



2026 IMLA in Canada

Vaughan, Ontario - May 7, 2026

Thursday – May 7, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast – included in registration.	
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Opening Remarks	Amanda Karras
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Municipal Election Law Overview	Cory Lynch (Toronto), Eric Davis (SmithValeriotte Law Firm LLP) & Maggie Burlington (Calgary)
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	New Public Procurement in Light of Buy Canadian and How That Impacts Municipalities	Zella Phillips (Toronto), Colin Taylor (Halifax) & Ajay Gajaria (Aird & Berlis LLP)
11:35 AM – 12:35 PM	Environmental Law - What Can Local Governments Do to Regulate Climate Change? Even when faced with global scale issues, Municipalities are limited by the specific powers granted to them in provincial legislation. This creates different barriers and opportunities for municipalities across Canada in addressing both the causes and effects of climate change. This presentation will map out some of these jurisdictional complexities that arise when working to address climate change at the local level. Using examples from cities including Edmonton and Toronto among others, this presentation will highlight real opportunities for municipalities to act and the legal powers successfully used.	Scott Pasternack (Toronto), Christina Hodgson-Mousseau (Edmonton) & Rodney Northey (Gowling WLG)
12:35 PM – 1:35 PM	Lunch – included in registration.	
1:35 PM – 2:35 PM	Firefighting Liability	David Boghosian (Boghosian + Allen LLP) & Nada Nicola-Howorth (Lerners)
2:40 PM – 3:40 PM	Community Courts This presentation will discuss the Calgary Community Court, which was developed for people experiencing vulnerabilities charged with bylaw offences and unable to pay tickets. It started in June of 2024 as a pilot by City municipal prosecutors and defence counsel at Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG). The program provides access to social services to help address root causes of issues that lead people to engage in problematic behaviour resulting in bylaw charges. Community Court is a partnership between the province, community organizations and the City, and provides a holistic, one-stop-shop for people experiencing vulnerabilities to get connected to social supports while simultaneously addressing a variety of legal issues they are faced with. Referrals to community agencies and social supports are completed via care plans. Care plans are developed, monitored, and adapted by Calgary Legal Guidance and Municipal Prosecutions. Graduation from the Community Court program requires participants to complete their care plans. Tickets are stayed and then set aside upon completion.	Ben Leung (Calgary)
3:40 PM – 3:55 PM	Coffee Break	

3:55 PM – 4:55 PM	Ontario's Overhaul of the Municipal Accountability Regime and its Implications	John Mascarin (Aird & Berlis LLP) & Laura Dean (Aird & Berlis LLP)
5:00PM – 7:00 PM	Networking Reception	LERNERS

Last Updated: 03/09/26. Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.