



Dr. Bruce McIvor, lawyer and historian, is principal of First Peoples Law Corporation, a law firm dedicated to defending and advancing Aboriginal title, Aboriginal rights and Treaty rights.

Bruce represents First Nations across Canada. His recent and ongoing work includes an Aboriginal title claim by the Mi'kmaq for 1/3rd of the New Brunswick, representing Anishinaabe First Nations of northern Ontario in the proposed Ring Fire development and in negotiations for joint-decision making with the provincial government, representing a Nakoda First Nation in Saskatchewan to resolve century-old treaty violations and representing the *Syilx* Okanagan Nation of British Columbia in litigation involving the Canada-U.S. international boundary.

Bruce is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading practitioner of Aboriginal law in Canada (*Canadian Legal Expert Directory* and *Chambers Canada*). Bruce is a proud Métis from the Red River in Manitoba. He holds a law degree, a Ph.D. in Aboriginal and environmental history, and is a Fulbright Scholar.

Recent Conference Papers and Presentations

“Systemic Bias, Indigenous People and the Legal Profession,” Law Society of British Columbia Truth and Reconciliation Symposium, Vancouver, B.C., November 23, 2017

“Early Cartography and Indigenous Land Claims,” Keynote Address, Canada Before Confederation: Early Exploration and Mapping Conference, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 12-14, 2017

-- with Kate Gunn, “From Shield to Sword: Section 91(24) and the Division of Powers,” Canada 150 – Constitutional Law Symposium, University of Alberta, Edmonton, October 27, 2017

“Case Law Update—2016-2017,” Aboriginal Lawyers Forum, Canadian Bar Association, June 16, 2017, Vancouver

“Rights-Holder for Aboriginal Title and Rights,” Nationhood Reasons and Options: Legal Land Rights & Negotiation Strategies, Merritt, B.C., May 24, 2017

“Addressing Cumulative Effects Through Consultation,” Infringement Claims and Cumulative Effects: Aboriginal Law’s Next Frontier, Pacific Business & Law Institute Conference, Vancouver, June 7, 2016



- “The Honour of the Crown and Government ‘Tribunals,” Canadian Bar Association National Aboriginal Law Conference, Ottawa, May 5, 2016
- “The Duty to Consult and Accommodate,” The *Osgoode* Certificate in Mining Law, Toronto, April 19, 2016
- “Legal Environment for Land Governance and Planning Workshop,” Vancouver, March 9, 2016
- “Best Practices: Duty to Consult and Mining,” Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation First Nation Mining Workshop, Winnipeg, February 23, 2016
- “Duty to Consult Since *Tsilhqot’in*,” 16th Western Canadian Aboriginal Land Resource Management Forum, Vancouver, February 2-3, 2016
- “Negotiate or Litigate”, Oil and Gas Forum, Edmonton, Alberta, November 26, 2015
- “Tsilhqot’in and Consultation: What Has Changed”, PBLI Program, The Tsilhqot’in Decision A Year Out: Where Are We Now? Vancouver, October 29, 2015
- National Claims Researchers Workshop Planning Committee, Six Nations. Ontario, October 6-8, 2015
- “How do we do business together post-*Tsilhqot’in* – a conversation with four legal and business experts” NABOC Conference, Osoyoos, BC, September 15 & 16, 2015
- “Resource Management & Governance”, Common Ground Research Forum, Kenora, Ontario, June 26, 2015
- “In the Courts: A Case Law Update”, Decisions considering *Tsilhqot’in* and *Keewatin*, PBLI Program: Aboriginal Law 2015: Current Issues, Vancouver, May 26, 2015
- “Collaborative initiatives for First Nation for Resource Development”, 15th Annual Aboriginal Land Resource Management Forum," Vancouver, January 26-28, 2015
- “Implications for Treaty First Nations,” Recent Developments and Implications of the *Tsilhqot’in Nation* and *Grassy Narrows* Decisions, Insight Canada Conference, Ottawa, November 3-4, 2014
- “Legal Implications for the Rest of Canada,” *Tsilhqot’in Nation* and Recognition of Aboriginal Title at the Supreme Court of Canada: Analysis & Impact,” Pacific Business & Law Institute Conference, Vancouver, October 7-8, 2014
- “Aboriginal Law Requirements in 2014,” Major Business Agreements with First Nations Conference, Infinity Institute Conference, Vancouver, June 12-13, 2014

