

Chris Roine

Partner and National Co-Leader, Indigenous Law

T 604.640.4178
F 604.687.1415
Vancouver
CRoine@blg.com
LinkedIn

Indigenous Law
Corporate Commercial
Government & Public Sector
Energy – Power
Environmental

Chris has extensive experience representing business, government, and First Nations organizations on a range of partnerships, commercial arrangements, and governance matters.

As the western regional lead for our Indigenous Law Group, Chris works to build strategic and durable relationships between government, industry and Indigenous organizations.

Prior to joining BLG, Chris served as the Director General for the western negotiations branch of Crown-Indigenous Relations. In that role, he led a large team of federal negotiators at more than 60 sets of tables across British Columbia and the Yukon.

From 2014 to 2018 Chris was a senior counsel at BC Hydro, leading many different aspects of their First Nations engagement. From 2001 to 2014 Chris was in private practice where he represented dozens of Indigenous organizations on a range of matters including treaty negotiations, governance, lands and economic development, aboriginal rights and title, consultation & accommodation, and specific claims.

Experience

- Representing a coalition of First Nations in the negotiation of compensation from Canada for a failure to update or deliver treaty annuities, and in the creation and management of trusts to manage such compensation.

- Represented Hemlo Mining Corp in the successful negotiation of an Impact Benefit Agreement with Biigtagong Anishnabeg First Nation, and associated implementation matters.
- Represented Marcel Colomb First Nation in the successful negotiation of an Impact Benefit Agreement with Alamos Gold.
- Supporting developers and lenders in multiple major housing and infrastructure projects on First Nation lands.
- Advising several territorial governments and Crown corporations on Indigenous procurement policies, practices and issues.
- Advising several major forest companies in Western Canada on consultation & accommodation issues and the creation of limited partnerships and other business structures with First Nations.
- Advising several major construction companies on joint ventures and limited partnerships with Indigenous organizations in support of securing contracts on major projects.
- Advising private and public developers on the creation and implementation of structures to allow First Nations to participate in ownership and development of significant ($500M+) real estate development projects on private, public and First Nation lands.
- Advising on the creation of regulations and associated agreements pursuant to the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* in the context of a major ($2B+) real estate development project on First Nation lands.
- Advising independent power producers on limited partnerships and other business arrangements with First Nations in support of solar and wind projects.
- Provided advisory support to the Government of the Northwest Territories on policy intentions in support of the *Mineral Resources Act*.
- Advised proponents and First Nations on environmental assessments, impact benefit agreements, and consultation/engagement matters in the context of multiple mining projects across Canada.
- Representing several indigenous governing bodies in the assertion of jurisdiction, and associated funding agreements with the Crown, in the context of education and child and family services.
- Led federal teams in high profile negotiations under the BC Treaty process and other reconciliation initiatives.
- Represented a Vancouver Island First Nation in establishing a limited partnership and acquiring a major forestry tenure and related assets.
- Represented a lower mainland First Nation in negotiating impact benefit agreements and associated commercial ventures for multiple major infrastructure projects.
- Represented more than a dozen First Nations in establishing or updating bylaws, constitutions, and related governance matters
- Advised Indigenous Groups, developers, and provincial crown corporations on the acquisition and management of tenures on First Nation lands.

Insights & Events

- Author, "Recent developments in Aboriginal Title litigation", BLG Article, June 2026
- Author, "From mineral tenures to nuclear projects: The evolving role of UNDRIP in Canadian domestic law", BLG Article, January 2026
- Author, "Reconciling title: Aboriginal title and the future of fee simple tenure in British Columbia", BLG Article, September 2025
- Author, "B.C. government launches public engagement on Infrastructure Projects Act: What you need to know", BLG Article, July 2025
- Author, "New legislation alert: Streamlined approval processes for major projects in B.C. and Canada", BLG Article, June 2025

- Author, "Litigation developments: Aboriginal title and fee simple title", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "SCC clarifies how the honour of the Crown affects (re)negotiation of “reconciliation-based” agreements with Indigenous groups", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Actton Super-Save Gas Stations Ltd v Eneas Proper tenure for businesses on reserves", BLG Article, June 2024
- Author, "Individual Charter Rights vs Collective Indigenous Rights", BLG Article, April 2024
- Author, "Bill C-45 Legislative updates provide enhanced support to First Nations Financial Management", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, "BC Supreme Court issues rare damages award for misfeasance in public office", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, "Gitxaala v. British Columbia and the impact on mineral tenure", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, "Kitselas First Nation and British Columbia reach Environmental Assessment Agreement", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "BC Supreme Court's Nuchatlaht land claim decision gives guidance on Aboriginal title litigation", BLG Article, June 2023
- Author, "Opening the tap: the B.C. government proposes new Watershed Security Strategy", BLG Article, March 2023
- Author, "The Indian Act: Understanding the legal capacity of First Nations in Canada", BLG Article, February 2023
- Co-Presenter, "Structuring the Deal and the Relationship," PBLI, November 2022.
- Presenter “Evolving Trends and Best Practices in ESG," Vancouver Environmental Seminar, October 2022.
- Presenter, "Indigenous Engagement in Major Projects," BLG In-House Counsel session, September 2022.
- Author, "Indigenous-led Clean Fuels Program", BLG Article, April 2022
- Author, "Government expands Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation mandate", BLG Article, March 2022
- Author, "Top energy issues of 2021, with implications for 2022 and beyond", BLG Article, March 2022
- Presenter, "Key Developments in Indigenous Law," BC, February 2022.
- Author, "Do American First Nations have aboriginal rights in Canada?", BLG Article, June 2021
- Author, "Bill C-92: Recognizing Indigenous authority over child and family services", BLG Article, May 2021

Beyond Our Walls

Community Involvement

- (Past) Volleyball and soccer coach for community, elementary, high school, club and university level teams
- (Past) Director, Volleyball BC

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2022) of *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Aboriginal Law / Indigenous Practice)
- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2024) of *Chambers Canada* (Aboriginal Law (Nationwide - Canada)).

- Recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Legal 500* (Indigenous Law).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2024) of *Chambers Global – The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* (Aboriginal Law).
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and since 2022) of *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Aboriginal Law)
- Recognized in the 2026 edition (and in the 2022-2023 editions) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy*
- Recognized in the 2024 edition of *Lexpert Special Edition: Energy and Mining.*
- Recognized in the 2023 edition (and since 2022) of *Lexpert Special Edition: Infrastructure*

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2000
- Ontario, 1993

- MA, Simon Fraser University, 1996
- LLB, University of Western Ontario, 1991

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As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

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