



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Taking Business to New Heights in Banff at 21st Annual CCCL Conference”

Banff, AB – [Thursday, June 7, 2018, Toronto] – The spectacular beauty of The Fairmont Banff Springs Resort in Alberta’s Rocky Mountains provided the backdrop for the Twenty-First Annual Conference of The Canadian College of Construction Lawyers, May 31 to June 3, 2018. Under the theme of *THE CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS’ TOOL KIT OF THE FUTURE*, more than eighty Fellows gathered to hear colleagues, guest speakers, and panellists share their industry insights and foresights covering a wide range of topics.

The Business Session opened with a panel discussion moderated by Bill Kenny, Q.C. addressing the latest issues relating to the conduct of construction arbitrations, featuring The Honourable Ian Binnie (former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada), Jack Marshall, Q.C., Gerry Ghikas, Q.C. and CCCL Fellow Chris O’Connor, Q.C. Moderator Derek Brindle, Q.C. picked up the theme from a different perspective focused on issues related to Arbitration Agreements, featuring panellists Guy Sarault, Jane Sidnell and Jack Marshall, Q.C. The Panel focused on Administered v. Ad Hoc Arbitrations, International v. Domestic differences, and arbitration rules and procedural issues.

The Fellows were delighted to hear from The Honourable Mrs. Justice Finola O’Farrell DBE of The High Court of England and Wales who provided a comprehensive review of the statutory adjudication process in England, a presentation of particular relevance given the implementation of legislative amendments set to introduce statutory adjudication in Ontario.

Over lunch, guest speaker Jamie Doyle, Director of the Planning and Development Department in Fort McMurray, spoke on the rebuilding of the devastated community.



Following a brief outlook and review of upcoming projects and other CCCL initiatives by incoming President Matthew Alter, the day continued with a discussion titled The Case for Diversity, featuring panellists Jean van der Lee, Q.C., Marina Pratchett, Q.C. and Laleh Moshiri. Moderating were Stephanie Hickman and Patricia Morrison. It was stated that the “Diversity Panel will remain one of the most memorable sessions for a long time”.

Day Two of the Conference began with the College’s Annual General Meeting. Following the AGM, a fast-paced session of Hot Topics in Construction Law covered the latest developments in Technology; Insurance Related Issues; Surety Issues; Aboriginal Issues; In-House Counsel and the Law of Privilege; Construction Trusts and Insolvency; and a Mixed Bag from the Legal Update Committee.

Fellows and their guests had numerous opportunities to experience Alberta’s legendary hospitality, including an off-site dinner at Brewster’s MountView Barbecue (complete with line dancing), a Johnson Canyon tour, Banff Cultural tour, biking tour, wine and cheese tasting with the Sommelier at The Banff Springs, and a ride on the Banff Gondola to the top of Sulphur Mountain. The closing evening’s Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremony was held at the hotel, featuring an address from The Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, with entertainment provided by The Collegians, the CCCL’s treasured “in house” band which delivered another rousing performance, with special guests taking the mike throughout the evening to the delight of all.

Following dinner, incoming President, Matthew Alter presided over the induction ceremony, introducing new Fellows Sandra Astolfo (Toronto); Stephen Berezowskyj, (Vancouver); Howard Krupat, (Toronto); and Jeffrey E. Sharpe (Calgary). Also, former Fellow Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald, Q.C., now a Justice of the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court, who was unable to attend, was inducted as an Honorary Fellow.



Outgoing CCCL President Art Barry, Q.C., (Halifax) noted that the Banff Springs Hotel and surroundings were a perfect setting for the CCCL conference activities, and in particular for the Fellows to reunite and celebrate the commencement of the College's third decade.

The Banff Conference was expertly steered by Program Coordinator John Murphy (Montreal), supported by Assistant Program Coordinator D. Geoffrey Machum, Q.C. (Halifax). Stephanie Hickman (St. John's) and Patricia Morrison (Calgary) were also of great support in the planning effort.

Of special note this year, an updated history of the College entitled "The Evolution and Impact of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers" was presented to the Fellows in commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the CCCL. The book was brilliantly written by one of the founding Fellows and College Historian David H. Kauffman (Montreal) whose invaluable contribution was honoured with a special award on Friday evening.

Incoming President Matthew Alter (Toronto) will be leading the way to the 2019 Conference, May 30 to June 2, at the Queen's Landing Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

At the 2018 Conference, the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers was pleased to announce the following elected Officers:

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The Canadian College of Construction Lawyers strives to facilitate and encourage the association of outstanding lawyers who are distinguished for their skill, experience and high standards of professional and ethical conduct in the practice or teaching of construction law, and who are dedicated to excellence in the specialized practice of construction law. For more information about the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers and its Fellows, visit their website at <http://www.cccl.org> or contact:

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