“Looking Closely at Specific Claims: Kitselas Judicial Review,” Aboriginal Law 2014, Pacific Business Institute Conference, Vancouver, May 28-29, 2014

“The Duty to Consult and Accommodate,” Osgoode Hall Certificate in Mining, Toronto, April 28, 2014

“The Honour of the Crown and Business Development,” 2013 National Aboriginal Business Opportunities Conference, Osoyoos, B.C., September 10-12, 2013

“Justice at Last: Specific Claims Action Plan—Five Year Review,” Specific Claims 2013, Pacific Business & Law Institute Conference, Vancouver, September 25, 2013

“Legal Developments and Latest Court Decisions on Aboriginal Title and Land Rights – Analysis and Implications for Industry, First Nations and Government,” Insights’ 12th Annual Aboriginal Oil and Gas Forum, Edmonton, December 10-13, 2013

“The Duty to Consult and Metis Rights,” 2013 Aboriginal Economic Leadership Summit, Osoyoos, B.C., June 25-27, 2013

Litigation

Bruce has been a legal team member for numerous important Aboriginal law cases, including:

R. v. Desautel, 2017, BCSC 2389

Wabauskang First Nation v. Minister of Northern Development and Mines, ONSC 2014

Grassy Narrows First Nation v. Ontario (Natural Resources), SCC 2014

Keewatin v. Ontario (Natural Resources), ONCA 2013

Upper Nicola Indian Band v. British Columbia (Environment), BCSC 2011

Rio Tinto Alcan v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, SCC 2010

Kwikwetlem First Nation v. British Columbia (Utilities Commission), BCCA 2009

Klaboose v. Sunshine Coast Forest District (District Manager), BCSC 2008

British Columbia (Minister of Forests) v. Okanagan Indian Band, BCCA 2008 BCCA

Morris v. British Columbia, SCC 2006

R. v. Sappier; *R. v. Gray*, SCC 2006

Chingee v. Canada (Attorney-General), BCCA 2005

Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), SCC 2004

Osoyoos Indian Band v. Oliver (Town), SCC 2001

Post-Secondary Education

Ph.D. University of Manitoba
M.A. Simon Fraser University
LL.B. University of British Columbia
B.A. Brandon University

Experience

Principal at First Peoples Law Corporation
February 2012 - Present

Associate at Mandell Pinder LLP
May 2008 - January 2012

Principal at Bruce Stadfeld Historical Research & Litigation Support
1997 – 2007

Publications

Bruce McIvor, *First Peoples Law: Essays in Canadian Law and Decolonization*, 3rd edition (2018)

Bruce McIvor and Kate Gunn, “Stepping into Canada’s Shoes: *Tsilhqot’in*, *Grassy Narrows* and the Division of Powers,” *University of New Brunswick Law Journal*, Vol. 67 Autumn 2016: 146-66.

Bruce Stadfeld and Anja Brown, *Preparing an Aboriginal Rights Defence: An Overview for Defence Counsel*, Legal Services Society of British Columbia, 2012.

Bruce Stadfeld, “Manifestations of Power: Native Resistance to the Resettlement of British Columbia,” *Beyond the City Limits: Rural History in British Columbia*, ed. R.W. Sandwell (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1999): 33-46.

---, “Electric Space: Natural and Social Transformations in British Columbia’s Hydroelectric Industry to World War II,” Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Manitoba, December 2002.

---, “Power’s Dominion: A Review of Recent Writings on Rivers and Hydroelectricity, *BC Studies* 121 (Spring 1999): 115-121.

---, “Manifestations of Power: Native Response to Settlement in Nineteenth Century British Columbia” M.A. Thesis, Simon Fraser University, August 1993.

---, “Action-Reaction: The Evolution of the Native Economy of the Pas and Norway House Agencies, 1870-1939,” W. Peter Adams and Peter G. Johnson, eds., *Student Research in Canada’s North* (Ottawa: ACUNS, 1988): 577-586.

