the area that is already subject to the [ROE Order]," only one of these decisions resulted in the Tribunal exercising its discretion to amend the ROE Order before it.

In *Archer Exploration Corp. v Brons* ("Archer"), the Tribunal granted the initial ROE Order for a 6.23-acre site to the operator on April 5, 2023. On December 10, 2024, the operator filed a reconsideration application under section 29 of the Act seeking an amendment to the existing ROE Order on the basis that the operator required an expanded area (0.83 acres) to drill an additional well on its existing pad site. The operator's reconsideration application included an Alberta Energy Regulator ("AER") licence for the additional well but did not include any express acknowledgment that the owners of the subject lands had consented to the operator's application. The operator also conceded that no mistake or error was made with respect to the original ROE Order.

The Tribunal's March 21, 2025, preliminary decision on the operator's reconsideration application waived the need for strict compliance with the procedural and timing requirements under Rule 37; however, the Tribunal concluded that the operator's application, as filed, was insufficient. Among other things, the Tribunal directed the operator to provide a Declaration in Support of Survey Plan in the proper form, as well as a Declaration of Service confirming that all respondents had been served with the application materials and the Tribunal's preliminary

decision. While no time limit was set for the operator to provide the Tribunal with this additional information, the Tribunal in the *Archer* decision noted that six months had passed since the preliminary decision was issued, and that it therefore considered the operator's reconsideration application to be withdrawn.

Despite the deemed withdrawal of the operator's reconsideration application in *Archer*, the Tribunal went on to provide detailed commentary on the proper exercise of its discretion under section 29 of the Act. The Tribunal noted that, while it can waive certain requirements in its Rules, it cannot waive requirements under the Act, and any section 29 application seeking to amend an existing ROE Order must comply with the notice requirements under section 15 of the Act (i.e., those which apply to applications for ROE Orders in the first instance). The Tribunal in *Archer* also suggested that the surrounding circumstances must be "considered unusual or out of the ordinary" in order for section 29 to be used to amend a ROE Order.

Two days after the *Archer* decision was issued, the same panel of the Tribunal issued its decision in *Grizzly Resources Ltd v. Richard* ("Grizzly"). In *Grizzly*, the Tribunal granted the initial ROE Order to the operator on April 5, 2023, in respect of a 3.41-acre site. On May 25, 2023, the operator filed a reconsideration application seeking amendments to the existing ROE Order for the purpose of drilling three additional wells within a 1.28-acre pad site extension area. Similar to *Archer*, the operator in this case filed an AER well licence amendment and conceded that there was no error contained in the original ROE Order.

In its November 14, 2023, preliminary decision on the operator's reconsideration application, the Tribunal noted that "given the effect that granting [ROE Orders] under section 15 of the Act has on the respondent's rights, the Act requires a heightened level of disclosure and notice to those who have an interest in the area subject to the order." On this basis and as it did in *Archer*, the Tribunal directed the operator to provide a

Declaration in Support of Survey Plan in the proper form, as well as a Declaration of Service confirming that all respondents had been served with the application materials and the Tribunal's preliminary decision. The operator complied.

In granting the operator's reconsideration application, the Tribunal in *Grizzly* noted the comments made in its previous *Archer* decision and identified several key differences between the two sets of facts. Namely, in *Grizzly*: (i) the operator provided evidence that it had acted on the strength of the Tribunal's preliminary decision; (ii) it was clear from the outset that the owners of the impacted land had consented to the proposed amendments; and (iii) the reconsideration application was filed within the six-month period specified in the Tribunal's Rules and only one month after the original ROE Order was issued. In the circumstances, the Tribunal in *Grizzly* determined that it was appropriate to exercise its discretion to amend the subject ROE Order.

**Land and Property Rights Tribunal Signals a Potential Departure from the Practice of Awarding a Standardized Hourly Rate for Landowner Personal Time**

**Decision: Drylander Ranch Ltd v Goodland Energy Ltd, 2025 ABLPRT 481**

**Dates: August 14, 2025**

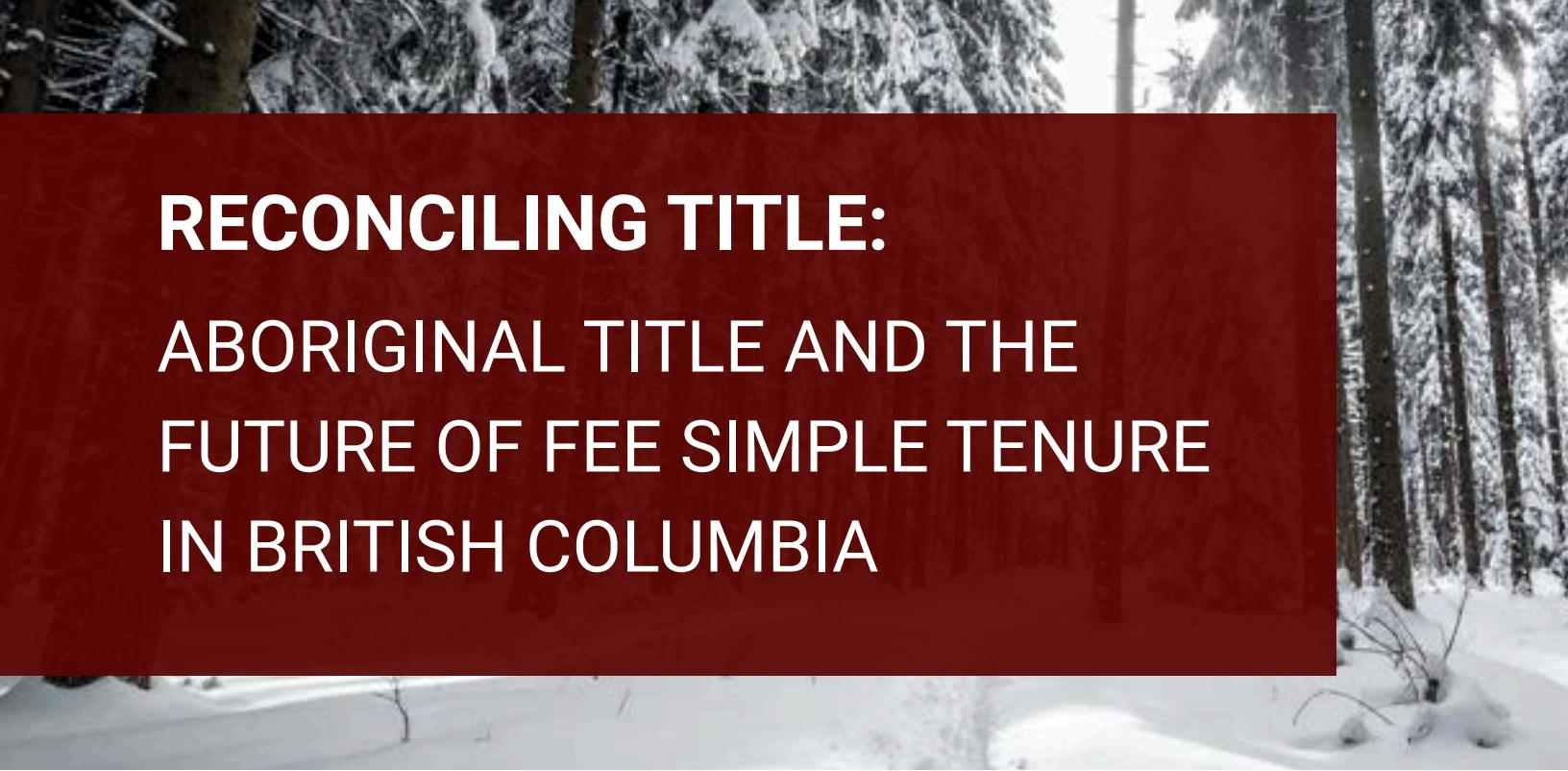
A recent Tribunal-initiated review of a previous costs decision suggests that the Tribunal may depart from its well-established practice of compensating landowners for their personal time at a rate of \$50 per hour in connection with proceedings under the Act.

On July 22, 2025, the Tribunal issued its costs decision in the matter of *Drylander Ranch Ltd. v Goodland Energy Ltd.*, 2025 ABLPRT 423, which addressed a claim for costs filed in connection with a rent review proceeding under section 27 of the Act. Among other things, the landowner's claim contained a request that his personal time be compensated at a rate of \$150 per

hour for all the landowner's activities carried out in connection with the subject application. In support of this request, the landowner provided evidence that certain energy companies had compensated him for his personal time at higher rates (\$250 to \$500 per hour). The landowner also argued that the Tribunal's practice of awarding \$50 per hour is "low for the owner of a large business."

The Tribunal's initial decision rejected the landowner's claim for a higher hourly rate and issued a costs award that reflected its standard rate of \$50 per hour. The Tribunal also noted that it "does not differentiate Landowner cost claims based on the size of the Landowner's holdings, the complexity of their operation or on the Landowner's foregone opportunity cost of hearing preparation and participation time." The Tribunal went on to explain that this practice "is intended to provide equity to Landowners and to recognize their participation in applications" and similarly rejected the landowner's claim for a higher mileage rate on the basis that it has a longstanding practice of compensating landowners equitably in this regard.

On August 14, 2025, the Tribunal issued a further decision commencing a "Tribunal-initiated review" of its previous costs decision under section 29 of the Act. This subsequent decision took issue with the Tribunal's adherence to a predetermined "standard rate" of compensation for landowner time and instead reasoned that any decision must be based on the evidence before the Tribunal. In addition, the Tribunal commented that each panel must provide reasons for its conclusions when making a costs award and, while earlier decisions can provide direction to a panel, decisions of the Tribunal are non-binding. Before proceeding with its review and rendering a decision, the Tribunal requested further submissions from the landowner only (as the operator was noted to be insolvent and unable to respond). The landowner's submissions were due on September 15, 2025, and the Tribunal has yet to release any further decisions on this matter.



# RECONCILING TITLE: ABORIGINAL TITLE AND THE FUTURE OF FEE SIMPLE TENURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chris Roine | Joshua Favel | Claudia Wheler

In a landmark decision released on Aug. 7, 2025, the Supreme Court of British Columbia found that the descendants of the Cowichan Nation, including the Cowichan Tribes, Stz'uminus First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, and Halalt First Nation (collectively, the Cowichan) had established Aboriginal title to portions of the south arm of the Fraser River, and affirmed the Cowichan's constitutionally protected right to fish those waters for food. The ruling in Cowichan Tribes v. Canada (Attorney General), 2025 BCSC 1490 (Cowichan Tribes) breaks new ground in the jurisprudence on the relationship between Aboriginal title and fee simple.

## Key Takeaways

### 1. This decision creates immediate legal obligations and uncertainty.

The Court's declaration that certain Crown grants were "defective and invalid" creates immediate duties for the government and significant legal uncertainty for private parties. The Crown must negotiate with the Cowichan on any proposed land uses and develop transfer/sharing arrangements within 18 months, while private fee simple owners face potential validity challenges to their land titles. This results in significant legal uncertainty until appeals are resolved

or negotiations concluded.

