

NEXUS

CAPLA 
Canadian Association of Petroleum Land Administration

CANADA 150



True North Strong and Free

IN THIS ISSUE

CAPLA AWARDS: AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

ROAD USE FEES: A SNAPSHOT

MANAGEMENT OF OFFSET OBLIGATIONS

June 2017

CALENDAR

CAPLA 2017 COURSES

For times and locations, please check the CAPLA website.

Sep 28	Notice of Assignment (NOA) - Novice
Oct 19	Surface A&D
Oct 24	CAPLA Surface Summit
Oct 26	Notice of Assignment (NOA) - Advanced
Nov 1	CAPLA Mineral Summit
Nov 21	Acquisitions & Divestments: The Long & Winding Road

CAPLA 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For times and locations, please check the CAPLA website.

Oct 3	Lunch, Learn, LEAD!: Know How You and Your Team Bring Value
Oct 18	Lunch 'n Learn: TBD
Nov 7	CAPLA Leadership Breakfast - Franc Godri
Nov 15	Lunch 'n Learn: TBD
Dec 6	Lunch 'n Learn: TBD

CAPLA 2017 EVENTS

For times and locations, please check the CAPLA website.

June 22	CAPP/CAPLA Golf Tournament
June 22	CAPLA, CAPL, IRWA Triple Round-up

Venues for CAPLA courses are sponsored by companies who support our Adopt-a-Course program. We would like to thank our ongoing sponsors in this program. Without you we wouldn't be able to offer these great courses. For more information about the Adopt-a-Course program, contact matt@caplacanada.org.

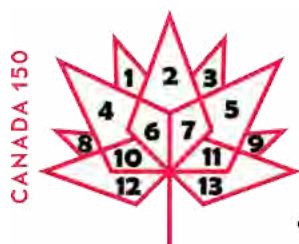


PHOTO 1–Mandi Zatyko 🍁 PHOTO 2–Keri Bruce 🍁 PHOTO 3–Lisa Cambridge
PHOTO 4–Lisa Cambridge 🍁 PHOTO 5–Ian R.D. Clark 🍁 PHOTO 6–Wanda Hiebert
PHOTO 7–Samantha Brown 🍁 PHOTO 8–Keri Bruce 🍁 PHOTO 9–Samantha Brown
PHOTO 10–Mandi Zatyko 🍁 PHOTO 11–Jane McKinnon 🍁 PHOTO 12–Ingrid Hall
🍁 PHOTO 13–Karsten Schaffrick

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President: Carla Kruschel

Past President: Tracey Stock

Treasurer: John Wallace

Directors: Kirstie Egan, Tim Laws, Norine Miller,

Kathryn Payne, Deb Watson

NEXUS EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Cooper, Stacey Boreski, Keri Bruce, Andrew Lynch, Janice Redmond, Mandi Zatyko

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Please direct all articles submitted for publication or queries about potential article topics to Matt Worthy at matt@caplacanada.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

August 4, 2017

October 27, 2017

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Effective June 2017, CAPLA's membership is 1,700.

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4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
Supporting CAPLA's Vision

6

2017 CAPLA AWARDS:
Acknowledging Our Amazing Volunteers

10

LEADERSHIP: Betty Yee,
Canadian Natural Resources

12

ROAD USE FEES:
A Snapshot

14

ESTMA REPORTING OBLIGATIONS:
What You Need to Know

16

LESSEE MANAGEMENT OF OFFSET OBLIGATIONS:
Practical Considerations

18

NOURISH: Celebrating the Sesquicentennial

21

GOVERNMENT NEWS:
Engagement with the Alberta Minister of Energy

23

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
Autumn Wilton



Carla Kruschel
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CAPLA'S VISION



CAPLA Board of Directors (l-r): Cathy Lotwin, outgoing Director; Kirstie Egan, Director; Carla Kruschel, President; Tracey Stock, Past President; Tim Laws, Director; Deb Watson, Director. Missing: John Wallace, Treasurer; Norine Miller, Director; Kathryn Payne, Director.

The history of CAPLA has set the stage for today, tomorrow, and the future, by putting in place an association that is focused on the land discipline that continues to grow and evolve as quickly as the oil and gas industry itself. It is the many, many volunteers over the years that we have to thank for a strong foundation and for carrying out the vision of CAPLA.

At CAPLA's 23rd Annual General Meeting on May 11, we had the opportunity to recognize two long-time volunteers who will be leaving the Board of Directors. Our deep appreciation goes out to Cathy Lotwin and Yvette Miller for their years of service and valuable contributions while members of the Board, during which time they each completed terms of Vice President, President, and Past President. Yvette and Cathy, thank you again for your hard work and dedication to the Board. We will definitely miss you.

There were two new Board members ratified at the AGM. A special welcome to Deb Watson and Tim Laws. The Board looks forward to their innovative ideas and readiness to contribute to what we can accomplish collectively in the year ahead. We are pleased to introduce the current members of the Board of Directors:

CARLA KRUSCHEL – PRESIDENT

Initially enticed by the legal world, Carla began working at a law firm after graduating from SAIT. Fascinated by the similarities between legal and land, she accepted a position with Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd., where she spent the next 20 years advancing her career as Canadian Hunter became Burlington Resources and eventually ConocoPhillips. During that time, Carla held various land positions while she successfully

completed SAIT's Petroleum Land Administration Certificate and the Advanced Petroleum Land Administration Certificate at Mount Royal University. She then moved to ARC Resources Ltd. as Supervisor, Contracts and Land Administration. A CAPLA member since its inception, Carla credits the association for supporting her career by providing resources, networking opportunities, education and professional development. She has served as a mentor in the Mentorship Program and on the B.C. Tenure Review Committee, Conference Education Committees and the Leadership Forum. As a member of the Board of Directors, Carla is committed to supporting CAPLA's quest to elevate the profile of the land discipline.

TRACEY STOCK – PAST PRESIDENT

Tracey has more than 30 years of experience in the energy sector and has been a CAPLA member since 1997. He is a lawyer, landman, professional engineer and chartered manager actively consulting in oil and gas. His background includes leadership in land administration, A&D, negotiations, land systems and conversions, corporate, commercial, survey, and construction law, arbitration, GIS, reservoir engineering and economic evaluations. He teaches surface and mineral A&D administration for CAPL, business law for APEGA, and contract drafting, ethics and professionalism, practice management and client relations management for the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education. Evenings often find Tracey teaching business law and land administration at Mount Royal University or volunteering legal advice for clients at Calgary Legal Guidance. He has taught intellectual property law and information systems management in the MBA program and survey law for the Schulich School of

Engineering at the University of Calgary. In 2013 he received CAPLA's Outstanding Volunteer Award and, in 2017, an APEGA Summit Award for Community Service.

Tracey has served on the Board of Directors since 2012 including terms as Treasurer and Vice President, and President. Previously, he was a member of the Surface Land Administration Advisory Committee, chaired the A&D Subcommittee of the Education Development Committee, was a panel member at the 2011 Surface Land Summit, and a speaker at several CAPLA conferences. He has also been a guest speaker with the CAPLA Lunch 'n Learn program and the CAPLA Leadership Breakfast series. His articles have been published in NEXUS and The Negotiator.

JOHN WALLACE – TREASURER

John has worked in many aspects of land administration including mineral administration, contract administration, contract drafting, land systems and A&D. John is currently Manager, Land Administration and Contracts at NuVista Energy and was previously a contracts landman with Apache Canada. A CAPLA member since 2007, John is actively involved in the association and has been Co-Chair of both the Education Development Committee and the A&D Education Development Committee. John's focus is on increasing the stature and professionalism of land administration through education and innovation.

