Blaney McMurtry LLP



Robert J. Potts

Partner and General Counsel

He/Him
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CALLED TO THE BAR OF ONTARIO, 1974

EDUCATION

- Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree,York University, 2024
- LL.B.,University of Toronto, 1972
- B.A.,(Honours) History,University of Toronto, 1969

PRACTICE AREAS

- Indigenous Law
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Litigation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Class Actions

Bob Potts has been a Partner in the firm for more than forty-five years and currently serves as its General Counsel. He is an experienced litigation counsel with a varied practice and extensive client list.

Bob chairs the firm's Indigenous Law Group, and has actively represented and counselled First Nations since the early 1980's. He has been consulted by many First Nations and has successfully negotiated several land claim settlements in Ontario and Alberta, including:

- Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the Tallcree Tribal Government, and Alexander First Nation in relation to their Treaty Land Entitlement ("TLE") Claims and several Specific Claims in Alberta. Each of these claims was successfully concluded and received overwhelming support in subsequent community ratification votes. The Sturgeon Lake claim was initiated by litigation but evolved into a formal negotiation as a result of our actions;
- Consulted by Moose Factory First Nation and the Witchekan First Nation of Saskatchewan and Wikwemikong and Wasauksing First Nations in Ontario with respect to land claim matters;
- Represented Wahta Mohawks of Ontario in connection with a major land claim which was successfully negotiated and has been finalized;

- Served as legal counsel to Bigstone Cree Nation with respect to their TLE and Specific Claim, which culminated in the largest settlement of its kind ever negotiated in Alberta at the time and is one of the most complicated and richest First Nation Land Claim settlements in Canadian history.
- Acted on behalf of the Algonquins of Ontario with respect to Treaty Negotiations that are underway with Canada and Ontario involving the Ottawa Valley including the Nation's capital.

Bob has been voted by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in Canada® ranking in the Aboriginal Law category for over 10 years in succession. He is rated by Lexpert® Canadian Legal Directory as a Leading Practitioner (repeatedly recommended) in Indigenous Law.

In 2024, Bob was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by Osgoode Hall Law School and York University in recognition of the impact that Bob has made as a long-standing legal advocate and expert in Indigenous law.

Bob has successfully completed the Harvard University Mediation Workshop and Advanced Mediation Workshop presented by The Advocates' Society and is active in the field of alternative dispute resolution.

He participates in conferences and delivers papers on several legal topics including Aboriginal Law issues. Bob spoke at the 2012 Commonwealth Lawyers Association Property Law Conference in Belfast, Ireland on the subject of "Indigenous Peoples and Land Issues". In September 2007, he was a speaker at the Annual Commonwealth Law Conference held in Kenya, on "Aboriginal Claims in Canada".

He has chaired seminars and lectured at the Ontario Bar Association, The Law Society of Ontario – Continuing Legal Education, and the Canadian Institute on commercial and litigation practice issues including class action proceedings. Bob has also spoken as a guest lecturer at the University of Ottawa and Osgoode Law School on Indigenous Law issues.

In addition to his work in Indigenous Law, Bob has successfully acted for clients in disputes involving real estate and business contracts, corporate disputes, and mortgage enforcement remedies. He has served as defence counsel in several leading Class Action law suits including Abdool, Bre-X and the class action

stemming from the 2008 propane explosion in Toronto.

Acting on behalf of LawPro (formerly the Lawyers Professional Indemnity Company), Bob has defended solicitors in professional negligence suits. He has represented accountants, agents and brokers, and has represented the professional indemnity company on behalf of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. He has also provided coverage opinions to insurers on a variety of policies.

Bob is a past director of The Advocates' Society and has been published in The Advocates' Quarterly, the National Real Property Law Review, and the Canadian Independent Adjuster.

RECOGNITION

- Recognized by *Best Lawyers® in Canada* 2026 in the area of Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice
- Recognized in *Best Lawyers® in Canada* 2025 for Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice
- Recognized in *Lexpert® Canadian Legal Directory* as Leading Practitioner (repeatedly recommended) for Indigenous Law

MEMBERSHIPS

- Law Society of Ontario
- Ontario Bar Association
- The Advocates' Society

RELATED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- June 02, 2022
  Speaker, Working with Indigenous Communities: Critical Insights for In-House Counsel

IN THE MEDIA

- November 29, 2024
  Bob Potts, Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient, recognized by his Alma Mater