### 2. It is an important precedent for other Aboriginal title claims.

The decision establishes a critical precedent that could affect existing and future Aboriginal title claims across British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada where treaties have not extinguished Indigenous land rights. The ruling demonstrates that historic Crown land dispossession of unceded territories, even when now held privately, remains subject to judicial scrutiny and constitutional remedy.

### 3. Unresolved governance and jurisdictional questions remain

The Court did not address fundamental questions about how Aboriginal title and fee simple interests will coexist, leaving critical uncertainties around land governance, regulatory authority, consultation requirements, taxation powers, and the continued validity of existing permits and licences. These unresolved issues will likely require either appellate court clarification or negotiated frameworks between Indigenous communities, governments, and private landowners.

## Background and Context

The Cowichan sought declarations of Aboriginal title to its traditional permanent summer village located on the south shore of Lulu Island in Richmond, British Columbia (Tl'uqtinus), as well as an Aboriginal right to fish the south arm of the Fraser River. The Cowichan's claim was contested by Canada, British Columbia, the City of Richmond, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Tsawwassen First Nation, and the Musqueam Indian Band.

The Cowichan's seasonal occupation of Tl'uqtinus was supported by extensive oral history, ethnographic, archaeological, and documentary evidence. This evidence was heard over the course of 513 trial days, following the trial's commencement in September 2019. Drawing on the extensive record presented by the Cowichan, the Court ultimately found that the Cowichan sufficiently and exclusively occupied their permanent village, the surrounding lands, and the strip of submerged land in front of the village at Tl'uqtinus, before, during, and after 1846.

A key piece of historical evidence in the Cowichan's claim was Governor James Douglas' 1853 assurance that "the Queen had given him a special charge to treat them with justice and humanity, so long as they remained at peace with the settlements." The Court held that this was "a solemn promise that engaged the honour of the Crown, which is a constitutional principle that requires the Crown to act honourably in its dealings with Indigenous peoples." However, despite this promise, the Cowichan's settlement at Tl'uqtinus was never established as a reserve. Instead, between 1871 and 1914, the Crown issued grants of fee simple interest over Tl'uqtinus.

## Key Findings of the Court

The Court ruled that the Cowichan succeeded in establishing Aboriginal title to a portion of Tl'uqtinus (the Cowichan Title Lands). Additionally, the Court held that Crown grants of fee simple interests over the Cowichan Title Lands (including those made to Canada

and the City of Richmond) "unjustifiably infringe The Cowichan's Aboriginal title," and that, except for Canada's interests in the Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery Project Lands, "Canada and Richmond's fee simple titles and interests in the Cowichan Title Lands are defective and invalid."

In clarifying the meaning of "defective and invalid," the Court explained that the grants of fee simple interests had been issued without statutory authority, and, in the case of post-Confederation grants, without constitutional authority. The Court further emphasized that "Aboriginal title currently lies beyond the land title system in British Columbia" and that registration under British Columbia's Land Title Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 250, is not necessarily conclusive evidence that the registered owner is indefeasibly entitled to that land against Aboriginal title holders and claimants.

In exploring the relationship between Aboriginal title and fee simple, the Court rejected the submission that the provincial Crown's grants of fee simple permanently displaced the Cowichan's Aboriginal title. Instead, it found that Aboriginal title continues to burden the lands over which the Crown grants were issued. Drawing on earlier jurisprudence, the Court concluded that because Aboriginal title and Crown title can coexist, fee simple, itself a derivative of Crown title, can also coexist with Aboriginal title.

The Court held that Aboriginal title is a prior and senior interest in land: constitutionally protected, rooted in the Cowichan's historical occupation, and not granted by the Crown. Given its status, the Court noted that the proper framework for understanding the relationship between fee simple and Aboriginal title is not to ask what remains of Aboriginal title after a grant of fee simple has been made, but rather what remains of fee simple after Aboriginal title has been recognized.

Where Aboriginal title and fee simple interests exist in the same land, the Court held that the interests must be addressed within a reconciliatory

framework, an exercise that engages the Crown and must be tailored to the specific circumstances and interests at play. Both interests may be valid, and the exercise of the rights associated with each should be reconciled. The Court found that the Crown owes a duty to negotiate in good faith with the Cowichan regarding overlapping interests, including those held by third parties, in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown.

## Defences

The defendants raised several defences, including limitation periods, laches, and bona fide purchaser for value without notice. The Court held that it would be unfair for British Columbia, as the Crown, to advance the defences of laches and bona fide purchaser for value without notice, not on its own behalf, but on behalf of private landowners who were not parties to the litigation. These defences were considered only in relation to Richmond, which was named as a defendant and had the opportunity to present its own evidence and arguments.

As a preliminary matter, the Court rejected the Cowichan's argument that the defendants should be estopped from relying on their pleaded defences due to the Cowichan's reasonable reliance on Governor Douglas' promise to protect Indian Settlements. The Court concluded that the requirements for estoppel were not met on the facts. While the promise did engage the honour of the Crown, it was not sufficiently specific to support an estoppel claim in favour of the Cowichan, and there was insufficient evidence that the Cowichan remained at peace in reliance on that promise.

## Limitation Periods

The Court held that limitation periods under provincial law were ineffective to bar the Cowichan's claim for several reasons:

- Provincial limitation legislation cannot bar courts from issuing declarations on the constitutionality of

the Crown's conduct.

- Courts have recognized an exception to the enforcement of statutory limitation periods when Indigenous communities seek declaratory relief against the Crown. This principle, drawn from cases such as *Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2013 SCC 14, reflects the constitutional nature of Aboriginal rights and the importance of addressing historical wrongs committed by the Crown. However, the Court in Cowichan Tribes noted that the exception may not extend to private third parties who could be directly affected by a declaration of Aboriginal title.
- Additionally, the Court likened the existence of fee simple titles over Aboriginal title lands to a continuing trespass. Because the infringement is ongoing, the cause of action is considered continuous, and limitation periods do not apply.

## Laches

The Court also rejected the defence of laches, an equitable defence based on delay. Laches may arise where a claimant acquiesces to the status quo or where a defendant reasonably relies on that acquiescence. In this case, the delay was not found to be unreasonable given the historical and constitutional nature of the rights asserted. The Court emphasized that equitable defences must be assessed in light of the honour of the Crown and the unique context of Aboriginal title claims.

## Bona fide purchaser for value without notice

The Court considered the defence of bona fide purchaser for value without notice, commonly relied upon by private fee simple owners. While it acknowledged that this defence could, in principle, protect fee simple titles from equitable claims, the Court held that it did not apply to Richmond, which had acquired the Cowichan Title Lands through tax sales under the Municipal Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 323, and therefore did not acquire the lands "for value." Having rejected each of the defences raised, the

Court turned to the question of remedy. Rather than awarding compensation, the Court emphasized that monetary relief would be insufficient given the constitutional nature of Aboriginal title and the ongoing infringement. The Court instead directed the parties toward reconciliation through negotiation.

## Implications

### Crown corporations and governments

The decision in Cowichan Tribes introduces legal uncertainty for Crown land holdings and infrastructure within the Cowichan Title Lands. Despite planned appeals (see the [British Columbia Attorney General's announcement](#) that the Province intends to appeal), the Crown has an immediate duty to negotiate with the Cowichan on any proposed uses of the fee simple parcels within the Cowichan Title Lands. The basis for consultation is likely broad, as the Court appeared to depart from the approach taken in *Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council*, [2010 SCC 43](#), and *Thomas and Saik'uz First Nation v. Rio Tinto Alcan Inc.*, [2022 BCSC 15](#), which distinguished between historic and novel adverse effects in determining whether the duty to consult is triggered.

The defendants must also negotiate a form of reconciliation with the Cowichan. Subject to any stays granted as a result of the appeal, the Province is obligated to transfer portions of the Cowichan Title Lands within an 18-month period and will likely need to develop a framework for shared use of the remaining parcels. More broadly, the ruling may lead to similar claims by other Indigenous communities who assert Aboriginal title across the Province and elsewhere in Canada where treaties have not extinguished or modified their Aboriginal title claims. The Crown also likely will need to revisit various policies, particularly in regard to issuing new grants of fee simple, the disposition of surplus lands, and consultation practices generally. The Cowichan Tribes' decision also highlights the continued relevance of the British Columbia Treaty Process as a forum for achieving comprehensive reconciliation, including clear land ownership and coordinated jurisdiction.

### Private parties

The Court's decision in Cowichan Tribes has significant implications for private fee simple owners within the Cowichan Title Lands. Some may be directly affected by the finding that certain Crown grants were "defective and invalid," and may consider steps to engage directly in the appeal. In parallel, owners may seek clarity from the Province and the City of Richmond on how they intend to respond, whether through negotiations with the Cowichan, policy or legislative changes, or transitional arrangements.

If upheld, the decision could pave the way for courts to issue declarations of Aboriginal title over lands held in fee simple elsewhere in British Columbia and across Canada where such lands have not been surrendered or modified through treaty.

Private parties may have better success than the government defendants in the Cowichan Tribes in pleading defences like limitation periods, laches, and the defence of bona fide purchaser for value without notice. However, while those defences may preserve their fee simple interests from being declared invalid or defective, fee simple owners could face other complications if a court rules that Aboriginal title exists alongside fee simple interests. These include uncertainty around land use and governance, as well as the potential need for consent or coordination with the title-holding Indigenous community.

The Court declined to provide specific guidance on these uncertainties or the broader implications of the decision, leaving several critical questions unresolved. For example:

- Previous case law has linked governance to Aboriginal title. As a result, an Indigenous community may assert that it can regulate the use of Aboriginal title lands that are also subject to a fee simple interest. Could an Indigenous community require fee simple owners to obtain permits or approvals before using the land in certain ways?

- Courts have also held that Aboriginal title includes the right to benefit from economic development on the land. Might an Indigenous community impose taxes, fees, or charges on occupants of Aboriginal title lands, independent of municipal or provincial levies?
- Provincial laws have limited application on lands where Aboriginal title has been proven. Could provincial or municipal laws be similarly constrained in their application to fee simple lands subject to a declaration of Aboriginal title?
- Would statutory rights held by private parties – such as access or operational permits – continue to apply on Aboriginal title lands?
- Would courts uphold licences or permits issued by Crown agencies that previously held fee simple interests?
- Even if an Indigenous community does not assert jurisdiction or challenge the authority of federal, provincial, or municipal laws, it may still assert a right to be consulted about future uses of lands where Aboriginal title has been recognized. Prior to this decision, case law generally limited consultation to new or ongoing adverse effects; however, the Court's decision in Cowichan Tribes appears to depart from, or at least distinguish, that framework. How might future courts approach consultation requirements in this context?

## Indigenous Communities

Cowichan Tribes marks a significant advancement in the law, offering greater clarity on how courts may assess the validity of Crown grants over traditional territories that are not subject to treaties addressing pre-existing Indigenous land rights. By recognizing Aboriginal title over lands held in fee simple and declaring the Crown grants of those interests “defective and invalid,” the Court demonstrated that historic land dispossession of unceded and unsurrendered lands that are held privately can still be subject to judicial scrutiny and constitutional remedy.

