BLG clients recognized at the 2026 Western Canada General Counsel Awards

Calgary (Nov.17, 2026) - Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) congratulates the client legal teams recognized at the 2026 Western Canada General Counsel Awards (WCGCAs), held at the Fairmont Palliser in Calgary. The WCGCAs highlight excellence in the western Canadian in-house legal community.

Lifetime Achievement Award winner

Donald L. Björnson, general counsel and corporate secretary at Manitoba Hydro, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Over a career spanning nearly 40 years, Don has guided Manitoba Hydro through demanding regulatory compliance issues, major energy transactions and international infrastructure developments. He structured the 30-year, 215-megawatt hydroelectric agreement with SaskPower and played a central legal role in the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project. John A.D. Vellone, BLG partner and national co-leader, Energy and Power Group, and J. Mark Rodger, BLG senior counsel & co-chair, Electricity Markets Group, led the nomination with support from several national law firms.

Deal Making Award finalist

Susan Anderson, Senior Vice-President, Legal, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Cenovus Energy Inc., was named a finalist for the Deal Making Award. Susan led the legal strategy for Cenovus Energy's C$8.6 billion acquisition of MEG Energy Corp., one of the largest and most consequential Canadian energy transactions of the year. She managed litigation risk, regulatory engagement and shareholder dynamics during a contested process. Following the acquisition, she directed the legal execution of a C$2.6 billion senior unsecured notes offering. BLG partner Alan Ross, K.C. co-nominated Susan alongside counsel from McCarthy Tétrault LLP.

Don’s and Susan’s achievements highlight the critical role of in-house counsel in advancing the Canadian energy sector. From cross-border infrastructure to multibillion-dollar corporate acquisitions, these leaders navigate high-stakes legal environments to drive major strategic outcomes. BLG celebrates their success and their lasting contributions to the western Canadian business community.

For more information, please contact:

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