KIRSTIE EGAN – DIRECTOR

Kirstie started her career in 1980 at Esso Resources Canada Limited. Her land experience started in the map room where days were spent splicing maps, coloring Esso's land base on maps (pencil crayons weren't only for geologists) and recording land sale information. It was her first taste of the land business and she loved the legal aspects associated with it. Many hours were devoted to reading leases, legal cases and regulations. She held a variety of lease administration and analytical positions in the land department over the next 10 years.

Kirstie completed certificates at Mount Royal University in Petroleum and Mineral Resources Land Management in 1983 and Business Administration in 1988. In 1993, she ventured out on her own to consult for a number of small- to medium-sized oil and gas companies and became a CAPLA member in 1994. She held a variety of roles and managed both surface and mineral administration, assisted with system implementation and even dabbled in joint ventures. In 2001, Kirstie accepted a managerial position with a dynamic junior company and for the next five years enjoyed being a part of a growing organization. When that company was sold to a larger entity in 2005, she joined Crescent Point Energy as a contracts analyst and is currently the Manager of Mineral Land Asset Management at Crescent Point.

TIMOTHY LAWS, CPLCA – DIRECTOR

Tim obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University in 1999 and his Petroleum Land and Administration Certificate from Mount Royal University in 2005. Over the last decade he has worked as a Mineral and Contracts Analyst at Enerplus, Husky and Lightstream, with a focus on doing business in Saskatchewan. In 2011 Tim obtained his Certified Petroleum

Land Contract Administrator (CPLCA) designation from CAPLA. He is presently employed at PrairieSky Royalty Ltd. The positions of Co-Chair of the CAPLA Contracts Committee, member of the CAPLA Education Development Committee and facilitator of the Contacts Certification Exam Study Group helped prepare him for this role on the CAPLA Board of Directors.

NORINE MILLER – DIRECTOR

Norine is Lead, Surface Asset Management at Ember Resources. She began her career in the industry when she moved to Calgary in 1990 to take a job at TransCanada PipeLines as a legal assistant. In 1997, she moved to the surface land group where her focus was Saskatchewan and Ontario acquisitions and third party agreements for Alberta. Norine gained further experience in acquisitions and divestments at Encana and, eventually, a promotion to a leadership role in 2008. Norine has been a volunteer on the CAPLA Leadership Forum and the Knowledge Bank for a number of years and is currently Co-Chair of the Master Road Use Agreement Committee.

KATHRYN PAYNE – DIRECTOR

Kathryn is a Manager on the Energy Asset Management (EAM) team at Cenovus Energy Inc., with responsibility for surface and mineral A&D, all land administration matters related to the maintenance phase of the surface and mineral life cycle, and land and well systems/data. Prior to joining the oil and gas industry 12 years ago, Kathryn worked for 15 years as a legal assistant where she gained experience in everything from real estate to immigration, eventually focusing on oil and gas transactions. After her transition into the oil and gas industry, she held technical and leadership roles in various functions including surface A&D, mineral fee title, mineral/JI systems, mineral contracts and leases, and surface land asset management. During Kathryn's career, she has been recognized for her strengths in identifying and addressing process improvement opportunities, building successful partnerships with cross-functional groups, and promoting knowledge sharing and innovation within and across teams. Kathryn earned a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from the University of Calgary, and a Business Process Management Certificate and an Advanced Certificate in Petroleum Land Contract and Administration from Mount Royal University. She is currently Director and Vice Chair of CEAMS (Centre for Energy Asset Management Studies) as well as Director of CAPLA. Previous volunteer roles at CAPLA include NEXUS Magazine Editor, Industry Relations Committee Chair and NOA and A&N Task Force Facilitator.

DEB WATSON, CPLCA, CPMA – DIRECTOR

Deb Watson is the Manager of Land Administration at Nexen Energy ULC. Deb started her career in the oil and gas industry at Husky Energy Inc. having previously worked in the legal world for many years. A CAPLA member since 2006, Deb is actively involved in the association as a mentor and a member of the Abandoned Well Obligations Committee. She also serves on the Leadership Forum and is passionate about leadership, recognizing that leaders have the potential to create a positive impact in the lives of those around them. 🌟



Tim Laws (left) and Terry Wray (right) were recipients of a CAPLA Outstanding Volunteer Award this year.

CAPLA AWARDS: ACKNOWLEDGING OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

By Mandi Zatyko, NEXUS Editorial Committee Member

Over 120 CAPLA members came together to formally celebrate and acknowledge exceptional volunteers at the annual AGM & Awards Luncheon held at Crescent Point on May 11.

“As both a long time member of CAPLA and a member of the Board, I believe that CAPLA is one of the truly great industry organizations, due in large part to our volunteers,” said Cathy Lotwin, who served as Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon.

“We need the support of our amazing volunteers to be successful. In fact, in a year like this, we would likely be in serious trouble as an organization without the efforts of all of our dedicated volunteers.”

Introduced in 2010, the annual awards ensure that worthy individuals working in petroleum land administration receive the recognition they deserve. The awards also honour the outstanding petroleum land administration community and the professional endeavours that strengthen the profession and contribute to the community.

“The CAPLA awards program provides us with a wonderful opportunity to recognize some of our outstanding volunteers and the corporations who have made significant impacts on our organization. We are very pleased about the way so many of our sponsors have continued to support us during a tough year,” said Cathy.

Crescent Point Energy, Repsol Oil & Gas and NuVista Energy were specifically thanked for sponsoring this year’s awards ceremony. Both Crescent Point and Repsol have been strong supporters of the association over many years, and NuVista became a sponsor in the past year.



Past President Tracey Stock (l) and Master of Ceremonies Cathy Lotwin (r) congratulate award recipient Minh Dang.

MYRA DRUMM STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The first award to be presented was the Myra Drumm Memorial Student Achievement Award. Originally called the Student Achievement Award, this award was renamed in 1999 in memory of Myra Drumm who felt mentoring and giving back to the industry was important.

Myra had been supportive of newcomers to the profession and she loved to assist them with their understanding of agreements, processes and technology. This award is presented annually to an outstanding student graduating from either the SAIT, Mount Royal University, Olds College or CEAMS land administration program.

The 2017 Myra Drumm Student Achievement Award was presented to Minh Dang. Minh is graduating from Mount Royal University's Petroleum Land Administration: Mineral Rights program with strong grades while keeping her dedication to her career, family and volunteer commitments strong.

"I'd like to thank the family of Myra Drumm for their continued generous support of this scholarship," Minh said. "I am extremely honored to be selected. With the scholarship money I have received, I will be able to continue my networking opportunities with my colleagues in the industry. It has also allowed me to continue my education in land and expand my knowledge which, with my surface land background, will help me to be competitive in today's economic climate."

T. CATHY MILLER CHAMPION AWARD

Since its incorporation 23 years ago, CAPLA has been fortunate to receive support from many companies in the oil and gas sector in the form of leadership, sponsorship, education and event venues, as well as enabling employees to attend courses, conferences and events. The Champion Award was renamed last year to acknowledge the contributions of retired CAPLA CEO Cathy Miller.

CAPLA is thrilled to announce the three recipients of the 2017 T. Cathy Miller Champion Award: Crescent Point Energy, geoLOGIC systems Ltd. and NuVista Energy.

Crescent Point employees hold key leadership roles within CAPLA. The company and its employees are known for their energy and enthusiasm. In terms of corporate support, this company has been an annual sponsor over many years, including offering the venue and bistro services for the awards luncheon and hosting the volunteer appreciation event in the fall. On numerous occasions the association has approached them for additional sponsorship and CAPLA's requests have always been well received.

Jeff Bryksa accepted the award on behalf of Crescent Point Energy. "Crescent Point greatly values and appreciates the importance of CAPLA. These past couple of years have been challenging in our industry, but this is a time when it is even more important to champion and support our association. We are all in this together and we will survive this together."

"These economic times have made industry look at ways to encourage employee development whilst managing smaller budgets," added Kirstie Egan of Crescent Point.

