

## **Business Law Section Report 2012-2013**

Section Co-Chairs: Michael Jason, Richardson International Limited  
Robert Fleischaker, Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP

This report describes the activities of the Manitoba Business Law Section from September 2012 to June, 2013.

Section activities consist primarily of continuing professional development (usually over a lunch hour), together with some participation in law reform and policy recommendations.

Our most significant event for the Business Law Section each year is the Manitoba Mid-Winter Conference, a two day, in-person continuing professional development event hosted each January. This year, for the second consecutive year, the Business Law Section hosted two sessions, to permit business law practitioners to attend a full day of programming by our Section.

We attempt to present a diverse range of speakers, and this year particularly we have tried to get a broad representation of speakers from firms in Winnipeg and Manitoba generally.

In 2012, the Business Law section hosted the following meetings:

1. Understanding Financial Statements. September 25, 2012. This session was presented in person. Having had some success with a non-lawyer presenter in our environmental session in May, 2012 we thought it would be an interesting alternative viewpoint for our section. However, we received some negative feedback about this presenter, both for his subject matter, his qualifications and his point of view. There were 38 people in attendance.
2. Ethical Considerations in Issuing Opinions. November 15, 2012. This session was presented in person and included several teleconference participants. This session qualified for the Ethics component of the mandatory professional development requirement. It was presented by Scott Ransom of Pitblado LLP, who surveyed some of the Code of Professional Conduct obligations in giving opinions and applied them to practical examples. Due to a number of senior practitioners in attendance, portions of it turned into a roundtable discussion. There were 28 people in attendance.
3. 2013 Mid-Winter Conference, January 25, 2013:
  - a. Farm Business Acquisitions, Dispositions and Financings. Presenters John Neufeld of Smith Neufeld Jodoin and Warren Barber of Meighen Haddad. This session was presented in person and covered some of the pitfalls,

specific legislation and particular issues to consider when dealing with a farm business.

- b. Due Diligence. Presenters Kenton Fast of Campbell Marr and Michael Jason of Richardson International Limited. This session was presented in person and covered basic due diligence investigations and how to address your results in the transaction documents.
4. Capetown Convention on Security in Aircraft, June 25, 2013. This session was presented jointly with the Transportation Law Section, and addressed the new regime for the registration of security in aircraft, helicopters and aircraft engines. An election will also be held to nominate new members to the executive of the Business Law Section.

Michael Jason and Robert Fleischaker will continue as co-chairs of the Business Law Section for the 2013-2014 year, but will be seeking a volunteer or nominee for the currently vacant position of vice-chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Fleischaker and Michael Jason, Co-Chairs