



Renovate the Public Hearing Project: Pre-Development Public Engagement & Legal Reforms to Support Housing Supply

Backgrounder

Members of the Renovate the Public Hearing Project Committee

Date: 19 December 2023

Bruce Woolley, KC (committee chair), has had a long career practising primarily in real-estate matters. He has worked as in-house counsel for organizations such as Expo 86, Cominco, BC Enterprise Corporation, and the Bank of Bermuda. He has spent many years in private practice, working with Clark Wilson, Stikeman Elliott, and now as a sole practitioner. His private practice included advising the provincial government on the four modern treaties for First Nations and acting for the Real Estate Council of BC. He is a past bencher of the Law Society of BC and was an active participant in CLE and the Canadian Bar Association. In addition to his practice, he has taught extensively in the real-estate industry and also in the Law Faculty at UBC.

Merle C. Alexander, KC, is a “life of project” lawyer at Miller Titerle + Company assisting with negotiations of all stages of impact benefit agreements, joint ventures, regulatory engagement, traditional knowledge collection, and other corporate and tax-related advice. He is continuously engaged in legal support for emerging government-to-government negotiations in all resource areas, including mining, oil and gas, forestry, pipelines, run-of-river and hydro projects. As a member of the co-development team for the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in BC, a major component of Merle’s practice currently involves the ongoing legislative implementation of UNDRIP in BC. Merle is continuously adapting his solicitor experience and skill set to the emerging and developing needs of Indigenous clients.

Merle was recognized in 2021 and 2022 by Business in Vancouver’s BC500, the 500 most influential business leaders in BC, as a Leader in Law; Kings Counsel in 2020; received a

UVic Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018 and Top 40 under 40 in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria.

Nathalie Baker is a litigator practising primarily in the area of municipal law, with a particular interest in land use and planning matters. She represents landowners, developers, citizens groups, and business owners on a wide range of municipal issues arising under the *Local Government Act*, the *Community Charter*, and the *Vancouver Charter*. Nathalie also acts for members of municipal councils and regional boards on motions to censure and allegations of conflict of interest or misconduct.

Nathalie has represented clients in the Provincial Court of British Columbia on bylaw prosecution matters, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia on applications for judicial review and in the Court of Appeal. She also appears regularly before administrative tribunals, including the Board of Variance.

Nathalie is a contributing author to the *B.C. Real Estate Development Practice Manual*.

Tyler Baker is the director of development for the interior region at BC Housing. BC Housing's development division partners with communities and stakeholders to deliver the Province's affordable housing mandate through new construction, renovation, and strategic acquisitions. Tyler previously worked at Toronto Community Housing, where he managed the redevelopment of several inner-city neighborhoods into mixed-income, mixed-use districts. Tyler's background is in urban planning and urban design and he has worked as a consultant in many communities across Canada and the Caribbean.

Alyssa Bradley is a partner with the law firm Young Anderson in Vancouver. She practises in the areas of municipal and administrative law. She is a solicitor as well as a litigator and has appeared in all levels of court in BC for local governments. Her focus is on defending local government decisions on judicial review as well as enforcing local government bylaws.

Alyssa has been a guest lecturer at the UBC Faculty of Law in municipal law, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law in administrative law and the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning in planning and land use law. She also co-chairs the Planning and Development course for the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC and updates the chapter on Development Rights in the Continuing Legal Education Society's *Real Estate Development Practice Manual*.

Deborah Carlson is a staff lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law for the Green Communities Program. She works with communities in British Columbia to support land and water management that maintains and restores healthy connections to nature, including ecosystem-based measures to adapt to climate change. The work involves understanding regulatory gaps and limitations in existing Canadian law, and supporting new approaches to policy and management at landscape scales, with full recognition and respect for Indigenous laws and authority, and constitutionally protected title and rights. Deborah has civil and common law degrees from McGill University and was called to the B.C. Bar in 1997.

Michael Drummond is a public policy and management professional with a proven track record of providing strategic counsel to governments, corporations, and not-for-profit organizations. He currently serves as Vice President, Corporate & Public Affairs at the Urban Development Institute (UDI).

With more than 900 corporate members UDI represents thousands of individuals involved in all facets of land development and planning, including developers, planners, architects, financial lenders, lawyers, engineers, property managers, appraisers, brokers, local governments, and government agencies. Michael leads the organization's communications, stakeholder relations, government affairs, and strategic planning functions.

Prior to his work at UDI, Michael has served in senior roles in the Government of Canada as a political advisor in Ottawa, and most recently as a partner at one of Canada's leading full-service public affairs consultancies.