The Court’s direction to Canada and British Columbia to negotiate the resolution of the competing interests in lands subject to Crown grants and Aboriginal title reflects the evolving legal standards for how governments must

engage with Indigenous rights holders. Importantly, the decision also signals that resolving these claims may have significant implications for third parties, including private landowners.

## What’s Next?

British Columbia has confirmed its intention to appeal the decision. Given the scope of the judgment, it is likely that many stakeholders will seek to intervene in the appeal, including private landowners, utilities, and other Indigenous communities with overlapping claims. The appeal process may also prompt legislative review and policy reform, particularly around land title systems, consultation frameworks, and the reconciliation of overlapping interests. Until the appeal is resolved or negotiations are concluded, legal uncertainty will persist for parties with interests in the Cowichan Title Lands. For more context on recent developments on Aboriginal title jurisprudence, see our Jan. 2025 Insight on recent litigation in New Brunswick, released prior to Cowichan Tribes, which explores the evolving legal landscape for Aboriginal title claims over lands held in fee simple: *Litigation developments: Aboriginal title and fee simple title*.

## Contact Us

BLG regularly advises clients on matters relating to Indigenous land rights, Aboriginal title, and Aboriginal rights, including the interplay between these rights and private interests in land. If you have questions regarding the intersection of Aboriginal title and fee simple ownership in relation to your specific circumstances, please contact the authors, any of the key contacts listed below, or any lawyer from [BLG’s Indigenous Law Group](#).

*By: Chris Roine, Joshua Favel, Claudia Wheeler*  
*Expertise: Indigenous Law, Municipal & Land Use Planning*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

**Jasone Blazevic**  
Director of External Relations | CALEP  
Board of Directors

## *From the Field to the Policy Table: Advocacy That Moves Our Profession Forward*

Since joining the CALEP Board of Directors in May, I have been privileged to step into the role of Director of External Relations, representing our membership at the intersection of industry, government, and other land-profession associations across Canada. In a turbulent and evolving regulatory landscape, having a strong CALEP voice externally is more important than ever — and I am proud of the progress we have made so far.

### **Engagement and Policy Work**

On behalf of CALEP, Jordan Murray (Mancal Energy Inc.) and I sit on the Tenure Industry Advisory Committee (TIAC), an initiative led by the Alberta Energy and Minerals Ministry. Through TIAC, we have contributed to discussions and provided feedback on several critical issues shaping the future of mineral tenure and energy development in Alberta, including:

- Proposals for term extensions of eligible PNG agreements held or developed by micro- and junior producers targeting shallow dry gas;
- Policies surrounding shallow rights reversion;



*Jasone Blazevic*  
Director of External Relations | CALEP Board of Directors

a matter of increasing interest to both industry and rights-holders;

- Alberta's ongoing government automation projects which aim to modernize administration and regulatory processes;
- Tenure considerations in Alberta's caribou-range areas, balancing environmental stewardship with responsible development; and
- Clarification of the obligations of a receiver to the Alberta Crown during insolvencies, ensuring that mineral interests and Crown obligations are appropriately managed when companies face financial difficulty.

In addition to TIAC, I have been actively engaged in dialogue around the evolving land-agents licensing regime, advocating for clarity, fairness, and consistency across all activities and industries involving negotiation for an interest in land, with particular interest in how such regulation may impact land professionals, industry, and stakeholders alike across all jurisdictions.

## **Building Bridges Across Associations**

A key priority for my portfolio is to foster stronger synergies and collaboration among the many land-profession associations operating across our country. To that end, I have reached out and engaged with various associations, including IRWA, LEMAC, and AASLA — as well as other regional or provincial land-related organizations. Through these conversations, our aim is to explore common ground: shared concerns, opportunities to harmonize best practices, and potential co-operation to amplify our collective voice when engaging with government or regulators.

## **Why This Matters to CALEP Members**

We all know that our industry does not operate in a vacuum — changes in regulation, environmental policy, and land-use frameworks have direct implications for how we conduct business, negotiate agreements, and uphold our professional standards. By participating in committees like TIAC and by proactively engaging external partners, CALEP ensures that our members' interests are represented, respected, and factored into evolving policy. This not only protects the rights and opportunities of

individual land professionals but also reinforces CALEP's standing as a trusted, influential stakeholder in Canada's energy and land-management landscape.

## **A Call for Member-Driven Representation**

As Director of External Relations, I want to emphasize that my role is not solely about what I do — it's about what we do as an association. If you believe there is value in having CALEP represented externally on any matter — whether with government, regulators, other associations, industry groups, or public stakeholders — I encourage you to bring it forward.

If you are interested in representing CALEP in such matters, or wish to initiate a discussion about external representation, please don't hesitate to contact me at: [externalrelations@calep.ca](mailto:externalrelations@calep.ca)

Your insight, experience, and engagement are what make CALEP a strong, respected voice. Let's continue to work together — not just for today, but for the future of our profession.



# SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## Alejandro Lainez-Lozada

Mineral Land Student | CNRL

Interview by Wade McLeod,  
Director of Communications



***Tell us a bit about yourself – where you’re from, and what first sparked your interest in the Land profession.***

I’m 27 years old, born and raised in Lima, Peru. I grew up bodyboarding and practicing sports like rowing and judo, though bodyboarding was always my favorite. While studying Industrial Engineering in my third year, I realized it wasn’t the right fit for me—I wanted a career that allowed me to be more social. That led me to transfer to MRU to pursue a Business Administration degree. Through networking in Calgary, I met a landman and learned about the Mineral Land profession. I was immediately drawn to it because it combines both analytical and interpersonal skills, which suits me perfectly.

***Where are you currently studying, and how has your experience in the program been so far? What aspects of the coursework do you find most rewarding or challenging?***

I’m in my final semester of the Business Administration – General Management program at Mount Royal University (MRU). My experience has been amazing—I’ve met people from diverse backgrounds and learned a lot. I find the coursework to be much more aligned with my skills. The most challenging courses for me have been Human Resources-related, as they rely heavily on memorization rather than understanding concepts. Another challenge is group work; I like working ahead to avoid last-minute stress, but that’s not always a shared goal among team members.

***What areas of Land work interest you the most, and why do those areas stand out to you?***

I'm most interested in the negotiation side of Land work. The idea of securing good deals while collaborating with teams of geologists and engineers really appeals to me. After shadowing negotiators on a few projects, I saw firsthand how dynamic and team-oriented the work is, and that's something I look forward to being part of.

***You're currently working with CNRL as a Mineral Land Administration Student. What were your first few days like, navigating the office, meeting your team, and settling into your role? Any early lessons or surprises from the experience so far?***

My first few days were all about learning—geological formations, CAPL procedures, the software we use, and getting introduced to the different Land teams at CNRL. It was overwhelming at first, especially since I didn't come from the PLM program, so there was a lot to absorb (and I'm still learning every day). One pleasant surprise was how welcoming everyone has been. Coming from an engineering background, I didn't expect to be treated as an equal, but the team has been incredibly supportive.

***What are some of your long-term goals in the Land profession? Do you see yourself focusing on a particular discipline (surface, mineral, regulatory, Indigenous relations, etc.)?***

Long-term, I see myself focusing on negotiations. While I'll go through rotations in different Mineral Land departments, I'm drawn to the challenge of applying all that knowledge in a Landman role. Negotiation combines strategy, communication, and problem-solving, which is really exciting to me.

***Why did you decide to join CALEP, and what have you enjoyed most about being part of the organization so far?***

I joined CALEP because of the networking opportunities it offers throughout the year. These

events are a great way to connect with professionals from different companies and learn more about the industry. Since starting as a student, I've been invited to several events, and that experience motivated me to become a member.

***What excites you most about CALEP's community of Land professionals? Are there particular opportunities or events you're looking forward to?***

What excites me most about CALEP's community is the opportunity to network with professionals who share the same career path. It's a mix of experienced members and new graduates, which creates a great environment for learning and building long-term connections. I'm especially looking forward to the courses CALEP offers—I've attended a couple already, and they've been incredibly helpful for understanding the industry and exploring different areas of Mineral Land.

***Have you had any mentors, instructors, or role models who have helped guide or inspire your journey in Land? What's the best advice they've given to you?***

I've been fortunate to have more than one mentor, but three stand out: Cathy Mageau, John Levson, and Lori-Ann Lerner. Cathy was the negotiator who first introduced me to Land. From day one, she patiently answered my questions and taught me from scratch. I also had the chance to work on several projects with her and attend networking events, which helped me expand my connections.

John Levson has also been—and continues to be—a key part of my development. I've worked on multiple projects with him, and his guidance has given me a solid understanding of CAPL procedures and the industry as a whole.

And Lori-Ann is always available to help me with any kind of questions, and I have had the opportunity to assist her on different projects that were new to me.

***What advice would you give other students who are considering a career in Land?***

I would advise students to take the opportunity to explore Land—it's a field that's not widely known but offers a broad range of opportunities for people with different skills and strengths. For those interested in becoming a Landman, I think it's the perfect balance between analytical and interpersonal skills, which makes it both challenging and rewarding.

***How do you see the Land profession evolving in the next few years, and where do you see yourself fitting into that future?***

I believe the Land profession has significant growth potential in Canada, especially with the opportunities in

Oil & Gas. I hope to see the industry continue to expand and adapt to new challenges. As for myself, I see this as a chance to gain diverse experiences, grow as a professional, and eventually move into decision-making roles where I can help shape and develop the industry.

***Outside of school and work, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?***

I love spending time in the Rocky Mountains—hiking year-round and camping in the summer with my girlfriend and our dogs. I'm also planning to learn how to ski this winter, which I'm really excited about.



# SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## Shaun Cooper

Senior Land Negotiator  
Whitecap Resources Inc.

Interview by Wade McLeod,  
Director of Communications



### ***Tell us about yourself and what got you into Land?***

Hi, my name's Shaun. I'm a proud nerd and have competed in many obscure sports over the years, such as competitive paintball and disc golf. I was born in Medicine Hat, and my family relocated to Fort McMurray when I was in grade six. I finished high school there, with the intention of becoming a pilot. I'd heard many stories that the path to captaincy can be long and uncertain, so I decided to get a degree first, thinking it might speed things up. So I headed to university for "business," because I really had no direction at the time. I ended up missing the deadline for University of Calgary registration, so I did my first two years at Mount Royal College before transferring to U of C. I worked at Roger's Video and lived in my grandma's basement for four years. Initially

registered in finance, I quickly realized I hated it, so I saw an advisor, and it just so happened that a spot had recently opened in the Petroleum Land Management Program. I'd decided I liked Calgary, so I might as well give it a try. What I found was an incredible class of many who I still call good friends, an interesting business, some great instructors, and a lot of fun networking events. Before long, I'd completely forgotten about flying planes.

### ***Could you walk us through your professional journey and what led you to your current role as Senior Land Negotiator at Whitecap Resources?***

As far as I know, I was one of the last students in our roughly 40-person class to get a job. Jeremy Wallis, of

TriStar Oil & Gas, at the time, called Lawrence Fisher, who was one of my prof's and asked if he had anybody left. From what I heard, Lawrence said something along the lines of "Wally, this kid's got hair down to his a\$#, but there's something to him, give him a chance." And so, my first job was at TriStar Oil & Gas, working in SE Saskatchewan and a bit of Manitoba. Coincidentally, our strategic management class project was about TriStar, and Jeremy, together with Chris Palacz, grilled me about it in my interview. I told them our group's "professional" conclusion was that they should sell the company in 3-5 years...and lo and behold, two-ish years later, TriStar sold to Petrobank. Guess we were a little off with our 3-year target.

