

Environment and Natural Resources

Sound advice

In business transactions, the environment is certainly one undeniable element at the core of most industrial and commercial activities. Moreover, environmental damage can lead to wide-ranging disputes. The seasoned lawyers of Lapointe Rosenstein's Environment and Natural Resources sector regularly advise businesses on the different steps to take in connection with their activities. In addition, they support them in their search for solutions to the many issues raised by the maze of statutory and regulatory environmental requirements in addition to new technological and scientific inventions. In recent years, several legislative schemes have changed the stakes of a myriad of projects. Our team can advise you and recommend different strategies tailored to your needs.

Areas of practice directly related to the evolution of market trends

In addition to their legal skills, our lawyers have thorough knowledge of the environmental and natural resources sector.

Following is how we can help you:

- The liability, stakes and obligations associated with contaminated sites, with their management and their revitalization cannot be overlooked. The trend to pick contaminated sites (*brownfields*) to start up certain projects requires some well-orchestrated planning. In addition, the legal framework surrounding the ownership or occupancy of contaminated sites is complex with significant differences from one jurisdiction to the next and can lead to highly restricting situations. We have developed essential tools to advise you, defend you, if need be, and, lastly, put you in an advantageous position. In Quebec, we were the groundbreakers in matters of risk analysis as an approach to managing contaminated land.
- In real estate transactions, our lawyers advise the firm's clients on planning the different facets of projects to minimize the administrative delays of processing files and securing approvals and, lastly, to avoid incurring your environmental liability.
- The lawyers who primarily practice environmental law routinely form part of multi-disciplinary teams of lawyers involved in corporate reorganizations, mergers, purchases, sales, leasing or financing. The protection of the business and its directors and officers against the uncertainties and pitfalls of environmental requirements is a key ingredient to be included from the outset of any project planning.



Dedicated to Excellence

- Experts with legal and scientific training
- Groundbreakers in matters of risk analysis to manage contaminated land
- Knowledge of the mining, forestry and petroleum sectors
- Prevention programs in case of ecological disaster
- Ability to develop strategies to manage environmental risks
- In-depth knowledge of the federal, provincial and municipal enforcement of environmental statutes and regulations
- Know-how to negotiate with governmental authorities

Our Expertise extends to:

- Redevelopment of contaminated sites (*brownfields*)
- Audit of in-company environmental compliance and preparation of environmental policies and environmental management systems
- Civil litigation, representing plaintiff or defendant, associated with contaminated land (injunction, latent defects, migration of contaminants, operation and closure of service stations, neighbourhood troubles, health problems: smoke, allergies, indoor air quality)
- Negotiation of compensation conditions and measures for numerous wetland projects
- Advice on the use, management and disposal of hazardous materials
- Involvement in emergency response measures and response plans and teaching in this respect
- Due diligence in a variety of areas

- In the event of litigation involving environment-related problems, we defend your interests before civil courts of law, criminal courts and administrative tribunals. Our team is especially recognized in class action matters in the area of human health and the environment whether representing plaintiff or defendant. We know that environmental disputes demand in-depth scientific and medical knowledge as well as the development of well-structured strategies.
- In the area of natural resources, our expertise has expanded over the years to include the mining industry especially in relation to the revision of restoration plans and advice on environmental liability and obligations stemming from the development of mining sites.
- In the forestry sector, we have developed solid knowledge in terms of permits and negotiating with governmental authorities.
- We have extensive knowledge of the petroleum sector in terms of equipment, land or marine disposals, service stations as well as emergency responses.

For more information contact:

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Staying One Step Ahead

Other Sector Teams address the highly specialized needs of the corporate finance and securities, venture capital, life sciences, licensing and technology, energy, franchising and real estate sectors.



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