"CAPLA has adapted to the times, offering less expensive alternatives for members and finding relevant and appropriate topics for its sessions."

The next award recipient, geoLOGIC systems Ltd., stepped up in an incredible way during the last few years. geoLOGIC has been connected to CAPLA for about seven years, primarily through advertising in NEXUS magazine. The company became a sponsor – supporting CAPLA's conference, wine tasting dinner and holiday celebration – in 2015. Later that year, geoLOGIC agreed to sponsor all of CAPLA's Lunch 'n Learns in 2016 and 2017.



Staff from Crescent Point Energy (top), geoLOGIC systems Ltd. (centre) and NuVista Energy (bottom) were on hand to accept T. Cathy Miller Champion Awards on behalf of their companies.

"We're very honoured to receive this recognition and to be working with such a tremendous association," said Dave Hood, who accepted the award on behalf of the company.

"At geoLOGIC systems, we know the importance of maintaining strong industry partnerships and investing in ongoing sponsorships," added Lauren Parker. "It is due to these valued relationships that we see growth, not only in ourselves, but in

each other. We have chosen to partner with CAPLA on various occasions, and we consistently see the high value return of these efforts and know that together we are better.”

NuVista Energy was the third recipient of the 2017 T. Cathy Miller Champion Award. The company came on as a new CAPLA sponsor while the industry is going through challenging economic times. In addition to their financial support of the association, they also clearly recognize the importance of volunteering. NuVista employees are volunteering in key leadership roles, including Leadership Forum, the A&D Education Development Committee and the CAPLA Board of Directors.

“It’s a great honour to receive this award. CAPLA is a great organization,” said Brittney Bichel, who accepted the award on behalf of NuVista.

“Industry service is very important to NuVista. Over the years, NuVista’s mineral land team has received so much from CAPLA and we have felt privileged simply to be able to volunteer and give back to this wonderful organization,” added Leslie Willis-Smith. “We are both humbled and grateful.”

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

CAPLA’s 2017 Committee of the Year Award was presented to the Master Road Use Agreement Committee. Their mandate included updating the agreement that had not been reviewed since 2005 and informing membership about the changes through education. There was consistent progress throughout 2016-2017 and a high level of commitment, involvement and engagement from all team members. The Master Road Use Agreement Committee exemplifies what is possible when dedicated people come together with a common purpose. Their work will benefit CAPLA and its members for years to come.

“I have to say this committee works so well together. We’ve accomplished a lot and their dedication is amazing,” said Deb Minchin who accepted the award on behalf of the committee. “I would encourage everyone to join a CAPLA committee because the experience, the knowledge is so amazing. I would also like



Deb Minchin accepted the Committee of the Year Award on behalf of the MRUA Committee.

she first started working in land about five years ago. She has volunteered for CAPLA for most of that time, joining the Member Services Committee in 2013, rejoining it in 2015 and becoming Co-Chair in 2016. She has shown herself to be a constant and committed member of the committee, bringing with her a strong industry awareness and great leadership skills.

“Thank you – I am humbled by this award. I really enjoy my time volunteering and meeting everybody. Working with Membership Services has been a real joy. I’d also like to thank everyone from RPS for their constant support, and I’d like to thank my family as well,” said Carly.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Outstanding Volunteer Award provides recognition to an active CAPLA member who has been with the association for more than five years and who has made outstanding contributions toward the growth of CAPLA while in various roles and positions within the association.

This year, CAPLA presented the award to two recipients.

CAPLA’s first 2017 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient is Terry Wray. Terry started volunteering for CAPLA in 2011 on the Communications Committee/NEXUS Editorial Committee where he served for several years. For many years he was also a member of the Social Media Committee and the Systems and Data Education Development Committee, where he still volunteers.

“I have to say that I wouldn’t be where I’m at in my career today if I hadn’t become a member of CAPLA,” he said. “A lot of people work

to say a special thank you to our companies who allowed us to continue on with our membership and put in the time to the committee.”

RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award is presented to an active CAPLA member who has been a member for five years or less and has made outstanding contributions in building the future of CAPLA with innovative ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

CAPLA’s 2017 Rising Star Award was presented to Carly LeClair from RPS Energy. Carly has been a CAPLA member since

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really hard and volunteer for CAPLA, and I really feel honoured to be counted among them today. And one final thing: I have to thank Pandell for encouraging me to volunteer with CAPLA and for allowing me the time away from my job to volunteer.”

CAPLA's second 2017 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient is Tim Laws. Tim has volunteered for CAPLA for five years in numerous capacities. He initially volunteered in 2006 on one of the Conference Committees, and since then, he has written an article for NEXUS, facilitated the Contracts Certification Study Group for two years and served on the Contracts Education Development Committee as Co-Chair since 2015. Additionally, Tim is now one of CAPLA's newest Board members.

“This is an honour,” Tim said as he thanked the Awards Committee, CAPLA General Manager Matt Worthy, the Contracts Committee, the Education Development Committee (EDC) and the Board of Directors for their work and dedication. “It's a privilege to be a part of CAPLA's growth and evolution and I hope to continue to be of service to CAPLA and its membership.”

Cathy closed the ceremony with special thanks to the members who took the time to submit an awards nomination. “These awards do not just celebrate the accomplishments of individuals. They also celebrate visibly to the entire land community and our industry what we, as an association, have accomplished, and how much CAPLA contributes on an ongoing basis to our industry.” 🌟



Carly LeClair is this year's Rising Star Award recipient.

The Awards Committee works year-round promoting the program, encouraging nominations and selecting award recipients. CAPLA would like to thank the following members for their work: Sherry Batke, Independent, Co-Chair; Angela Martin, Husky Energy Inc., Co-Chair; Linda Bernier, Rife Resources; Bente Nelson, Independent; Verna Moodie, Independent; Melanie Storey, ARC Resources; Chris MacLellan, Rife Resources.

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LEADERSHIP: BETTY YEE, VP LAND, CNR

Despite my doubts when asked to opine on how I started my career in the oil and gas industry (what could I write about that would be of interest to others and if I did, would two paragraphs be sufficient?), here it is notwithstanding. If by writing this I can encourage anyone to aspire to their ambitions, then I deem it a worthwhile endeavor.

I believe the success I have achieved in my career and my life is due in large part to my parents. As young adults who immigrated to Canada from China in the 1950s (who later met and married in Canada in the late 1950s), they were determined to make a better life for themselves and their family.

Without the benefit of having access to financial resources of any consequence or a formal education – AND toss in the “inconvenience” of being a member of a visible minority immigrant group – they worked long and hard and would have encountered many challenges along the way. No matter, they persevered in the face of adversity and produced four offspring to whom they stressed that education was the key to future success.

"WHINING AND COMPLAINING WILL GET YOU NOWHERE. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND APPROACH WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE."

Years later, I too agree that having a good education is paramount. But no matter what your education, without drive and the desire to do what it takes to get to where you want to be, no amount of education (Ivy League or not) will help you.

As a student I was by no means exceptional. Some subjects came easier to me than others and I recognized where I was lacking. That meant having to study harder on those topics (i.e. math) and getting help and taking the extra courses if need be to get the marks I needed for the higher level courses I also needed.

Back in my day there was such a thing as “failing” or getting “F’s”, not like nowadays where kids have never heard of the

word or even understand the concept . . . but I digress. I did what I had to do to get the above-average grades that I needed. For me, failing was not an option. And who am I kidding, my failing would have been unacceptable from my parents’ perspective as well.

In high school I took “Law” as an option course that I really enjoyed and excelled in. I knew then that the legal profession was what I wanted to pursue. After my undergraduate degree from the University of Calgary I attended and graduated from the University of Alberta with a law degree. This was “back in the nineteen hundreds” as my nine-year-old son likes to say (without any malice or ill will). I then worked in private practice for a few years dabbling in a little bit of everything (other than oil and gas) but not *really* enjoying it. I felt I wasn’t thriving professionally and something was missing.