After that, I spent a short stint with the combined entity Petrobakken, after which Jeremy hired me again at their new company, Result Energy. That was short-lived, as Result sold the day that I started. Funny enough, they sold back to Petrobakken, where I'd just left. Petrobakken did not retain me, and shortly thereafter, I started working at Renegade Petroleum, again in SE Sask and Manitoba. I was the 15th hire there and grew with the company from 2010 through 2014 when Renegade sold to Spartan. I spent a year at Spartan before Jeremy hired me again at TORC Oil & Gas. Whitecap bought TORC in 2021, but Whitecap didn't take me on at the time, and I enjoyed six months of figuring out what I want to do when I grow up. The timing worked out well, and I ended up at Crescent Point, which became Veren. When Whitecap and Veren merged, Whitecap decided at this time to give me a seat, so that's where I'm pleased to sit today.

Long story short, every company I've worked for has been sold. So, if anybody out there is trying to sell, I'm happy to take a board seat.

***You recently served as Conference Chair and led the planning of an excellent conference in Saskatoon last month. Could you walk us through that experience? What motivated you to take on the role? What was the process like, and what did you take away from it?***

Leading the Saskatoon Conference was a fantastic experience and one of the proudest moments of my career, so thank you for the praise. Easily the most enjoyable and fulfilling aspect of it was working with my team of committee chairs and friends. Lindsey Lovse, Adam Stewart, Darren Plaustiner, Ryan Armstrong, Chris Palacz, and Spryng Kubicek deserve a ton of credit here. They were always three steps ahead of me, and every one of them put a piece of themselves into the event and truly cared about the outcome. I feel that showed. It started with a vision of what could be, a feeling we wanted to create for the attendees, and an outcome of what we wanted people to walk away with. Then we did our best to shape the speakers, events, and experiences around those pillars.

When I got the call and was asked if I was interested, it was an extremely busy time, but it's something I've been interested in. I generally enjoy event planning, so I reluctantly said they could add my name to the list. I was nervous but excited to have been ultimately selected to be the chair. I do think it's important to get involved, whether that be in your community, your organizations, or other volunteer opportunities, and I hadn't been involved in much outside of work for a while, so I figured it was a good time to put myself towards something again.

It was certainly a lot of work, and it was stressful at times, but we had our vision and goal, and we got organized as early as possible, trying to cross off as much as we could. Perhaps too early in some cases (for example, when we called the porta-potty company 6-7 months in advance, they basically hung up the phone). The biggest challenge was not knowing how many attendees would come since so much of the budget and, therefore, planning relies on good attendance. So, we did everything we could to motivate people and make it easy for employees to show the value of the Conference to their employers. Hopefully, Adam's marketing sheet and videos drummed up some hype, and if nothing else, they were a lot of fun to shoot. But I think the quality and intrigue of the program that Ryan and his team put

together, along with the extra steps Darren and Lindsey took to create compelling events and spaces that people wanted to be in rather than out on the town, really brought people together. I was extremely proud to see both the program and the events so well attended.

When the numbers started rolling in, and we knew it would be well attended, and Chris had the budget locked down, I'd say the pressure wasn't lifted but shifted to execution. Now that people were going to be there, we had to make it happen. Lindsey and Spryng had us very organized heading to the venue, but there was still a lot to do once our boots were on the ground, and everybody pitched in to move tables, pack bags, wipe chairs, and anything else that we needed to do to make things as perfect as we could. This extended beyond the committee, and we had lots of help from other CALEP members who arrived early to the Conference.

What I took away was a lot about how to organize a group of highly motivated overachievers. The team came up with so many good ideas that choosing a direction was sometimes difficult. Realizing that when people care about something, there are often a lot of feelings and strong, often opposing, opinions. Finding a way to manage all that, and manage expectations, was a challenge, but an enjoyable one. Also, managing the budget when you really have no idea what your revenue will look like until registration opens means tough decisions early to keep things under control. Planning for and protecting against the downside while striving for the greatest upside was a key focus. It was a great experience from a management and prudence standpoint. I'd highly recommend that anybody get involved in a Conference, whether that be as a member of a subcommittee or one of the chairs. Overall, it was great.

***Looking back, have there been any mentors or role models throughout your career that you'd like to recognize and why?***

I've got so many who have helped me along the way,

I've got so many who have helped me along the way, and I'm sure I'm forgetting some, but at the beginning of my career, I was fortunate to be under the wing of Chris Palacz as my early mentor, with Jeremy Wallis, Lawrence Fisher and Shawn MacDonald being the more experienced leaders I got to work closely with and learn from. Erin Buschert, Shyanne Way, Nathan Laviollette, and Colleen Remenda also added a lot to my early development, and I got to see a plethora of different styles and approaches to land while working at TriStar. Starting there with those great people really built a strong foundation for me to grow from.

At Renegad, I worked for and learned a ton from both Marty Scase and Randy Berg, and they both helped set me up with the independence to really drive business forward and the confidence to make decisions that I try to carry with me to this day. We also hired Travis Monk at Renegade, and working side-by-side with him taught us both a lot about ourselves and how to approach different situations.

At TORC, I was back with Chris and Jeremy, and those two have really been a strong backdrop for me throughout my career and remain so to this day.

At Crescent Point, I took a lot from Susan Williams, Dallas Henderson, and Shelly Witwer as my bosses, each bringing a different style and skillset from whom I tried to absorb as much as possible. Not to mention the rest of the incredible team of negotiators and analysts there. Really, there are too many to name individually, but every negotiator that I've worked with has played a part in developing my skillset as a negotiator. So a shout-out to all those whom I've had the pleasure of working beside, or even across from.

***What are some of the key challenges you faced during your career, and how did you overcome them?***

One of the big ones for me has been confidence, which I mentioned I really gained a lot of at Renegade. We were a smaller shop, but Marty and then Randy both put confidence in me to "be the guy." I was

thrown into the deep end, but that's where I learned to trust my instincts. It took me a while, and I didn't feel like I had a clue what I was doing, but when people would come to ask me questions, I'd make a suggestion, and then we'd move forward with that decision. It showed me that maybe I don't need to be afraid to ask questions and say what I think. I'd say it was a fake-it-till-you-make-it situation. Not saying I've made it now, but feeling confident in my choices and believing that I belong at the table with the technical and financial people was something that took several years without a safety net to learn. Recognizing gaps and understanding what needs to be done to fill them, whether they are a land job or not, was an important skill I believe all negotiators can and should have that came out of that.

Another challenge has always been trying to balance asset-level decisions against company-level decisions. There can be frustration when you and the team feel you know what's best for the asset, but what's best for the asset may not be best for the company. This is still a work in progress, and I'd say it remains a challenge. In working through that, striving to gain a higher understanding of corporate-level goals, trying to fit asset-level decisions into that context, and then helping the team understand the "why" behind the decisions that come down onto the team is a puzzle I'm still constantly working to solve.

***You've had quite an accomplished career; looking back, what can you say stands out the most for you and why?***

Said plainly, when I look back, I've been very lucky. I can't look back at where I've been and not say that being at the right place at the right time had something to do with how my career has gone. But I've also never looked a gift horse in the mouth, and strongly believe that my intention, my belief in myself, and my desire to succeed have created the path that seemingly just "fell into place". When I started at TriStar, I was just a summer student on a temporary contract. But I hustled, I put in the hours, I committed fully to the team, I contributed, and went the extra

mile and that's what earned me a permanent spot, which was the jumping off point for everything that followed. That drive then led to the next offers from the TriStar team at both Result and TORC, and gave me enough reputation to get hired at Renegade with basically no questions asked. I also count myself fortunate to have worked in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and see a lot of freehold, some interesting regulations, and some extremely unique situations that may not occur in other jurisdictions.

Overall, I've had the advantage of being surrounded by people who cared about me and about the business at each step of my career. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities that were given to me, and I did everything I could to not squander those opportunities. At this point, I'm eager to give that advantage back to those who come to me looking for guidance.

***What do you think are the key skills necessary for success in land in today's world?***

I think it's critical to be curious, to ask questions about how things work or why a given decision is made. This curiosity will lead to learning about as many aspects of the business as you can, from how different drill bits work to what financial mechanisms are in place to protect the balance sheet. To me, a good land professional is at heart a problem solver. The greater your breadth of understanding of the business, the more solutions you can come up with, regardless of the nature of the problem. Essentially, don't be afraid of what you don't know, and don't be afraid to learn.

Part of that curiosity will lead to learning what your executives or managers expect. Something that's been relayed to me many times in terms of being successful is trying to predict what your superiors or even peers are going to ask and then finding that out before they have a chance. Do as much of your geo or engineer's job for them as you can before approaching them with an idea. Strategically thinking about what the value is or could be, what comes next

or what could go wrong, and finding ways to answer those questions or address problems before they have a chance to happen can really improve a presentation and increase your likelihood of execution.

Not being afraid to express creativity in the solutions you see is also important. Whether the goal is building a relationship with or among co-workers or counterparts, finding a way to navigate challenges with a partner or in the drill schedule, or figuring out how to draft something new into an agreement, oftentimes the problems we see do not have an out-of-the-box solution, and creativity and critical thinking can be extremely powerful. And that pairs with having the confidence I mentioned before.

And of course, so much of our role and our ability to succeed is predicated on relationships. Our ability to pick up the phone or go for a coffee to connect with somebody to build trust is important to finding the root of a problem or an avenue to a solution to take back to our organizations. Be somebody that you'd want to deal with, and people will want to deal with you.

Always be solution-minded, rather than problem-focused. Being empathetic, or at least trying to consider things from the other side of the table, I believe, helps find those solutions. Often, to move business forward, we're trying to convince our company to do something our competition or partner wants, so putting ourselves in their shoes and finding ways to communicate the benefits of doing something vs. doing nothing is key to getting business done.

Lastly, and I'm pretty good at this one, but not being overly concerned about sounding stupid in a room full of smart people can lead to some great solutions.

#### ***What challenges do you foresee working in Land for the future?***

The first thing that jumps to my mind here is succession. We need more new people coming into our profession to take the reins and provide new ideas

and fresh energy. This impacts both the social and professional development of our organization, as well as our ability to transfer knowledge and experience to the next generation of land professionals. If there continue to be fewer of us doing this work and the talent pool gets too small, it could be a challenge to retain our professional relevancy, which brings me to my next thought.

I think relevancy has always been a struggle for land professionals. I've been fortunate to work for organizations that place a lot of value on landowners' input and where we have an equal voice at the table. But I know that's not true for everybody. I've heard this is something many have to push for. Our value is not always obvious, and our job can seem nebulous to many technical people. I personally believe that peers always know when they have a good leader, but may not understand why or how that role is making everybody better. This was a big focus of our program at the Saskatoon Conference. I think we can all figure out ways to demonstrate our value more visibly and provide input and experience that will make any team better.

