
37th Annual Indigenous Bar Association Conference

Continue Professional Development (CPD)

October 16, 2025 Seminar 1A Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 2 hours

Legal Ethics & Professionalism: Ethical Billing, Contingency Fees, and Accountability in Legal Representation of Indigenous Nations

This session will examine the ethical and professional responsibilities of lawyers in their financial and fiduciary dealings with Indigenous clients. Drawing on recent case law, regulatory guidance, and best practices, the program will explore three interconnected areas:

1. Ethical billing practices - ensuring transparency, fairness and reasonableness in fee arrangements while respecting the heightened fiduciary and trust-based obligations that arise in the representation of Indigenous clients.
2. Contingency fees and access to justice - Understanding the limits, regulatory frameworks, and unique considerations when structuring contingency arrangements in matters involving Indigenous communities, including the balance between fair compensation for counsel and protection of vulnerable clients
3. Examining how accountability mechanisms, both legal and cultural, shape the lawyer-client relationship, including conflicts of interest, informed consent, and the broader duty of lawyers to uphold reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination.

Participants will gain knowledge surrounding the historical and ongoing power imbalances between lawyers and Indigenous nations, and how professionalism demands approaches that center respect, transparency and accountability.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 2A Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

Exploring Indigenous-led Solutions for Northern Challenges

The North is home to some of the most resilient, innovative, and adaptive communities in the world, yet many of the solutions that shape life in northern regions are still designed far from the lands they serve. Innovation North is a forward-looking panel showcasing Indigenous-led approaches to legal, social, and economic challenges in northern and remote communities. Panelists will share stories of collaboration between Indigenous governments, northern communities, and innovators, highlighting how homegrown ideas are reshaping justice systems, governance, and daily life in the Arctic and beyond.

This session will inspire attendees to imagine and create futures where northern innovation is not only recognized but celebrated as a global model for resilience and self-determination.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 2B Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

2S+ in Law

This panel discussion will explore the various opportunities, challenges, and considerations for LGBTQIA2S+ people practicing and working in the legal profession or in areas involving justice, equality, and advocacy. Panelists will discuss their own journeys in law or advocacy, the historical and contemporary roles of two spirit people within Indigenous cultures, and how various institutions or governments today are taking important steps to advance inclusion and safety of LGBTQIA2S+ people in their groups / communities.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 2C Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

90 Minute Trust/Estate Lawyer

This seminar brings together lawyers with a wealth of experience in wills, trusts, and estate matters to discuss the unique issues that can arise when establishing, administering, or implementing trusts, wills, and estates involving Indigenous peoples. Panelists will explore issues such as how to deal with on-reserve wills and estate considerations for First Nations, different forms of trusts and their use in claims settlements, as well as best practices when working with Indigenous peoples on navigating these options. Discussions will highlight recent or key cases in this area, as well as explore innovative ideas for how to re-envision trusts and estates law to meet the contemporary needs of Indigenous people in various ways.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 3A Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

Business of Law Series: Growth, Talent, & Tech in Practice Management

Running a legal practice is more than great advocacy—it's about strategy, systems, and scalability. This session dives into key pillars of sustainable growth: knowing when and how to scale, attracting and retaining the right talent, and using traction principles to stay aligned with your firm's vision. We'll also explore the evolving role of AI in legal operations—how to use it efficiently, ethically, and without losing the human touch. Ideal for solo practitioners, small firms, or anyone looking to future-proof their practice.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 3B Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

Criminal Law Experiences & Updates

This panel will explore the experiences of Indigenous people when interacting with the criminal law system from various perspectives and based on the panelists' expertise working in criminal law. Panelists will discuss the procedural and access to justice challenges that can arise, as well as providing updates on recent cases and various approaches to try and address the system discrimination Indigenous peoples face.

October 16, 2025 Seminar 3C Accredited (B.C. & Ontario): 1.5 hours

Class Action Update

This session will highlight recent developments in Indigenous class actions across Canada. This includes recent child welfare decisions such as Fisher River, Varley, Neal, and BM, alongside recent settlements such as Boarding Homes, FNCFS/Jordan's Principle, and Indian Hospitals. Panelists will explore how courts are addressing issues of collective harm, cultural loss, and government accountability, and what these shifts mean for implementation, remedies, and the future of class actions as tools for systemic change and reconciliation.