Living in an oil town I knew working in oil and gas was the place to be but I had no practical experience. After some research I decided to take Petroleum Land courses offered through SAIT. I thought that my legal training would provide a good backdrop to Land and eventual access into an oil and gas company. I learned quickly and began sending out resumes to oil and gas companies. One of those companies was Chevron.

This is also where I give credit where credit is due. Jim MacLean was working at Chevron at the time and somehow my resume ended up on his desk. Although there were no suitable job openings at Chevron he actually called me to give me advice. It’s been so long since then that sadly I can’t actually remember what he said but I have no doubt the advice was sage. And what he also did was point me in the direction of Canadian Natural Resources.

As a result, in short order I met with CNR’s head hunters who I distinctly remember warning me that true or not, CNR had a reputation of being a “sweat shop.” From my vantage point, that didn’t perturb me one iota. Hard work didn’t scare me and besides, getting my foot in the door was what was really important. Jim’s kindness and generosity to a complete stranger played a big role in helping me get into the industry. Thank you Jim!

I have been with CNR for just over 20 years now and I haven’t looked back. I took the opportunity to develop and thrive professionally. I was being challenged and it continues to challenge me today.

The work experience I’ve gained over the years has been second-to-none. Working with great people is also impactful and can make the difference between having an enjoyable workplace or not. I’ve been fortunate in that I’ve been surrounded by great people who are also in leadership roles . . . people who are not only extremely competent within their own disciplines but are also willing to share their knowledge, to work and grow together as a team . . . people who don’t throw others “under the (proverbial) bus.” It has been quite the ride.

For me, whether professionally or personally, I truly believe we have the ability to create our own destiny or to at least steer ourselves in that direction. You can't control other people, what they say or do, what they think or believe. You can't rely or depend on other people to make things happen for you (you should be thankful if they do, but recognize you still have to carry the torch). You have to fall back on yourself and ultimately depend on yourself.

If you are unhappy in your personal life, who or what is going to make you happy? Is a pot of gold going to land at your feet? Is someone going to magically make you happy with the flick of a wand? Highly doubtful on both counts. Any change must come from yourself and how you choose to look at things.

The same applies to your work life. If you find yourself bored or not challenged in your job, do something about it. There is bound to be something value-added that is being missed that you could be doing or where you see there is not enough focus or attention being placed.

You have to offer up something that makes a difference to your employer. If you see a problem, come up with possible solutions. Your ideas or solutions may not always come to fruition, but that you took the initiative to think about it demonstrates the ability to not only recognize the need for improvement or change but also the wherewithal to do something about it and think outside the box. Whining and complaining will get you nowhere. A positive attitude and approach will get you everywhere.

I have never felt that I've been held back because of my race or my gender. I know this may be naïve on my part. But again, I have to rely on myself to make change happen. Hard work, perseverance and attitude go a long way to help change alleged stereotypes. Using the "race card" or "gender card" is ineffectual and I believe too often used as a crutch. What you can do and how is what is important, not what you can't do and why. Using these cards when effort and attitude are lacking does no one any favours.


There is no need for excuses if you have truly done your best. It is too easy to blame someone or something else. You have to believe that barriers to success exist only if you allow them to.

Below are some of the tenets that I follow (in no particular order):

- Your title is not synonymous with respect – you have to earn respect. Your title is meaningless if no one respects you.
- Humility – there is a difference between confidence and arrogance. You will never know it all.
- You will make mistakes – don't think you won't, because you will, and it's ok. Own up to them and learn from them.
- Don't pretend you know something when you don't – this is a sign of insecurity and eventually mistrust.

- Be respectful of others – no matter where on the org chart, everyone plays an important role.
- Recognize and acknowledge the strengths in your employees – rely on them and get them involved in decision making. Your trust in them does wonders, they won't want to let you down.
- Be assertive but not dictatorial.
- Be tough but fair.
- Be empathetic but not a pushover.
- Don't wear a chip on your shoulder.
- Don't burn your bridges.
- Give credit where credit is due and conversely, accept credit where credit is due.
- Change is inevitable – you must be able to adapt to change, and in fact, to expect it.
- Be patient and pass on your knowledge.
- Walk the talk – teach by example.
- Have a sense of humour.

Always put your best foot forward and give it 110%. There's never too much of a good thing, it's too hard to turn down. 🌟





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ROAD USE FEES: A SNAPSHOT

By the Master Road Use Agreement Committee

At one time, when we wanted to use another company's road, there were handshake deals made in the field and Road Use Agreements covered the basics of indemnities and liabilities.

With expanding issues and government legislation, the 1998 CAPLA Master Road Use Agreement was born. The purpose was to provide industry with a standard document that covered the road use needs at that time. As new issues arose, such as the environment, and increased insurance coverages came to play, a new committee was formed and the June 2005 version was created.

To stay current and to provide industry with the best foreseeable road use coverage, CAPLA has again created a committee to provide industry with the 2017 CAPLA Master Road Use Agreement.

There are many aspects of processing and handling Road Use Agreements. One of the contentious areas is the rates. At one

time, drilling the well and constructing the associated pipelines were included in one fee. Fee schedules covered basic items. Times have changed and a pipeline can be constructed long after the well is drilled and therefore is often invoiced separately.

While the money received from initial consideration and maintenance fees is not meant to create a profit, companies are searching for new and creative ways to make ends meet. So, what are fair rates? How can companies cover costs and yet maintain good relationships with their neighbours in the field? This is not an easy answer as there are so many variables in the equation: the cost of maintaining the road (graveling, grading, dust control, etc.), administration of the Road Use Agreement, accounting time, field input, and the list goes on. There is no one-size-fits-all answer.

The MRUA Committee contacted a number of companies asking for their rate sheets. The condensed table on the following page lists the average rates the participating companies charge for each category (a more detailed table will be available on CAPLA's website at a later date).

Along with the rates noted, there seems to be a trend toward billing administrative fees for day-to-day tasks such as agreement revisions, cancellations and rush requests.

CAPLA shares this rate information as an industry service and cautions that sample sizes are small and may not be representative. Actual rates may vary significantly from these averages. CAPLA does not express an opinion about, or endorse, any rate information.



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SUMMARY OF RATES (AVERAGES) AS OF APRIL 24, 2017

INITIAL CONSIDERATION TYPES			MAINTENANCE TYPES		
Type	# of Cos	Cost/km	Type	# of Cos	Cost/km
Initial Access Fee - Drill 1st well	35	\$ 1,000.00	Producing Well - Trucked	35	\$ 50.00
Subsequent wells (same rig move)	35	\$ 500.00	Producing Well - Piped	35	\$ 20.00
FRACKING	13	\$ 930.00	Injection Well	14	\$ 50.00
Fracking Fee (horizontal/vertical)		\$ 700.00	Disposal Well	15	\$ 40.00
Fracking Fee - Trucked Water		\$ 900.00	Riser and Valve Site	31	\$ 20.00
Fracking Fee (Pumped Water)		\$ 750.00	Meter Station	25	\$ 20.00
Service Rig (Workover, re-entry)	34	\$ 500.00	Remote Sump	9	\$ 30.00
Pipeline Construction	34	\$ 500.00	Multi-Well Battery	28	\$ 50.00
Pipeline Maintenance/Integrity	22	\$ 500.00	Plant Site	32	\$ 50.00
FACILITIES: Plant sites, batteries, compressors, camps, risers, valve sites, meter stations, remote sumps, borrow pits, storage sites	25	\$ 500.00	Compressor	25	\$ 50.00
Gravel/Soil Hauling	23	\$ 500.00	Water Hauling/Dug Out	8	Negotiable
Water Hauling/Water Source/Dug Out	19	\$ 500.00	Permanent Campsite	16	\$ 40.00
OSE Programs	8	\$ 900.00	Bridge	10	
Seismic Program/Geotechnical Survey	27	\$ 500.00			
Reclamation/Remediation/Abandonment	27	\$ 500.00			
Bridge	20	\$ 500.00			
Power Line Transmission Installation	11	\$ 500.00			
Forestry (FMA Holders)/Mom & Pop Timber/Logging/harvesting/ reforestation	23	\$ 1,000.00			

This information was compiled from 35 companies.