#### ***What advice would you give to someone wanting to get into Land?***

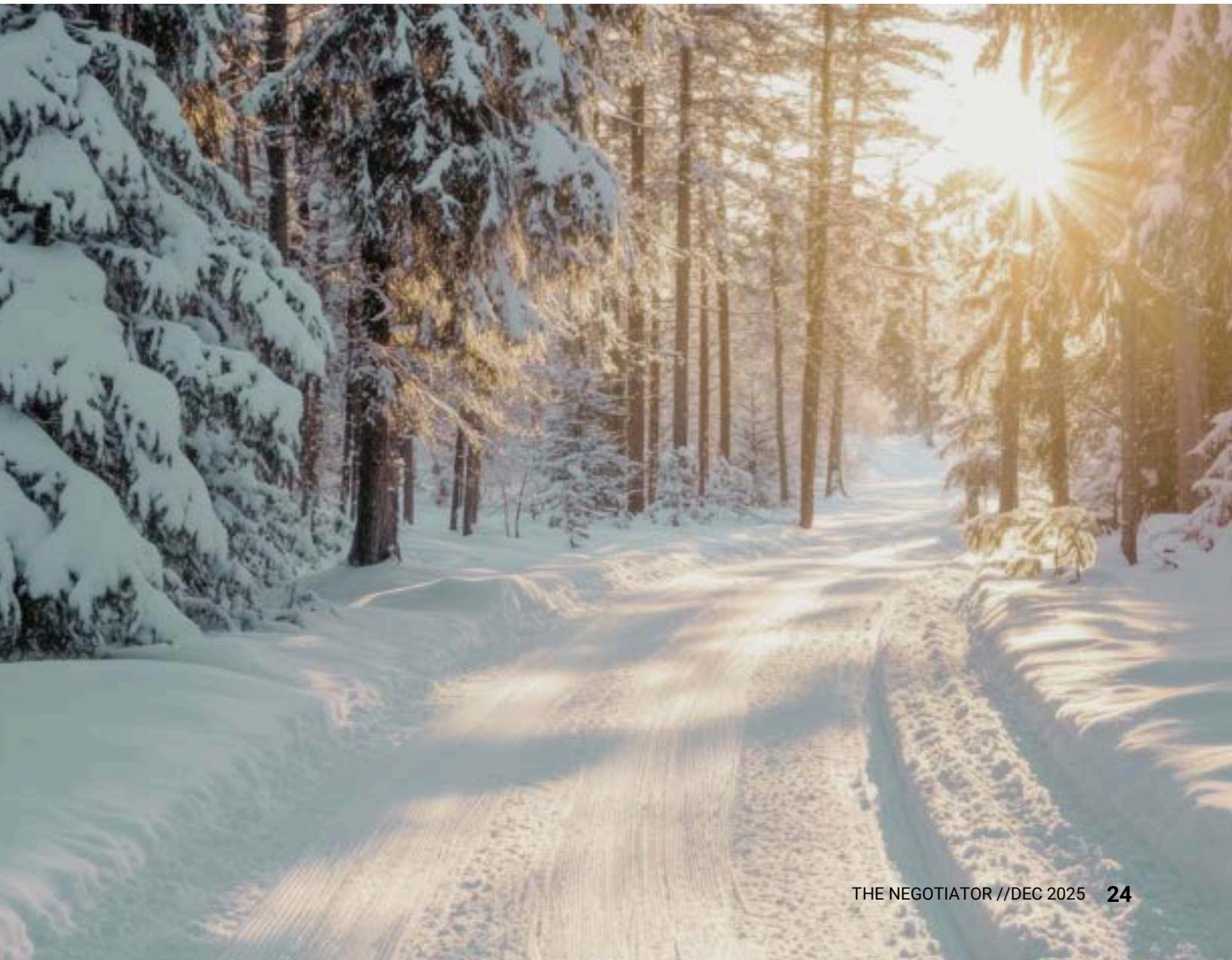
Be honest with yourself, own your mistakes when you make them, and learn from them. Don't be afraid to admit when you don't know something. "I don't know, let me find out for you" is a perfectly acceptable answer in almost any situation. And if you're there, follow up. Hold yourself to a high standard of integrity and do what you say you will do.

This mirrors a bit of what I said about the key skills, but ask questions, be curious. Don't be afraid to ask an engineer about boundary-dominated flow or a geologist what mercury injection capillary pressure is. They love talking about that stuff, and it will improve your understanding of the business. This also goes for expanding your network, both within and outside of it. It's never a bad idea to meet somebody new or take the time to grow an existing relationship.

Try to be the person that you would want to deal with, and somebody that you would want to hire. Be the person that people want to call when they have an opportunity, not somebody they dread calling. Treat people fairly and treat yourself fairly. Don't worry about making yourself look good; just work hard and do the job to the best of your ability.

And lastly, maybe most importantly, don't forget to have fun and be true to yourself. It's still a job, and at times it isn't fun, but you can find happiness in almost anything if you find a way to make it your own.

Thanks!



# ENGAGEMENT VS. CONSULTATION: A LAND AGENT'S PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Chris Switzer | Lindsay Beston  
AiM Indigenous Engagement

After years of working with First Nations and Metis Communities, regulators, project teams, company leadership, and various subject-matter experts, one thing continues to stand out: there is still widespread confusion about the difference between Indigenous engagement and Indigenous consultation. These terms are often used interchangeably, and when that happens, projects slow down, Nations become understandably frustrated, and regulators issue clarification requests or More Information Request (MIRs) that impact timelines and introduce unnecessary risk.

To put it simply:

**Consultation is a legal obligation. Engagement is a relationship.**

When we treat them as the same thing, we create challenges for everyone involved.

This isn't theoretical. It reflects daily realities in Alberta and British Columbia, two jurisdictions with very different consultation expectations and regulatory cultures.

**The Crown Owns Consultation—But Industry Carries the Procedural Work**

In Alberta, the process can appear straightforward: the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) assigns a Level 1, 2, or 3, and the Crown delegates the procedural responsibilities to land agents or Indigenous relations teams. We prepare information packages, notify Nations, track responses, coordinate site visits, and submit Records of Consultation (ROCs) to keep files moving. That's consultation.

But procedural steps alone don't build trust, collaboration, or long-term relationships.

British Columbia is even more nuanced. Almost all lands are unceded, political dynamics are more sensitive, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) continues to reshape expectations in meaningful ways. Approaching BC with an Alberta procedural mindset can cause issues before a file even gets started.

Across both provinces, the lesson is the same: **Consultation begins when the Crown directs it. It is legalistic, reactive, and often time-sensitive.**

**Engagement Starts Long Before a Regulator Enters the Picture**

Many project teams treat engagement as an optional enhancement to consultation. In reality:

### **Engagement is what makes consultation effective.**

Meaningful engagement includes early conversations well before an application is submitted, respecting community capacity, providing clear and accessible information, being open about potential impacts, and demonstrating a genuine willingness to listen. These efforts shape whether consultation proceeds smoothly or becomes contentious.

Communities can immediately tell the difference between authentic engagement and a regulatory obligation.

One builds trust.

The other often leads to tension, delays, and concerns that are harder to resolve later.

### **Where The Operators Frequently See the Disconnect**

#### **Alberta: “Adequate” Does Not Always Mean “Collaborative”**

Alberta provides structure, timelines, and templates, which are appreciated. But Nations are managing significant volumes of files and limited capacity.

When engagement has been minimal or rushed:

- Files fall to the bottom of the priority list
- Responses take longer
- Concerns are more difficult to address
- Clients question delays that could have been avoided

#### **British Columbia: Relationships Drive Outcomes**

BC’s expectations go well beyond procedural consultation. Nations anticipate early involvement, participation in fieldwork, discussions about contracting and monitoring opportunities, and a relationship-based approach to project planning.

Starting engagement late in BC makes it very difficult to rebuild trust later in the process.

### **The Misunderstanding That Creates the Most Project Risk**

Teams often ask:

“We met the consultation requirements—why isn’t the Nation supportive?”

Because **support and legal adequacy are not the same thing**, but both matter.

A consultation file can be procedurally correct yet still strained if meaningful engagement never occurred. Communities notice when contact happens only because it is required, not because the proponent values the relationship.

### **What Consistently Works in Practice**

#### **1. Start earlier than you think you need to.**

Engagement should begin when a project is being conceptualized, not after a regulatory trigger.

#### **2. Be transparent.** Clarity about potential impacts builds credibility and trust.

**3. Respect community capacity.** Most Nations are managing heavy workloads. Realistic timelines and flexibility go a long way.

**4. Create meaningful opportunities.** Offer tangible participation options, monitoring, field programs, environmental support, and contracting, not just statements of goodwill.

**5. Pick up the phone.** Direct dialogue helps strengthen relationships and prevent misunderstandings.

**6. Don’t rely solely on process.** Strong documentation cannot replace genuine, consistent engagement.

**7. Show up consistently.** Ongoing communication demonstrates respect and reliability.

### **The Reality Land Agents Understand Better Than Most**

Land agents stand at the intersection of the Crown, project proponents, regulators, and Indigenous communities. We navigate expectations, histories, timelines, and the nuanced relationships that influence project success.

- Consultation ensures compliance.
- Engagement determines whether a project can move forward constructively and collaboratively.

Neither regulators nor corporate leadership build these relationships; we do. We are often the first point of contact and the face communities associate with the project.

That's why engagement is not an optional step or an "add-on."

It is foundational to responsible project development. When done well, everything else becomes more efficient and constructive. When done poorly or too late, no amount of procedural work can compensate for lost trust or missed opportunities.

By Chris Switzer & Lindsay Beston - AiM Indigenous Engagement

[chris.switzer@aimlandandenviro.ca](mailto:chris.switzer@aimlandandenviro.ca)



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# INDUSTRY EVENTS

# 2026

## Oil & Gas, Energy Infrastructure & Pipelines

### **Canadian Gas Association – Energy Security Summit**

March 10–11, 2026 — Ottawa

Energy Security Summit 2026 | Canadian Gas Association

### **Arctic Energy & Resource Symposium**

March 25–26, 2026 — Calgary, AB Arctic Energy & Resource Symposium

Arctic Energy & Resource Symposium

Northern infrastructure, pipelines, resource development, and Indigenous issues.

### **Global Energy Show Canada**

June 9–11, 2026 — Calgary, AB

<https://www.globalenergyshow.com>

Major North American oil, gas, LNG, and energy transition expo.

### **Digitalization & AI in Energy Canada Conference**

April 22–23, 2026 — Calgary, AB

<https://digitalizationoilandgas-canada.energyconferencenetwork.com>

AI, digital tools, and data-driven technologies for oil & gas.

### **SPE Canadian Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition (2026 dates TBA)**

Calgary, AB

<https://www.spe-events.org/canadianenergytechnology>

Upstream, midstream & E&P technology, operations, and innovation.

### **Data Driven Oil & Gas USA 2026**

2026 — USA (City TBA)

<https://events.reutersevents.com/oilandgas/data-driven-usa>

Performance optimization, analytics, and digital transformation in O&G.

