



Dr. Bruce McIvor, lawyer and historian, is principal of First Peoples Law Corporation, a Vancouver-based 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 representing one of the First Nation appellants in *Grassy Narrows* at the Supreme Court of Canada, advising Manitoba First Nations on revenue sharing for mines, the successful opposition of the proposed Prosperity Mine in British Columbia, and representing the Treaty 9 First Nation closest to the proposed Ring of Fire development in northern Ontario.

Bruce holds a law degree, a Ph.D. in Aboriginal and environmental history, and is a Fulbright Scholar.

---

## Recent Conference Papers and Presentations

"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’ 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

*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  
*Klahoose 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 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.

---

## Book Reviews

- Kenichi Matsui, *Native Peoples and Water Rights: Irrigation, Dams and the Law in Western Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009), in *Canadian Journal of Native Studies*, forthcoming.
- Robin Jarvis Brownlie, *A Fatherly Eye: Indian Agents, Government Power, and Aboriginal Resistance in Ontario, 1918-1939*, in *Canadian Historical Review*, 85.4 (Dec. 2004): 796-8.
- T.F. McIlwraith, *The Bella Coola Indian*, *SSHARE*, 1.2 (Fall, 1994).
- Paul Tennant, *Aboriginal Peoples and Politics: The Indian Land Question in British Columbia, 1849-1989*, in *Great Plains Research*, 4.1 (Spring, 1994).
- Kerry Abel and Jean Friesen, eds., *Aboriginal Resource Use: Historical and Legal Aspects*, *Canadian Journal of Law & Society*, 8:1, (Spring, 1993).

---

## 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 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.*