Scholarships and Awards

Carole T. Corcoran Memorial Award, University of British Columbia
Fulbright Scholarship, Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Fellowship
Duff Roblin Graduate Fellowship, University of Manitoba
Willard Ireland Scholarship, British Columbia Heritage Trust
Faculty of Arts Ph.D. Entrance Scholarship, University of Manitoba
J.S. Ewart Memorial Award, University of Manitoba
Learned Societies Travelling Scholarship, University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts Conference Travel Award, University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts Endowment Award, University of Manitoba
Graduate Fellowship, Simon Fraser University
Cook Conference Scholarship, Simon Fraser University
Leon J. Ladner Graduate Scholarship in History, Simon Fraser University
Charles W. Lightbody Memorial Scholarship in History, Brandon University
Helen C. Riesberry Scholarship in History, Brandon University

Family History

For Bruce, advocacy is bred in the bone. His family lineage includes Cree and Anishinaabe women, Scottish men from the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides, coureurs de bois and voyageurs, and two of the oldest French and Acadian families in North America.

Client Testimonials

Our community's challenges are stubborn and complicated so we've got lots and lots of experience with all kinds of lawyers. But, where others have made assumptions, Bruce listens. Where others have seen complications, Bruce has seen potential solutions. Bruce's knowledge and perspective are absolutely essential to the successes of our community-based strategy team--and he's willing to get out on the land too. *Chief Erwin Redsky, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation*

Bruce has helped us with our duty to consult work on mining, forestry, pipelines and hydro. He's also represented us in court. Bruce always treats us with respect and we really enjoy working with him. The legal issues we deal with to protect our Treaty rights can become very stressful at times, but Bruce is always ready to laugh with us to relieve the tension. We really appreciate his hard work on our behalf.

Chief Leslie Cameron, Wabauskang First Nation

Bruce McIvor has represented the Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band many times and we are very happy with his service to us and our community. We have found his expertise, competence, knowledge and tenacity valuable to our

interests. This became evident when dealing with Canada on our Specific Claims, then again with BC Hydro and most recently on impacts benefit agreements with private corporations. Bruce is always cognizant of our Aboriginal Title and Rights and works to find a way to strengthen and protect them. Our confidence level with Bruce is very high...on reserve or off...he has a thorough, balanced approach. His legal opinions serve our interests in protecting Aboriginal Title and Rights and serve to support our economic development and impact benefits agreements which are so important to our youth and communities. I would not hesitate to recommend him to any of our colleagues for he has balance and values.

Chief Michael LeBourdais, Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band

Bruce McIvor is very diligent in his practice as a representative for Stswecemc/Xgat'tem (formerly Canoe Creek Indian Band) on very important issues we are faced with such as Taseko's Prosperity Mine Project and Specific Claims. Bruce is a strategic thinker and always on his toes when it comes to the protection of our rights and title. He has the experience and knowledge and his heart is in the right place. Stswecemc/Xgat'tem is pleased support Bruce and we recommend his service to any First Nation who may be seeking representation and expertise in First Nations Issues.

Chief Hank Adam, Stswecemc/Xgat'tem First Nation

Bruce was a key part of the Mandell Pinder legal team for the Okanagan Nation Alliance Chiefs' Executive Council. He advised on numerous files and his expertise in the subject matter of water protection and issues of energy generation helped to better inform our strategic and legal engagement. Water is sacred and his efforts here were crucial to our communities. Syilx people have Aboriginal Title and Rights to their Lands, Natural Resources including Water. Governments and industry infringe on those rights daily. Bruce's counsel made it possible for us to engage as Indigenous Peoples with the province of BC and BC Hydro in a more meaningful way with strategic use of the Courts when necessary. Bruce is an astute lawyer on aboriginal title and rights and is widely known both locally and nationally for his strong efforts in assisting First Nations to protect their rights and interests while pursuing their causes.

Pauline Terbasket, Executive Director of the Okanagan Nation Alliance

I have worked with Dr. McIvor on several duty to consult files and in IBA negotiations. He is both an effective leader and team member. His experience and expertise in this area is second to none. Bruce is a driving force behind having First Nation rights advanced, recognized, and respected.

Don Morrison MBA, Executive Director, Bimose Tribal Council Inc.