The "# of Cos" column indicates the number of companies who participated in that specific type of fee.

Congratulations to members of the Master Road Use Agreement Committee, recipients of the 2017 CAPLA Committee of the Year Award (see Page 8.)

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ESTMA REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

By Julia Loney, Partner, McMillan LLP

This article provides an overview of Canada's *Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act* (the Act or ESTMA) and its reporting requirements for entities and joint-operators.

WHAT IS ESTMA?

The Act was enacted on December 16, 2014 and brought into force on June 1, 2015. It represents Canada's commitment to contribute to improved transparency and decreased corruption in the extractive sector both domestically and abroad. The Act requires entities to publicly report on payments made to all levels of Canadian and foreign governments on an annual basis.

WHO NEEDS TO REPORT?

Reporting entities include corporations, trusts, partnerships or unincorporated organizations engaged in commercial oil, gas or mining activities directly or indirectly through a controlled organization that are either (a) listed on a Canadian stock exchange; or (b) have a place of business in Canada, conduct business in Canada, or have assets in Canada and meet two of the following thresholds in one of their two most recent financial years: (i) have at least Cdn\$20 million in assets, (ii) generated at least Cdn\$20 million in revenue, or (iii) employ an average of at least 250 employees.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPORTED?

Reportable payments relate to the commercial development of oil, gas or minerals and total at least Cdn\$100,000 (either as a single payment or multiple payments) in one of the following categories: taxes (excluding consumption taxes and personal income taxes), royalties, fees (rental, entry, regulatory, licenses, permits, concessions), production entitlements, bonuses (signing, discovery and production), dividends (other than dividends to ordinary stakeholders), or infrastructure improvement payments. Both cash payments and payments in kind must be reported. Reportable payments do not include payments made for ancillary or preparatory activities, payments made for post-extraction activities, payments made to service providers and contractors, or corporate social responsibility payments.

WHO IS CLASSIFIED AS A PAYEE?

All levels of government (federal, provincial, state, regional, municipal and Indigenous) domestically and abroad are captured under the Act. This includes bodies established by two or more governments and any trust, board, commission, corporation, body or authority that exercises a function, power or duty of any government. Moreover, as of June 1, 2017, payments made to Indigenous governments in Canada must be reported.

WHEN IS REPORTING DUE AND WHAT FORM IS REQUIRED?

Reports are required within 150 days following the end of the financial year and are to be reported on a project-level basis. Natural Resources Canada has published three documents to assist entities with reporting: (a) Technical Reporting Specifications, (b) Guidance, and (c) Reporting Templates.¹ Entities should refer to these publications to ensure that their reports follow the applicable template, level of disclosure and manner of reporting.

WHO ARE REPORTS MADE TO?

Natural Resources Canada is administering the reporting process. Entities subject to the Act must enroll with Natural Resources Canada and obtain an ESTMA identification number prior to submitting their reports.

WHAT IF SIMILAR REPORTS ARE ALREADY PREPARED FOR OPERATIONS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

For entities that have prepared similar reports in other jurisdictions (such as for the United States and the European Union countries), Natural Resources Canada allows for substitute reports to be filed in Canada if the report is an acceptable substitute under the Act.

HOW DOES THE ACT IMPACT ACTIVITIES WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS?

Entities are not required to disclose impact and benefit agreements or other agreements with Indigenous groups; however, if certain types of payments of Cdn\$100,000 or more are made in relation to extractive activities, the payments must be reported.

HOW DOES ESTMA IMPACT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE CAPL OPERATING PROCEDURE AND PASC ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE?

Clause 301 of the 1990 Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen (CAPL) Operating Procedure provides that the Operator² shall be entitled to make or commit to expenditures for the joint account³ as necessary and prudent to conduct good and workmanlike operations on the joint lands.

However, the Operator shall not make or commit to expenditures in excess of Cdn\$25,000 for any single operation without first

¹ Please see Natural Resources Canada's website: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mining-materials/estma/18192>

² *Operator*: means the party appointed by the Joint-Operators to conduct operations under the CAPL Operating Procedure for the joint account.

³ *for the joint account*: means for the benefit, interest, ownership, risk, cost, expense and obligation of the parties in proportion to their respective working interests.

obtaining approval from the Joint-Operators⁴ on an Authority for Expenditure (AFE).

Clause 309 further provides that the Operator shall act on behalf of the parties and joint account to comply with all the terms and conditions of the title documents. This includes paying rentals and encumbrances and the performance of necessary acts to ensure that the title documents remain in good standing and full force and effect.

Clause 501 provides that the Petroleum Accountants Society of Canada (PASC) Accounting Procedure shall be the basis of all charges and credits in dealing with the joint account⁵. The Operator must maintain accounting and financial records for the joint account in accordance with established accounting practices in the oil and gas industry.

Under Clause 502, the Operator shall initially advance and pay all costs and expenses incurred for the joint account. Each Joint-Operator is responsible for paying to the Operator its proportionate share of such costs and expenses based on its Working Interest⁶.

Under the 1996 PASC accounting procedure, Clause 102 provides that the Operator shall bill the non-operators for their respective share of the joint account. The bill should be accompanied by statements which identify the AFE, lease or facility, and all charges and credits. Bills from the Operator are due within 30 days of receipt, unless the Operator has requested an advance for the estimated costs of approved capital projects.

WHAT ARE THE JOINT-OPERATORS' REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING UNDER ESTMA?

The Operator's duty is to administer and manage finances for the joint account on behalf of the Joint-Operators. While the Operator may make necessary payments for the joint account (within specified limits), Joint-Operators are responsible for their associated costs and expenses and are obligated to reimburse the Operator for such costs and expenses within a timely manner.

This means that Joint-Operators are individually responsible to ESTMA for reporting and should not rely on the Operator to report any applicable payments that are caught under the Act. If Joint-Operators fall under the applicable criteria to be a reporting entity, they must file their reports in accordance with the Act. To assist with reporting, the Operator should make available records and supporting documentation so that the Joint-Operators can prepare accurate and complete reports.

⁴ *Joint-Operator*: means a party having a working interest in the joint lands, including the Operator if it has a working interest in the joint lands.

⁵ *Joint Account*: means the account showing, in Canadian funds, the charges paid and credits received as a result of Joint Operations and which are to be shared by the Owners in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

⁶ *Working Interest*: means the percentage of undivided interest held by a party in a production facility or the joint lands, or the respective zones, portions, parcels or parts thereof, which percentage is as provided in the head agreement or is as modified pursuant to the CAPL Operating Procedure.

WHAT SHOULD JOINT-OPERATORS DO TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE?

Reporting entities should be proactive in understanding the requirements of the Act. If an entity is a Joint-Operator, it should work with the Operator and other Joint-Operators to develop a project plan and assign roles and responsibilities accordingly. Applicable payments, projects and government bodies should be identified so that ESTMA reporting is consistent between all Joint-Operators. This may require the entities to make system changes to establish new controls and data collection methods and align ESTMA reporting procedures with internal corporate reporting procedures for simplicity and consistency. Auditing processes of both the Operator and Joint-Operators should look for errors or unusual payment activity. Records of payments made in a financial year must be kept for a period of seven years from the date the records are provided to Natural Resources Canada. Consequently, the Operator and Joint-Operators should coordinate to ensure that adequate record-keeping procedures are in place.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AN ENTITY DOES NOT COMPLY?

