

Taking Action on Reconciliation

On September 29, 2018, Provincial Council accepted the CBABC Truth & Reconciliation Working Group's Final Report, which established a *Reconciliation Action and Implementation Plan* for our response to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The following highlights our progress towards CBABC's goals in 2018-19.

Professional Development & Events for Members

Furthering our Journey of Reconciliation – From Cowichan to Cape Scott

Lawyers in the mid and north of Vancouver Island learned of the history, experiences and culture of the Chemainus First Nation as shared by Elder George Harris Sr.

Incorporating the Calls to Action in your Organization's Business Plan | Webinar

Held in partnership with the Ontario Bar Association, this February webinar featured BC's Karey Brooks of JFK Law addressing how lawyers could contribute meaningfully to reconciliation within their workplaces.

Indigenous Peoples & Business: Joining Forces in an Empowered Economy | Victoria

Merle Alexander and Tamara Napoleon of Miller Titerle reviewed the duty to consult, tax restructuring, procurement, impact benefits agreements, do's and don'ts of cultural awareness, and other topics.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise | CBA West Conference, Penticton

Ardith Walkem and Halie Bruce of Cedar & Sage Law and Andrea Hilland of the Law Society facilitated this 90-minute experiential session adapted for a legally-trained audience.

Indigenous Rights & Title | Webinar

Elin Sigurdson of Mandell Pinder and Christopher Devlin of DGW Law presented a summary of colonial historical policies, legal interpretations of aboriginal title, and indigenous law sources.

Supportive Relationships between Indigenous and Pan Asian Communities in BC | Vancouver

The Equality & Diversity Committee in partnership with the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers facilitated a viewing of two short films exploring the historical relationships and support between Indigenous and Pan Asian communities in BC.

Aboriginal Lawyers Forum 8th Annual Retreat | Richmond

With the theme of *Promises, Prosperity and Justice: How the law can impact economic prosperity for Indigenous people*, lawyers gathered to learn from community leaders, politicians and lawyers.

12th Anniversary National Indigenous Peoples Day Reception | Richmond

This annual reception and auction celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day and featured Butterflies in Spirit, a Vancouver-based dance group honouring Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

Law Firm Resources

Members and staff developed the Reconciliation Response Plan resource for law firms over the course of the year for launch in 2019-20. Karey Brooks, Claire Truesdale (of JFK Law) and Drew Mildon (of Woodward & Company) prepared and provided a 75-minute presentation to the Aboriginal Law-Vancouver section in November, which Karey adapted for a webinar.

Governance & Protocols

The Governance Review Task Force recommended CBABC establish two committees – an Indigenous Justice Advocacy Committee to focus on policy development and advocacy, and a Truth & Reconciliation Committee to focus on programs for members – and that we continue our practice of specifically including Indigenous lawyers on key committees (Government Relations, BarTalk and Advisory Committee to Judicial Council).

Advocacy

The Agenda for Justice Platform Update included restorative justice, Indigenous courts, and expansion of legal aid services for the benefit of Indigenous people.



Artwork by Tracey Metallic