### **SPE Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition (ATCE 2026)**

October 21–23, 2026 — Houston, TX

<https://www.atce.org>

One of the world's largest oil & gas technical conferences.

### **Offshore Technology Conference (OTC 2026)**

May 2026 — Houston, TX

<https://www.otcnet.org>

Leading offshore oil & gas, LNG, subsea, and offshore engineering event.

**Energy LIVE Conference & Exhibition 2026**

2026 — Houston, TX

<https://www.energylive.events> (or search “Energy Live Houston”)

Oil, gas, utilities, and power sector leadership event.

**Global Conference on Oil, Gas & Petroleum Engineering (GCOGPE 2026)**

Date TBA — Vancouver, BC

<https://globalconference.ca/conference/26th-global-conference-on-oil-gas-and-petroleum-engineering>

Global petroleum engineering & resource development forum.

## **Renewables, Clean Energy & Transition**

**CanREA Spring Operations Summit 2026**

<https://renewablesassociation.ca>

(Spring 2026 — TBA; wind, solar, storage operations & regulatory updates)

**CanREA National Renewable Energy Conference 2026**

<https://renewablesassociation.ca>

(Fall 2026 — TBA; national conference for wind, solar, and storage)

**Globe Forum 2026 (GLOBExCHANGE)**

<https://www.globeseries.com>

(February 2026 — Vancouver; climate, ESG, clean tech, energy transition)

**CLEANPOWER 2026 (ACP)**

<https://cleanpower.org>

(May 2026 — Minneapolis; North America’s largest renewables expo)

**VERGE 26 Climate Tech Conference**

<https://www.greenbiz.com/events/verge>

(October 2026 — San Jose; clean energy innovation, microgrids, hydrogen)

**International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC 2026)**

<https://www.ren21.net/irec>

(Global venue for 2026 TBA; renewable markets & policy)

**Solar Canada 2026**

<https://renewablesassociation.ca>

(June 2026 — Calgary/Toronto TBA; Canadian solar industry event)

**Wind Energy Conference Canada 2026**

<https://renewablesassociation.ca>

(2026 TBA; onshore & offshore wind development)

**Hydrogen Canada Conference & Expo 2026**

<https://www.hydrogen-tech-expo.com/canada> (2026 — likely Edmonton; hydrogen production & storage)

## **Electricity Transformation Canada 2026**

<https://electricitytransformation.ca>

(Fall 2026 — Montreal, grid modernization & energy storage)

## **Mining, Mineral Exploration & Natural Resources**

### **BC Natural Resources Forum**

January 20–22, 2026 — Prince George, BC [BC Natural Resources Forum | Home](#)

## **Indigenous Partnerships, Consultation & Community Development**

### **FNMPc Conference – The Next Seven Generations: Our Shared Future**

April 29 – May 1, 2026 — Toronto [FNMPc - Stronger Together](#)

### **Indigenous Resource Opportunities Conference (IROC)**

June 3–5, 2026 — Nanaimo, BC [Indigenous Resource Opportunities Conference — C3Alliance](#)

### **NCC Energy & Natural Resource Summit**

September 17–18, 2026 — Calgary, AB [2025 NCC Energy and Natural Resource Summit - National Coalition of Chiefs](#)

### **Indigenous Women in Industry Summit (IWIS)**

September 28–30, 2026 — Vancouver [Uniting Indigenous Women in Industry: Global Summit to Take Place in Vancouver in September 2026 - NACCA National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association](#)

## **Public Policy, Governance & National Dialogue**

### **Public Policy Forum – Canada Growth Summit**

May 7, 2026 — Toronto, [Canada Growth Summit 2026 - Public Policy Forum](#)

### **Conservative Party of Canada – National Convention**

January 29–31, 2026 — Calgary [Homepage - Convention 2026](#)

### **Global Gathering: VivaTech 2026**

June 17–20, 2026 — Paris [2026 Edition | Viva Technology](#)

(Tech + innovation; relevant for energy, land data, AI in resource management.)

## **Infrastructure, Construction, Land Use & Planning**

### **5th Annual Modular Construction & Prefabrication Symposium**

March 4–5, 2026 — Toronto [5th Annual Modular Construction & Prefabrication Symposium | 4th – 5th March 2026 | Pan Pacific Toronto, Canada | Trueventus](#)

### **NeoCon 2026**

June 8–10, 2026 — Chicago [NeoCon](#)

(If your members deal with office space, facilities, or corporate planning.)

## **Canadian Trail Summit**

June 16–19, 2026 — Winnipeg Canadian Trail Summit | June 16–19, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
(Parks, land use, Indigenous co-stewardship, recreation.)

## **Municipal & County Conventions (AB, SK, BC)**

### **Alberta**

#### **RMA – Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Convention & Tradeshow**

November (annual) — Edmonton, AB

<https://rmaalberta.com>

Largest gathering of Alberta reeves, mayors, CAOs, and county leadership.

#### **RMA – Spring Convention & Tradeshow**

March (annual) — Edmonton, AB

<https://rmaalberta.com>

Policy, infrastructure, land-use planning, energy, and municipal governance.

#### **AUMA / Alberta Municipalities Convention & Tradeshow**

September (annual) — rotating locations

<https://www.abmunjs.ca>

Cities, towns, villages — municipal leadership, land use, energy, planning.

#### **Alberta Planning Conference (APPI)**

October 2025/2026 (annual) — Alberta

<https://www.albertaplanners.com>

Land-use planning, community development, zoning, policy.

### **Saskatchewan**

#### **SARM – Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention**

March (annual) — Regina, SK

<https://sarm.ca>

Key event for rural development, land use, infrastructure, agriculture, and energy.

#### **SARM Midterm Convention**

November (annual) — Saskatoon/Regina

<https://sarm.ca>

Policy updates, landowner issues, rural governance.

#### **SUMA – Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association Convention (now “Municipalities of Saskatchewan”)**

February (annual) — Regina, SK

<https://www.munisask.ca>

Covers cities, towns, and villages. Municipal governance & community development.

### **Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute (SPPI) Conference**

Fall (annual) — Saskatchewan

<https://sppi.ca>

Land planning, zoning, municipal land use, and environmental review.

## **British Columbia**

### **UBCM – Union of BC Municipalities Convention**

September (annual) — Vancouver / Victoria / rotating BC

<https://www.ubcm.ca>

BC's largest municipal policy event. Heavy focus on land use, Crown/First Nation relations, and development approvals.

### **LGMA – Local Government Management Association of BC Annual Conference**

June (annual) — BC (rotating locations)

<https://www.lgma.ca>

Professional development for municipal CAOs, planners, and governance staff.

## **Agriculture & Farm Shows (Saskatchewan & Alberta)**

### **Alberta**

#### **Crossroads Alberta's Crop Conference**

January 27, 26, 2026 Edmonton, AB

[About – Crossroads Crop Conference](#) Crop science, innovation, policy, technology for prairie producers.

#### **Alberta Beef Industry Conference**

March 4-5, 2026, Calgary

<https://www.abic.ca> Beef producers, land use, grazing, ag policy, and sustainability.

#### **AgSmart – Olds College**

July/August (annual TBD) — Olds, AB

<https://agsmartolds.ca>

Digital agriculture, drones, precision ag, soil & crop technology.

#### **Agri-Trade**

November 11 -13<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Red Deer, AB

[Home - Agri-Trade](#)

Saskatchewan

#### **Western Canadian Crop Production Show**

January 13-15, 2026 — Saskatoon, SK

<https://www.cropproductionshow.com>

Agronomy, equipment, markets, crop science, and producer workshops.

**Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference**

January 20-22, 2026 —Saskatoon <https://www.saskbeefconference.com>

Beef, grazing, livestock markets, sustainability, land management.

**Ag in Motion Outdoor Farm Expo**

July 21-23, 2026 — Saskatoon, SK

<https://www.aginmotion.ca>

Outdoor demos, equipment, innovation, test plots — “Prairie farm show in a field.”

**Canadian Western Agribition (CWA)**

November 23 -29, 2026 — Regina, SK

<https://www.agribition.com>

The largest livestock show in Canada; ag business, trade, and rural events.



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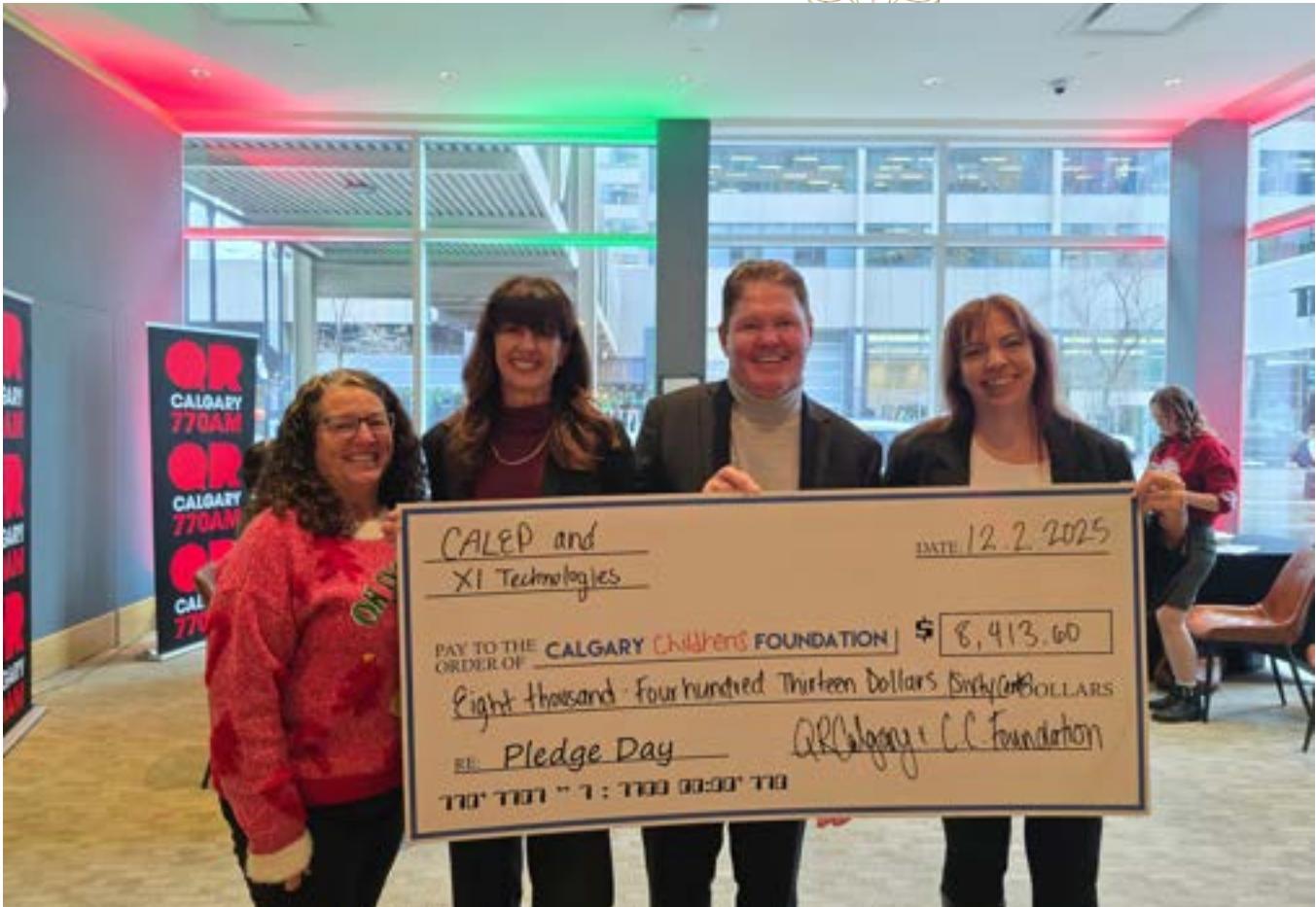
Landsolutions.com