The Act provides for fines and ministerial orders if an entity fails to comply or provides false or misleading information in its report. The maximum fine is Cdn\$250,000. In addition, directors, officers, agents or mandataries can be held personally accountable if they directed, authorized, assented to, acquiesced or participated in the commission of an offence. Proceedings under the Act must be instituted within five years. 🌟



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PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE LESSEE MANAGEMENT OF OFFSET OBLIGATIONS

By Janice A.S. MacRae, M.A., B.A.(Hons), P. Land.

Offset obligations continue to be an important land tenure issue that requires scrutiny and thought for decisive management.

Offset provisions have gone through amendments over the years, especially if one considers the evolution and amendments to the offset clause in the freehold lease, as an example. Although offset provisions have undergone numerous revisions, the principle of protecting the lessor against the loss of oil and gas through drainage has remained the principle and foundation of offset provisions.

WHAT TRIGGERS AN OFFSET OBLIGATION?

In general, three conditions have to exist: adjoining or “touching” spacing units are owned by different lessors i.e. a Freehold spacing unit is touching a Crown spacing unit, laterally or diagonally. Secondly, there is no producing well on one of the spacing units, and thirdly, there is a producing well on the adjoining spacing unit. Of course, it is not quite as simple as the three conditions noted, as offsets are also specific to zone and substance.

Are offset provisions the same for Crown and Freehold? Yes and no. In both Crown and Freehold offset provisions, the lessee may be put on notice to commence operations to obtain production

from the zone producing in the offending well (“the Offset Notice”). The offset provisions for both Crown and Freehold lessors provide options to the lessee in lieu of operations or drilling an offset well – but the options available may vary depending on the Crown jurisdiction and most certainly, they can vary from freehold lease form to freehold lease form. Additionally, an option to pay compensatory royalty may also be accepted by the lessor in lieu of operations or drilling an offset well.

WHAT IS COMPENSATORY ROYALTY?

Compensatory royalty is a royalty equal to the amount of royalty that would have been payable to the lessor if there was a well in the same zone actually producing from the leased lands. The payment of compensatory royalty buys the lessee time for development or to undertake other commercial solutions such as a sale or farmout of the lands and rights subject to an offset.

MANAGING OFFSETS IS MORE THAN DEALING WITH A TENURE ISSUE.

Managing offsets really amounts to managing another layer of associated risks and liabilities. The most basic risk being managed is the retention of lands and asset value. When lands and rights are subject to an Offset Notice, reserve value (including PUD counts and PUD locations) may be at risk. Acreage counts (areal extent) in a play may also be at risk which may lead to the erosion of a strategic advantage if you are a lessee that controls the lands and rights in a particular play that has development potential where offsets may be triggered.

A related financial and operational liability of offsets is that unexpected or unplanned operations impact not only current capital or operating budget allocations but also overall, the bottom-line of an individual asset. If the lessee proceeds with conducting operations to satisfy an offset, there could be the added risk of delay due to issues with surface access or other regulatory approvals. Offset obligations may also have the added risks of impacting overall strategy and approach to asset development, and are definitely a consideration in the planning and timing of activities.

Multiple tools and resources are needed to effectively manage all the diverse data that is required to review the potential of offsets or to respond once a lessee receives an Offset Notice.

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WHAT KIND OF DATA AND INFORMATION DOES AN OFFSET REVIEW TYPICALLY ENTAIL?

- Understanding Regulatory (Crown)/Freehold lease offset clause terms and provisions
- Review spacing unit regulations and drainage area configuration
- Unit outlines, gas storage scheme configurations
- Detailed review of offending wells including all relevant production data and well analysis data, and in the case of HZ wells, also a review of the completion techniques (size of frack, number of open ports) and even wellbore length.
- Summary compilation of data on competitor/offset owner information
- Economic evaluation (if assessing drilling a new well or recompletion/optimization of existing well)
- Compensatory royalty payment estimate (if considering comparing the compensatory monthly expense to the capital requirements, etc., to drill a new well)
- Geologic evaluation: stratigraphic mapping/seismic evaluation
- Reserves considerations
- Financial analysis to understand royalty regimes including cash flow analysis
- Land data: lease information (expiry), rights, ownership details, additional encumbrances, contractual implications.

All the diverse data and information that may be required for offset obligations is best reviewed and analyzed in an integrated manner be it through a visual representation of some of the data available on mapping packages or through a combination of data simply being downloaded and analyzed on a spreadsheet.

There is also integrated software available for managing offsets that provides a comprehensive evaluation dashboard that integrates mapping data, land data from proprietary systems, well production data, drainage unit information and other related information and a broad scope of offset specific reporting.

And of course, no matter which land system the lessee uses, there is an opportunity to tag contracts and leases, identify risk that have already been served an offset, and track obligation dates for critical dates related to an Offset Notice response.


Legal services may be required for unique contractual situations that require deeper legal interpretations or legal opinions. Land consulting services may also be appropriate for offset assessments, analysis, freehold document interpretation and related project work if the lessee has a land asset mix that increases exposure to offset obligations or if a lessee requires some up-front due diligence work related to an acquisition

or data compilation to report offset information as part of a disclosure for a divestment package.


It's relevant to note that with regards to smaller, straightforward asset transactions, and perhaps for undeveloped lands, the latest draft of the 2017 CAPL Property Transfer Procedure ("PTP") includes Offset Notices in its vendor's representations and warranties clause (Clause 6.02). And of course, the PTP as a CAPL form document can be used as a platform or guide to review a vendor's document with respect to the offset provisions or to enhance any other PNG sale or exchange document precedent as it pertains to offset provisions.

Offsets can be triggered at any point in the land asset life cycle: during the primary term (exception initial term of a PNG licence in AB), post-primary term and, remember, multiple offsets can be triggered at once. When it comes to responding to an Offset Notice, the best practice is to follow any outlined procedures that might be in place by the lessor including data submission requirements and the operations accepted to satisfy an offset.

If you are unclear, ensure that you have a conversation with the Crown lessor on their specific regulations or if you are dealing with a corporate freehold lessor, ensure that you inquire with them regarding any requirements. And if your decision is to pay compensatory royalty, ensure that you have procedures in place that include tracking of the monthly payments and any other tracking to meet organizational priorities and strategies for asset development and asset retention. 🍁



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NOURISH: CELEBRATE CANADA'S 150TH

By Stacey Boreski and Keri Bruce, NEXUS Editorial Committee Members

HAPPY SESQUICENTENNIAL CANADA!

In layman's terms and tuning in to the high school math we never use, that's 150 years. 150. YEARS. OLD. And we all get to be a part of this milestone! Isn't that exciting?

One of the most popular ways Canadians are celebrating? Those FREE Discovery Passes from Parks Canada. Did you miss yours? They're still available online (pc.gc.ca), at any MEC & CIBC branches among other local businesses, as well as in person at any of our National Parks. Once you have your Discovery Pass, it's time to get out there and explore – you probably live close to one or more National Parks.

If you've lost count, Canada has 46 National Parks and Park Reserves; each province or territory has at least one park – British Columbia has seven! Most major centers have a National Park within driving distance for a day trip, or a quick weekend visit.

Calgary and Ottawa hit the jackpot with five National Parks close to home. If you've overlooked these truly extraordinary places in the past, haven't headed west in some time or simply want to experience something you've never thought to before, this is the year to get out and see what these parks have to offer.