Janae Enns is a Registered Professional Planner, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, and a lawyer at Lidstone & Company. Janae graduated from Thompson Rivers University as the recipient of the Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medal. She holds a bachelor's degree in geography with a concentration in planning and a master's degree in community planning. Janae has spent several years working in local government in planning and economic development. In her roles, she has worked on a variety of economic strategies, organized, and facilitated community engagement initiatives, provided technical planning advice, and processed land-use applications. As a lawyer at Lidstone & Company, Janae assists local government clients on a wide range of planning, development, and land-use matters. Her work includes drafting bylaws and legal agreements, and providing support through development approval processes.

Arielle Guetta is a Senior Planning Analyst in the Governance and Structure Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. She has been with the Branch since 2013 and prior to that completed a Master's in Public Administration through the University of Victoria. She also holds a Local Government Administration Certificate from Capilano University. In her time with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs she has had the opportunity to work on a variety of local government issues and legislative amendments including modernizing the public notice provisions in the *Community Charter*.

Ashley Murphey, RPP, MICP, is a Registered Professional Planner, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, and works as the Planning Services Manager for the Peace River Regional District. She is currently the Chair of the Central North Chapter of the Planning Institute of BC and enjoys helping to connect planners throughout northern BC through various social and learning activities. Ashley holds a certificate in IAP2 Public Participation and enjoys engaging with community members on various topics related to planning and land use. She recognizes the challenges involved with working in rural and remote areas and that innovative solutions are often needed to ensure that members of the public are able to participate effectively in public processes.

Originally from the Lower Mainland, she obtained her planning degree from UNBC, where she discovered her love for the northern and rural lifestyle. Ashley and her spouse live on a farm outside of Fort St. John where they produce hay, raise chickens, grow a large volume of vegetables and fruits, and have several horses. Ashley is passionate about food security in the north and works to support agriculture through her role as a planner and a farmer.

In addition to her busy work and farm life, Ashley is actively involved in the community and was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Marketing Directorate of the 2020 BC Winter Games in Fort St. John. She has previously participated in the City's annual homeless counts and is always looking to find innovative ways that planners can create inclusive public processes. Currently, she is looking forward to a new role as a volunteer for the Spark Women's Leadership Conference, hosted annually in Fort St. John.

Eric Nicholls is a Director of Planning and Land Use at BC's Ministry of Housing. Eric has been working on various aspects of the local government planning and land use framework for nearly 10 years, with responsibilities including developing and implementing legislation (related to rental zoning, housing needs reports and most recently, public hearings), overseeing the framework for regional growth strategies, reviewing local bylaws, and developing funding programs to support local governments. Currently Eric is leading elements of the province's Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) initiative. Eric previously worked on urban transportation and other policy issues for the federal government. He holds a BA in Political Science with International Relations (UBC), and an MPhil in International Studies (Cambridge), and has completed urban studies courses at SFU on planning, design, and transportation.

Edward Wilson is senior counsel with the Vancouver law firm Lawson Lundell LLP. Ed practises in the real estate and municipal law fields with a specialty in real estate development. Working closely with sellers, buyers, and developers, Ed is a trusted advisor in connection with property and development projects spanning a wide variety of commercial, residential, industrial, resort, and financing matters. Ed also provides advice on environmental matters in connection with real property. He often assists clients on rezonings and project approval processes including advising on the public hearings.

Ed is a Director of the BC Law Institute and was a member of BCLI's Strata Property Law (Phase Two) Project Committee

Dr. Jennifer Wolowic is a cultural anthropologist and ethnographer with over 15 years of experience working with diverse groups, including visible minorities, First Nations, LGBTQ, and youth. For 2.5 years, she co-led the Simon Fraser University Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue's Strengthening Canadian Democracy Initiative and was the founding lead of the Renovate the Public Hearing Project. She's written opinion pieces on public hearings and their challenges, interviewed dozens of stakeholders on the topic and helped shape the activities of the overall reform project. She is now the Principal Lead of the Aberystwyth University Dialogue Centre and responsible for bringing her experience in Vancouver to Wales

and creating collaborative knowledge exchange opportunities to make a positive impact in the real world.

Tom Zworski is the City Solicitor for the City of Victoria and provides advice on all aspects of municipal law and legal issues involving City of Victoria, including administrative, constitutional, construction, general litigation, and zoning and development-law matters. He has appeared before all levels of BC courts and the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as various administrative boards and tribunals. He is also an Adjunct Professor at UVic Law School where he teaches municipal law. He is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences and continuing legal education programs in BC and Ontario.