# EVENT ECHOES



*Our Three Cheers for a Merry Tri-Fecta holiday event at the National on the 10th was an overwhelming success, bringing together members from CALEP, IRWA 48, and LEMAC for an evening of connection, celebration, and community spirit. With a full house, great conversations, and incredible energy throughout the night, the event truly reflected the strength and camaraderie of our land and energy community.*

***Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening memorable!***



*A proud moment for CALEP and XI Technologies as we presented a donation of \$8,413.60 to the Calgary Children's Foundation. Thank you to everyone who helped make this contribution possible—your support strengthens our community.*

## A Better Member Experience: CALEP Moves to **GlueUp**

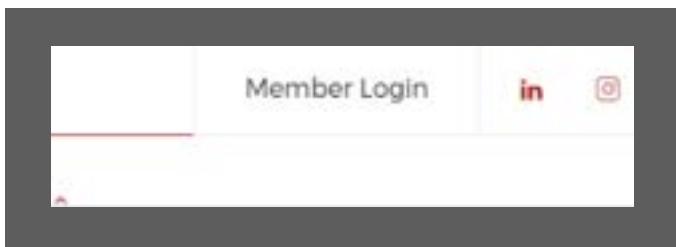
We've upgraded to a new platform - "GlueUp" to bring you a smoother, more intelligent, and more connected membership experience. You should have received an email from GlueUp with a link to your Membership Portal, where you can update your member profile. You will be able to update your profile and access all records once you complete the setup.

If you do not have the email, you can set up your account <https://calep.glueup.com/register/account>

- The new system reminds you that your membership is due to renew on January 1.
- Our membership year runs Jan-Dec.

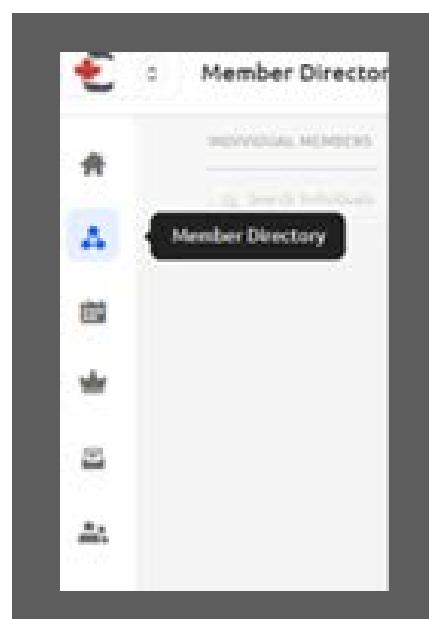
### Password Reset

- Log in to your account with your **email address**.
- If you have set your profile but are having difficulties logging in, you can request a new password <https://calep.glueup.com/account/recover>
- Enter your email address to receive a link to reset your password.



### Login

You can log in to the system in two areas: the top right-hand side of the website or ½ way down the page in the box that says Member Roster



### QUICK TIPS FOR GLUEUP

- ✓ Use the same email you used for your CALEP membership
- ✓ Check your spam folder for the GlueUp setup email
- ✓ Update your profile early to ensure accurate records
- ✓ Bookmark the login page for easy access
- ✓ Log in before looking for Business Forms or the Member Roster

### Need Help?

*If you have any questions or experience difficulties setting up your account, please contact [reception@calep.ca](mailto:reception@calep.ca).*

*We're happy to help!*



## CALEP Membership Renewal Reminder

A new year of learning, connection, and professional growth is just around the corner. Don't forget to renew your CALEP membership!

Renewing ensures uninterrupted access to:

- Industry-leading events and education
- Member-only resources and the Negotiator magazine
- Networking opportunities across the land & energy community
- Exclusive discounts, updates, and member benefits

If your membership is up for renewal, please take a moment to log in to your CALEP Member Portal and complete the process.

Have questions or need assistance? We're here to help! Contact us anytime at [reception@calep.ca](mailto:reception@calep.ca)

Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay empowered with CALEP!

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, we are reminded that none of it would have been possible without sponsors like you. Your investment in our organization has not only made a significant impact on our current initiatives but has also set the foundation for future successes.

We look forward to continuing to work together in 2026, and thank you for your contribution!



# THANK YOU TO COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

*We would like to take the time to sincerely thank our committee volunteers. Your dedication and hard work make a significant impact on our community. Thank you for your time, expertise, and passion for making a difference. We couldn't do it without you!*

Member	Company	Member	Company
Adam Stewart	Millenium Land Ltd.	Jody Seguin	Velocity Group Surveying and Engineering
Adrianna Miller	Millennium Geomatics	Joe Ewaskiw	Saturn Oil
Adriena Mackarenko	Repsol Oil and Gas Canada	Joelle Peterson	Ovintiv Canada ULC
Al Goosney	Whitecap Resources Inc.	John Hagen	Prospect Land and Environmental
Alexis Watson	Freehold Royalties Ltd.	Josh Driedger	Cenovus Energy Inc.
Amanda De-Roo	Vertex	Keith Turner	Synergy Land Services
Amanda Moran	Longshore Resources Ltd.	Kendra Maclean	Heritage Royalty
Amanda Moran	Longshore Resources Ltd.	Kevin Martin	Plains Midstream
Amy Kalmbach	Baytex Energy	Kim Young	Saturn Resources
Andrew Hanson	Anova/Westlake	Kyla Lawson	StackDx
Andy Fulford	Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	Laurie Agate	Laurie Agate Consulting Ltd.
Aryn Sendall	Harvard Energy	Lindsay Lovse	Paramount Resources Ltd.
Ashlee Rowland	PrairieSky Royalty Ltd.	Lindsay Reynolds	Teine Energy Ltd.
Brad Goodfellow	Ranger Land Services	Lindsay Toohey	Tundra Oil and Gas Ltd.
Brad Reynolds	Kelt Exploration	Lindy Couillard	Skye Asset Retirement
Calynda Evans	Outlier Resources	Lloyd Maxwell	CL Land Services Inc.
Cathy Mageau	Canadian Natural Resources Limited	Lloyd Maxwell	Roy Northern Land and Environmental
Chris King	Pacific Canbriam	Lorinda Turner	Turner Land Ltd.
Chris Pincombe	Enbridge Pipelines Inc.	Mackenna Morin	Cenovus Energy Inc.
Chris Placz	Lineup Resources Corp.	Maddison Gee	Freehold Royalties Ltd
Cindy Cameron	Cenovus Energy Inc.	Mandy Cookson	Strathcona Resources Ltd.
Colin Page	Vermillion Energy Inc.	Marah Graham	Teine Energy Ltd.
Corey Wick	CORE Geomatics	Mark Grierson	Spartan Delta Corp.
Craig Forrest	Evolve Surface Strategies Inc.	Martin Leung	Canadian Natural Resources Limited
Craig Ruddy	Horizon View Royalty Corp.	Matt Mintha	Cenovus Energy Inc.
Craig Stayura	Tamarack Valley Energy Ltd.	Matt Villani	Crew Energy
Craig Thomas	Ovintiv Canada ULC	Matthew Geib	Whitecap Resources Inc.
Crystal Pomedli	Independent	Matthew Geib	Crescent Point Energy Corp
Danell Stebing	Gear Energy Ltd.	Matthew Loeffler	Aim Land Services Ltd.
Darren Clarke	Telford Land & Valuation Inc.	Mike MacDonald	ARC Resources
Darren Plausteiner	Teine Energy Ltd.	Nadine Coffey	Paramount Resources Ltd.

*While every effort has been made to ensure this list is complete, we sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently missed anyone. This was unintentional. Please let us know if a name has been overlooked, and we will be happy to correct it.*

<b>Member</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Company</b>
Dave Balderston	Strathcona Resources Ltd.	Mackenna Morin	Cenovus Energy Inc.
David Faulkenham,	ATCO Energy Solutions	Nolan Johnston	Independent
Dayna Morgan	Britt R	Raymond Del Rosario	Cenovus Energy Inc.
Denise Grieves	Retired	Rich Forrester	Surge Energy Inc.
Donald MacLeod	Scott Land and Lease	Richard LeGallis	Canadian Natural Resources Limited
Doug Perry	Spartan Delta Corp.	Rob Bodizach	Surge Energy Inc.
Garrett Zokol	Freehold Royalties	Rob Heynen	Tourmaline Oil Corp.
Geoff Thiessen	Independent	Robyn Baron	Helianthus Land Consulting
Glenda Dacosta-Jones	Perpetual Energy Inc.   Rubellite Energy Inc.	Rod Locke	NorthRiver Midstream Inc.
Grant Phillips	International Petroleum	Rory Brown	Caltech Group Inc.
Ian Ross, P.Land	Culloden Resources Ltd.	Ryan Armstrong	Taprock Energy Inc.
James Thurston	Shell Canada	Ryan Armstrong	Aim Land Services Ltd.
Janice Redmond	Canada West Land Services	Ryan Stackhouse	Conocophillips
Jason Blazevic	Edwards Land Services	Ryan Swanson	Birchcliff Energy Ltd.
Jason Gouw	LandSolutions	Sandra Dixon	Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
Jason Peacock	TAQA North Ltd.	Shannon Toms	Lycos Energy Inc.
Jasone Blazevic	Edwards Land Services	Shaun Cooper	Whitecap Resources Inc.
Jean Laprise	Torxen	Sherri Wannamaker	Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.
Jeff McManus	Strathcona Resources Ltd.	Steve Brisebois	Spur Petroleum Ltd.
Jelena Cvijanovic	Athabasca Oil Corporation	Suzanne Stahl	Cashe Island Corp.
Jerry Roy	McElhanney Ltd.	Taylor Searle	Allied Energy Corp.
Jesse Griffith	Global Helium Corp	Todd Meulenbeld	Independent
Jill Fifield	Torc Oil and Gas	Tom Colborne	Canada West Land Services
Jill Lemon	ROK Resources	Travis Monk	Vermillion Energy Inc.
Jim Maclean	Maclean Resource Management Ltd.	Tyler Adair	Precision Well Servicing
Jocelyn Smid	Lotus Creek Exploration Inc.	Wade Evans	Aspenleaf Energy Limited
Jocelyn Smid	Gear Energy Ltd.	Wade McLeod	Aim Land Services Ltd.
Nicole Le	Caltech Group Inc.		