Here are several parks near major cities in Western Canada:

Calgary	Banff National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park (BC), Yoho National Park (BC), Kootenay National Park (BC)
Edmonton	Jasper National Park, Elk Island National Park
Vancouver	Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
Regina	Grasslands National Park
Saskatoon	Prince Albert National Park

When you're ready to start exploring, and you are lucky enough to be in or around Alberta, we have compiled the following list of beginner/intermediate hikes that will take you and your family into one of the National Parks close to Calgary and Edmonton. If you are a less experienced hiker or just don't know where to start when it comes to hiking in our great white backyard, these will not disappoint!

GRASSI LAKES – BANFF (CANMORE)

LOCATION: Trailhead begins on Spray Lakes Road, 2 km past the Nordic Centre down a hill on the left.

DURATION: 1-2 hours

ELEVATION CHANGE: 250 m

DIFFICULTY: BEGINNER – INTERMEDIATE

HIKERS AGE: 0 – 100

This trail has two routes. Approximately 100 m from the trailhead, there is a fork with signage indicating an easier route and a more difficult one.

The easier trail is to the right. It is called Grassi Lake Upper and follows an old road through dense forest. Perfect for the whole family, the trail winds past a waterfall where it eventually leads you to two majestic turquoise lakes.

The more difficult route to the left is the Grassi Lake Interpretive, which climbs gradually through forested terrain before reaching a very steep section with excellent views of a waterfall and the town of Canmore. The cliffs around the lakes are regularly visited by climbers and additional trails, which access the climbing routes, lead to some unique pictographs.

JOHNSTON CANYON – BANFF

LOCATION: Take Highway 1 past Banff. After approximately 6 km, turn right onto Bow Valley Parkway. Drive approximately 17 km, turn right into Johnston Canyon parking lot.

DURATION: 1 hour return - lower falls (1.1 km one way) 2 – 2 ½ hours return - upper falls (2.7 km one way) 5+ hours return - Ink Pots (6 km one way)

ELEVATION CHANGE: 30 - 120 m

DIFFICULTY: BEGINNER – INTERMEDIATE

HIKERS AGE: 0 - 100

This is one of the most popular hikes in the Banff area; during the summer your hike may start at your car as the parking area fills fast. If you've come unprepared to this family (and dog) friendly hike, not to worry – ice cream and water/snacks are available just as the trail begins. The trail is well groomed (mostly pavement) and winds its way through Johnston Canyon towards seven sets of waterfalls. Interesting steel catwalks with railings have been constructed and attached to the canyon walls with convenient lookouts for observing and picturesque photo opportunities. You will find yourself adventuring in limestone caves and walking on narrower plank-like catwalks crossing Johnston Canyon Creek. If you have time, and you happen to have chosen the left path towards the upper falls as the trail forks, don't stop! Carry on to the Ink Pots which consist of several pools made up of emerald-coloured mineral springs that bubble to the surface. This trek is for the more 'road-less-travelled' adventurers, and is where you will want to be sure to be properly equipped (hiking boots are strongly recommended here). Continuing from the upper falls the trail is a moderate climb out of the canyon for 3 km through the forest. It opens to a meadow where the Ink Pots were created. The hike from the upper falls to the Ink Pots takes approximately one hour.



Exploring Grassi Lakes Trail near Canmore would be a wonderful way to celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial!

PLAIN OF SIX GLACIERS – BANFF (LAKE LOUISE)

LOCATION: From Lake Louise Village, take Lake Louise Drive uphill for 4 km to the Lake Louise public parking lot. Cross Louise Creek on the foot bridge and make your way to the front of the lake to the Chateau Lake Louise. Follow the shoreline trail to the back of the lake where it connects up with the Plain of Six Glaciers Trail.

DURATION: 4 - 6 hours (5.5 km)

ELEVATION CHANGE: 370 m

DIFFICULTY: INTERMEDIATE

HIKERS AGE: 15 - 65

The hike to the Plain of Six Glaciers is one of Banff National Park's classic hikes. There may be huge crowds at the start of the trail but the scenery is so good that if you can bear it, we think it's something you can forgive in order to hike just once in your life.

The first few kilometers of the route are along the easy and relatively flat Lake Louise shoreline trail. At the end of the lake,

a river delta has been created from silt deposited by the glacier melt. This glacier silt or rock flour is what the light reflects off of in the lake and gives it the beautiful turquoise colour.

The trail to the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House takes you up close to the heart of Mount Lefroy, Mount Victoria and the Victoria Glacier. This hike offers incredible views, opportunities to see wildlife and best of all, the option to relax with a cup of hot tea. It is a moderately challenging hike that can be accomplished by people of average fitness.

GERALDINE LAKES (DAY HIKE) – JASPER

LOCATION: From Jasper, drive south on the Icefields Parkway (Hwy 93) for 30 km to the turn off at Athabasca Falls. Turn right and follow Hwy 93a for just over 1 km and turn left on the Geraldine Fire Road. Follow this narrow bumpy road for 5.5 km up tight switchbacks to the parking lot. The Geraldine Fire Road is not for vehicles with low suspension; leave the sports car at home

DURATION: 3 - 4 hours (6 km)

ELEVATION CHANGE: 600 m

DIFFICULTY: INTERMEDIATE - ADVANCED

HIKERS AGE: 15 - 65

From the parking lot a good dirt path (often wet and slippery – BE CAREFUL!) enters the trees to the right of the trailhead kiosk and begins a straight forward ascent up the lower slopes of Whirlpool Peak. At 1.5 km, after crossing a small ridge, the trail comes along Geraldine Creek and 300 m later to the shore of the First Geraldine Lake. The trail next to the lake is almost always muddy and will introduce hikers to a taste of the rocky challenge to come. The waterfall at the far end of the lake is best viewed from the trail and rocky points along the lake.

The end of the first lake is also the end of the trail. It is worth continuing through the rocks near the falls – these are what most people go to see, but shortly after, it's more of a route than a trail and you'll probably find it appropriate to turn around here. However, if you're feeling up for a bit of a challenge and you do begin the steep climb among the many trees and rocks (you gain 90 m of elevation in less than 300 m of distance) to the upper lakes, you will be rewarded with more spectacular views of beautiful green lakes and rugged terrain from a bird's eye view that few get to experience.

BEAVER POND TRAIL – ELK ISLAND (EDMONTON)

LOCATION: Turn left (north) off Yellowhead Highway on to Elk Island Parkway. Past the Astotin Lake Recreation Area entrance, you will see a clearly-signed parking at the Beaver Pond trail-head.

DURATION: 1 - 2 hours (3.5 km)

ELEVATION CHANGE: MINIMAL

DIFFICULTY: BEGINNER

HIKERS AGE: 0 - 100

An often-overlooked National Park in Alberta, as it must compete with the breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains, Elk Island is a good option if you prefer fewer crowds, easy walking trails and some more unique wildlife. And, while any of the 11 trails within the park offer a unique experience, the Beaver Pond Trail offers all the sights at a fraction of the route. The path migrates from paved to gravel intermittently interrupted by aspen forests and then carpets of grass adjacent to marshy meadows and spectacular ponds created by a robust beaver population. This trail offers a diverse landscape so keep a look out for waterfowl, beaver, moose and even some plains bison! There is a great sense of timelessness here formed by generations of natural activity adapting to changes in the environment. Oh, and did we mention, doggies welcome!

So, if you're lucky enough to call Canada home and are looking for a new adventure as a way to celebrate our country's megamilestone birthday, we encourage you to explore one of our suggested hikes. You can also visit the Parks Canada website where you can search any province you might find yourself visiting in the remainder of 2017. What better way to celebrate and honour the privilege of calling Canada home than to simply take it all in. 🍁

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ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ALBERTA MINISTER OF ENERGY

In October 2016, Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, Alberta Minister of Energy, asked several leading industry organizations, including CAPLA, to share “advice on identifying issues or areas where the Department of Energy could improve efficiencies, reduce unnecessary barriers or processes, and generally make things work better.” CAPLA’s membership was immediately invited to share input and CAPLA was able to provide the following recommendations to the Minister.

