



## Claudia Wheler

### Associate

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Claudia advises businesses, governments, and Indigenous organizations on a wide range of corporate commercial matters, including partnerships, complex transactions, and governance structures. She brings extensive experience in structuring commercial arrangements and guiding clients through strategic decision-making.

In addition to her broad corporate practice, Claudia specializes in the intersection of Indigenous law and business, helping clients integrate corporate objectives with Indigenous legal traditions to build partnerships and governance systems that are both commercially sound and culturally resonant.

Her recent work includes advising on complex corporate transactions and partnership structures, trust and governance frameworks, and developing models that enable First Nations to participate in the ownership and development of major projects.

Before joining BLG, Claudia gained experience in the public sector at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and in the private sector by delivering a sustainability framework for a Canadian mining company's operations in Peru.

Outside the office, Claudia remains active as a high-performance athlete, pursuing her passion for running and cycling after her career as a varsity soccer athlete.

## Experience

- North Coast Transmission Line Project (British Columbia): Counsel to BC Hydro on various aspects of this multi billion dollar electrification and economic development project in British Columbia.
- Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative: Counsel to the Canada Infrastructure Bank on key elements of this \$1 billion initiative to finance projects that help close the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities.
- Norway House Cree Nation – Minago Mine Acquisition: Acted as counsel on the acquisition of the Minago mine, a landmark transaction advancing economic reconciliation in the Canadian mining sector.
- Major Real Estate Development Projects: Advising private and public developers on creating and implementing structures that enable First Nations to participate in ownership and development of significant (\$500M+) real estate projects on private, public, and First Nation lands.
- Advising on Indigenous relations matters across Canada, including consultation & accommodation and the formation or implementation of business arrangements with Indigenous groups.
- 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 environmental matters in private M&A acquisitions.

## Insights & Events

- 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, "SCC clarifies how the honour of the Crown affects (re)negotiation of “reconciliation-based” agreements with Indigenous groups", BLG Article, January 2025
- Author, "Bill C-45 Legislative updates provide enhanced support to First Nations Financial Management", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, "Gitxaala v. British Columbia and the impact on mineral tenure", BLG Article, October 2023
- Author, " Canada enacts into law the right to a healthy environment and more stringent chemical management requirements ", BLG Article, June 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

## Beyond Our Walls

### Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia

## Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2024
- JD Law, University of Ottawa, 2023
- MBA, University of Ottawa, 2023
- B.Sc. (Hons.), Queen's University, 2019

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