*While every effort has been made to ensure this list is complete, we sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently missed anyone. This was unintentional. Please let us know if a name has been overlooked, and we will be happy to correct it.*



# ON THE HORIZON

## UPCOMING IN 2026: SAVE THE DATES!

*Please visit CALEP's Event Page for the Registration Links and watch your inbox for updates*



### Poker Night

**January 22 | Calgary Petroleum Club | 16:30 - 21:00**



### Crib Tournament Night – Singles & Pairs

**March 5 | Calgary Petroleum Club | 16:30 - 22:30**



### CALEP/IRWA Hockey Tournament

**April 16 | Flames Community Arena | 08:00 - 16:30**

# SAVE THE DATE

## Annual General Meeting & Merit Awards

April 23, 2025 | Calgary Petroleum Club - Devonian Room | 16:30 - 21:00

*We are excited to once again host our annual Merit Awards. A time to recognize those individuals and companies among us who have made a significant contribution to the lifeblood of CALEP. This is bestowed on both individuals and corporations.*

***Nominations are now open!***

*The Merit Awards Committee is asking all CALEP members to think about their peers, colleagues, and co-workers who have dedicated their time and energy to CALEP committees and causes, and to put their thoughts into action by nominating those worthy individuals and contributors.*



# GET SMART



## COURSE

## DATE

## TIME

## LOCATION

2017 CAPL Property Transfer  
Procedure

January 13, 2026  
(Tuesday)

8:30am - 4:00pm

CALEP Office

Pad Site Sharing Agreement Seminar  
(A Joint Session by PJVA & CALEP)

January 29, 2026  
(Thursday)

8:30am - 4:00pm

CALEP Office

**Save \$50 when you register at least 3 weeks in advance! Prices will increase 3 weeks prior to the course.**

**For more information, or to register, please see the CALEP course schedule in its entirety [here](#).**

# ROSTER UPDATES

*These updates result from changes made to your membership portfolio. If you identify any errors, please reach out to the office, and we will promptly address them.*

## ON THE MOVE

<b>Tina Inkster</b> <b>(Kalmbach)</b>	Vermilion Energy Inc. to Independent
<b>Trish Trcka</b>	ConocoPhillips Canada to Independent
<b>Tyler Adair</b>	Precision Well Servicing to Precision Geomatics Inc.
<b>Danell Stebing</b>	Independent to Pentacor Energy Corp.
<b>Ashley</b> <b>Sutherland</b>	Veren to Whitecap Resources Inc.
<b>Debby Brotzell</b>	Veren to Whitecap Resources Inc.
<b>Allan Goosney</b>	Veren to Whitecap Resources Inc.
<b>Melanie Howard</b>	Cenovus Energy Inc. to Sky-Rock Land Ltd.



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# IN MEMORIAM



## Harvey Henry Pockrant

**1936 – 2025**

*It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Harvey Henry Pockrant on November 26, 2025. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family.*

*Harvey was a devoted husband to his beloved wife Joan and loving father to his daughters, Lorri (Rene) Cormier, Cheri (Kevin) Burke-Gaffney, and Wendi (Mark) Abercrombie; and a devoted grandpa to his grandchildren Mark and Lissa Cormier, and Jack, Kate, and Kieran Burke-Gaffney. Harvey was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Martha (Schultz) Pockrant.*

*Harvey met his future bride, Joan, at Salisbury High School in Edmonton, and that is where their love story began. They married shortly after in Edmonton on September 17, 1955, and very recently celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Their enduring love is truly an inspiration.*

*Harvey began his career in 1956 with the Government of Alberta in Edmonton, and in 1967 moved with his family to Calgary, where he joined Chevron Canada Resources as a Surface Landman. Harvey's outgoing personality and genuine interest in others served him well as he negotiated deals across Canada and the northern United States as a Landman and later as Supervisor, Field Land Operations for Chevron. Well regarded for his superior negotiating and legal skills, Harvey built a successful consulting company after his retirement from Chevron, representing clients in the field for 25 years until his "second" retirement at age 84. Harvey was proud to hold one of the first land agent licenses (#60) in Alberta and was an active member of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (CAPL) and Canadian Association of Land and Energy Professionals (CALEP) for 56 years.*

*Beyond his career, Harvey was a gifted athlete and avid sportsman; golfing and curling with friends well into his 80s. Harvey was part of a championship curling team that won the Alberta Senior Men's title and then went on to represent Alberta at the Canadian Seniors Curling Championships in 1987, where he was selected to the All-Star team. He*

*curled in countless bonspiels and most notably, skipped his team to a win at the 1989 International Oilmen's Bonspiel in Edmonton. There are numerous trophies that bear Harvey's name in curling clubs across the prairie provinces. Harvey also gave back to the sport he loved so much, serving as the Director of Marketing and Ticket Sales at the 1997 Labatt Brier in Calgary, which set a record for total attendance at any curling event in the world.*

*Harvey will be forever remembered for his remarkable storytelling - sharing memories of his early life in Edmonton - from ski jumping on Connors Hill to hitting a softball out of the park - along with countless stories about his time spent in the field as a land agent. He will also be remembered for his love for Montana's big skies and weathered saloons.*

*Harvey's family extends heartfelt thanks to the doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists in Unit 94 at the Rockyview Hospital for their excellent care, compassion, and kindness.*

*A celebration of Harvey's life will be announced at a later date. If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Canadian Red Cross <https://www.redcross.ca/holiday?form=25HolidayGTMatchMWF>*

*In living memory of Harvey Pockrant, a tree will be planted in the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area by McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes.*

# IN MEMORIAM



## Gordon Belot (Gord)

**April 21, 1930 - November 28, 2025**

*With deep sadness and profound gratitude, we announce the passing of Gordon "Gord" Richard Belot of Calgary, Alberta, on November 28, 2025, at the age of 95. Gord was a beloved husband, son, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and community leader whose presence brought warmth, wit, and encouragement to everyone he met.*

*Born on April 21, 1930, in Ottawa, Ontario, "Gordo" found his true home in Calgary, where he built a life defined by family, friendship, and service to his community. A bon vivant in the truest sense, Gord was known for his grit, zest for life, boundless energy, and unwavering devotion to those he loved.*

*Gord contributed meaningfully to Calgary's civic and business life. He was among the original members of the Calgary Olympic Development Association, served as Vice President of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, acted as Governor of the Oilmen's Golf Tournament, was an active member of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (now CALEP), the Rotary Club of Calgary and proudly belonged to the Silver Springs Golf and Country Club. He was also a longtime supporter of the Calgary Stampeders Football Club, making him one of the longest season ticket holders - a loyalty that spanned decades.*

*As a young man, Gord was a gifted athlete: an accomplished paddler with the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club, and a competitive cross-country and downhill skier—winning races while representing the Ottawa Technical School and the Ottawa Ski Club. His move to Alberta in 1953 to join and eventually become President of Nickel Map Service sparked decades of enduring friendships and adventures.*

*Above all, Gord's first love was his family. He and his beloved Barb seldom missed a sports game or school event, quickly becoming favourites among parents and children alike for their enthusiasm and kindness. One*

*of Gord's happiest places to relax and spend time with family and friends was at the family cabin at Lake Windermere, where he enjoyed summer days on the lake and winters skiing at Panorama Resort.*

*Gord is survived by his children: Todd (Bets) Belot, Dan (Desirée) Belot, and Mary Lou (John) Ediger; his grandchildren: Madison Belot, Taylor, Belot, Mitch (Justine) Belot, Aaron (Bre) Belot, Genevieve (Ralph) Trenke, Connor (Rim) Willumsen, Lilly (Derek) Morden, Rosalyn Ediger, and Diana (Mike) Beier; his four great-grandchildren: Julien and Marielle Trenke and Marcheline and Amelie Morden; his sisters in law Marilyn (Jim) Westerman and Janet (Barry) McLeod as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his loving wife Barbara; his parents, Percy and Agnes Belot; his sister Frances (Richard) White; and his brothers Robert (Rose) and Donald (Audrey).*

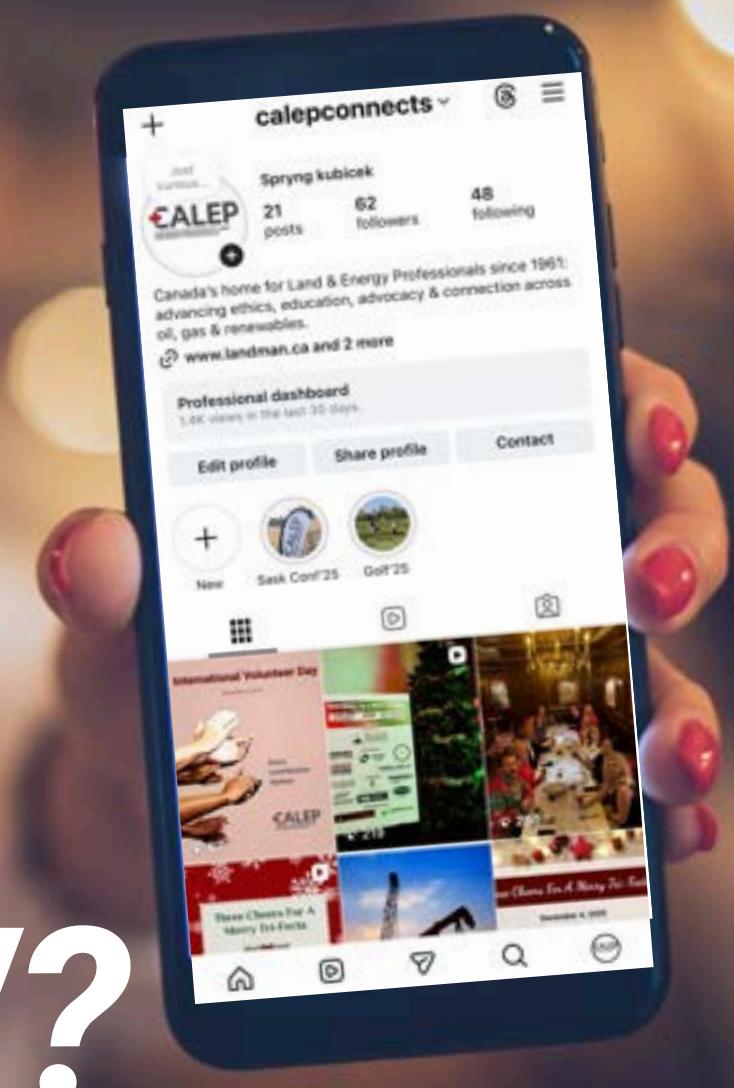
*The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the compassionate staff at Mayfair Care Centre who assisted in Gordon's care.*

*A Celebration of Life was held for Gord on December 11th at Silver Springs Golf and Country Club (1600 Varsity Estates Drive NW) at 11:00 am. Donations can be made to CHAS, the Children's Hospital Aid Society, in Gord's memory. <https://chascalgary.ca>*

*Condolences may be forwarded to the family by visiting [www.edenbrookcemetery.ca](http://www.edenbrookcemetery.ca) Arrangements were entrusted to Eden Brook Funeral Home and Reception Centre, 24223 Twp Rd 242, Calgary AB, T3Z 3K2.*



# DID YOU KNOW?



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