1. PNG INFORMATION EXCHANGE

It may be helpful to restore a “PNG Information Exchange.” It could facilitate an ongoing conversation about improving efficiencies and refining processes.

2. RENTAL PAYMENTS

A barrier could be removed if Alberta Energy produced a downloadable statement for PNG agreements, MSL, LOC, and other disposition rental payments soon after withdrawals are made from industry accounts. This would facilitate accounting department reconciliations and reduce time and cost for both industry and Alberta Energy handling manual requests for this information each month.

3. SURFACE LAND TENURE

a. Renewal of 25-year dispositions.

Renewal requests can be delayed for up to one year. This is an economic barrier as assets cannot be assigned during this period. Waiting for renewals also requires a request to restore payments for these dispositions on Crown rental statements. It would be helpful if renewals could be processed in a timely fashion and that Crown rental statements not remove dispositions prior to Alberta Energy’s renewal decision. Reconciliation of overpayments would follow, as needed.

b. MSL, LOC, and other disposition cancellation letters.

After MSL, LOC, and other disposition lands are certified as reclaimed it can take years for the cancellation letter to be received. Timely issuance would remove this barrier. It would also improve efficiency if cancellation letters are directed to the attention of the person who requested it.

4. MINERAL LAND TENURE

a. Delinquent designated representatives.

- i. There is significant financial risk to industry partners when designated representatives (DR) for Crown PNG agreements neglect payments to Alberta Energy or neglect to respond to Alberta Energy offset notices. This is amplified by current economic conditions as DR’s reduce staff and may lose the capacity to manage Crown PNG agreements and the capacity to advise partners. Partners may be unaware of the DR’s neglect until a valuable mineral lease asset is terminated by Alberta Energy. Copying partners with DR notices is one strategy that can mitigate this risk.
- ii. It would also be helpful to provide a mechanism for the timely appointment of a new DR when an incumbent is not able to fulfil its obligations, but has not yet been dissolved or struck from the corporate register.

b. Continuation of Petroleum and Natural Gas Agreements.

- i. It would be helpful to see a reduction in the time for confirmation of PNG agreement continuations.
- ii. Simplifying the continuation application process could minimize the need to contact Alberta Energy for clarification about what information is required. It would also be helpful to receive consistent guidance from Alberta Energy.

5. OILSANDS

a. Escalating rentals.

It would be helpful to drop recent reinstatement of

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the requirement to provide copies of all invoices to offset oilsands escalating rentals. This requirement was discontinued in 2011 and replaced with a process requiring submission of an accounting spreadsheet and supporting statutory declaration. Reversion to the earlier process reintroduces administrative complexity, expense, and neglects efficient opportunities provided by modern electronic processes.

The Department of Energy recently committed to looking further into four of the recommendations put forward by CAPLA including:

1. Restoration of the Petroleum Natural Gas Information Exchange;
2. Downloadable statements for petroleum natural gas agreements, mineral surface leases, licences of occupation, and other disposition rental payments, in a timely fashion;
3. Timeliness of advanced rulings and final Crown approval of continuation inactivity; and
4. Expanding the notifications beyond the designated representative for defaults.

Through member input, CAPLA was able to convey these recommendations to government quickly and concisely. We look forward to implementation of these changes and continuing engagement with the Alberta government. 🌟

BC Petroleum & Natural Gas Tenure • Alberta Energy • Saskatchewan Oil and Gas • Manitoba Petroleum Branch • Natural Resources Canada • Alberta Energy Regulator • Information Services Corporation • BC Land Title and Survey Authority • IOGC

Government / Regulator Web-Based Programs, Information and Available Data every land person would want to know

CAPLA's Systems and Data Committee compiled a list of government/regulator web sites that every surface and mineral land person will find beneficial for their day-to-day work. Some sites contain useful information while others are mandated by government/regulators for applications, payments and exchange information between industry and government.

This list is posted under the CAPLA website:

<http://caplacanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GovernmentRegulator-Web-based-Programs-Information-and-Available-Data.pdf>

This list will be updated periodically so if you have favourite sites that you would like to share with CAPLA members, please contact any member of the Systems and Data Committee posted on the CAPLA website.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Autumn Wilton



By Mandi Zatyko, NEXUS Editorial Committee Member

Autumn Wilton feels there is a sense of community among CAPLA members that comes from sharing and learning, and the friendships and relationships that have been established.

"I believe CAPLA offers our industry great opportunities for learning, career growth and networking," she says. "I want to help support that."

Autumn joined CAPLA three months after entering the land asset management industry. She has been with both for 13 years.

Her first CAPLA volunteer opportunity was with the 2006 CAPLA Conference. "I wanted to become more involved in the association and meet more people," she says. "It was a good way to ease in to volunteering with something fun." She has since gone on to volunteer with many CAPLA initiatives.

"I HAVE A NETWORK OF COLLEAGUES I CAN CALL FOR GUIDANCE AND ALSO GO HAVE A COFFEE WITH. CAPLA IS REALLY A COMMUNITY."

After the 2006 conference, she joined CAPLA's Member Services Committee. She has also served on CAPLA's Mentorship, Awards and Special Events Committees, four Conference Committees, and was on the 2011–2012 Board of Directors. Currently, she is Chair of the upcoming Surface and Mineral Summits, and the Mineral Certification Study Sessions (alongside Tiffany Fink).

Autumn says that volunteering for CAPLA motivated her to become more involved with the association and beyond. "CAPLA catapulted me into volunteering for many charities and events once I had started. I realized how much I enjoyed volunteering."

"Autumn likes to learn and put herself into volunteer situations to challenge and understand how to navigate and develop her leadership style," says Sherry Batke.

Sherry was on the Awards Committee with Autumn in 2015. She was impressed with how Autumn sought mentoring and guidance in her roles to deliver effective contributions towards the conference as well as her openness to learn how to handle some impacts of decisions that could be used for future conferences.

"Autumn has a willingness to ask questions, understand the history of why things are being done the way they are and the courage to challenge the status quo," she says.

Angela Martin was also on the Awards Committee in 2015. She says that Autumn is a very attentive individual who listened carefully to get all the information.

"Autumn brought what I would call 'quiet wisdom' to the committee. Her ability to ask the right questions and then make short but significant suggestions was very valuable. Having taught land at Mount Royal University, she also contributed her educational insight to the committee," Angela says, adding that members would certainly be thrilled if Autumn rejoined the committee.

CAPLA General Manager Matt Worthy has worked with Autumn on several committees over the past five years. Most recently, he is working with her on overseeing CAPLA's surface and mineral summits in the fall.

"She is extremely well organized at keeping committees on track and holding them accountable to the task at hand," he says. "This allows the committees she is a part of to run more effectively, producing results that may not have otherwise been achieved."

Sherry says Autumn provided insights to the Awards Committee that ensured the committee was considering the impacts of its decisions.

"She was instrumental in helping the committee consider new awards and evaluate the terms of reference to ensure we weren't excluding the contributing generations by only considering a long-term contribution," she says.

"Autumn was a great representative and thoughtful contributor on the generational differences and helped us consider the developing volunteer as a key part of the evaluation process."

"Autumn is a leader within industry who works tirelessly to benefit CAPLA and to push land administration forward," adds Matt. "She can always be counted on to offer topics, reasoning and great ideas for the association."

Autumn recalls how she was lucky to have exceptional management support and encouragement at the beginning and throughout her volunteering.

"I continue volunteering as I see how important it is to the growth of CAPLA and me, personally," she says.

"I've met so many amazing people through CAPLA and everyone is always so willing to help.

"I have a network of colleagues I can call for guidance or feedback for work, and also go have a coffee with and catch up personally. CAPLA is really a community." 🌟

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***action* IS USELESS**
AND *knowledge*
***without* ACTION**
IS *futile*. ”

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