

Environmental Law Section Report 2012-2013

Chair: Stewart J. Pierce

Past Chair: Nigel J. Thompson

The big environmental news in Manitoba for this year (2012/2013) was the introduction by the Province of the new all encompassing environment strategy which was embodied in the policy paper called Tomorrow Now Manitoba's Green Plan. In order to consider this Policy document, we asked the Minister of Conservation to come and speak to the environmental law section in October. The meeting was well attended and a good discussion took place around the theme of how Manitoba could be a leader in the new "Green Economy". One of the outcomes of the Policy Paper was the introduction in the fall of a draft bill to move the government forward in its sustainable development practices. The new Act is called The Green Prosperity Act and it was circulated amongst members of the section for input. A second educational session was held in late February at which time John Stefaniuk reported on Recent Changes to Federal Environmental Protection Legislation. The changes are wide ranging and John took members through the federal legislative labyrinth to get to the bottom line. In June 2013, the annual CBA NEERLS educational conference and business meeting will be held in Yellowknife with the theme topic being Natural Resources and Energy Legal Developments: North and South of 60. The focus will be on the legal regimes and challenges associated with resource extraction projects such as mining and oil and gas projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Stewart Pierce, Chair