



2026 International Comparative Law Program

Montréal, Québec - November 4-6, 2026
MEM – Centre des mémoires montréalaises

Wednesday – November 4, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
TBD	Welcome Dinner	

Thursday – November 5, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks	
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Employment Law This presentation will discuss municipalities from Canada and the USA on the legal department structure, who has the authority to make decisions for hiring and firing, unions, and EEOC/EEO. The presentation will also compare the number of terminations annually, number of citizens and employees, time-off accrual and holiday time off, and health benefits and hours per work week.	Jeremy McLeish & Suntrease Maynard
10:15 AM – 10:35 AM	Coffee Break	
10:35 AM – 11:35 AM	A Tale of Two Cities: Land Use Law and Process in Fort Worth and Toronto This presentation is a comparison of the law of land use and the development application process in Fort Worth, Texas and Toronto, Ontario. The presentation will include a case study comparison of an infill project – how would it progress in both jurisdictions? The session will conclude with a discussion of similar issues and trends facing the two cities such as AI Data Centres, deregulation trying to make things move faster, politics and economic incentivization.	Kelly Matsumoto & Tyler Wallach
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Overview of Local Government	Marc-André LeChasseur & Lori Brill
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch	
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Carrots or Sticks: Cross-Border Perspectives on Land Use, Zoning, and Affordable Housing As affordable housing shortages deepen across North America, state, provincial, and federal governments have increasingly turned to funding incentives, rather than direct mandates, to steer local land use and zoning policy. This session compares that trend in New York and Alberta, two jurisdictions taking distinct paths towards closing the gap between housing demand and supply, all while navigating persistent resident feedback to zoning changes. Katie will cover the towns experience in New York, while Shannon will discuss Calgary's experience of city initiated blanket rezoning to increase density, and the post election blanket repeal. Attendees will leave this session with a comparative framework for understanding when, and how effectively, funding-driven incentives succeed where top-down mandates have failed, along with practical takeaways for municipalities navigating these programs.	Shannon Belvedere & Katie Hodgdon

2:45 PM – 3:05 PM	Coffee Break	
3:05 PM – 4:05 PM	Homelessness and the Changing Legal Landscape: New Challenges for Municipalities Municipalities in Canada and the United States are confronting an increasingly complex legal landscape surrounding homelessness. From expanded constitutional and human rights protections and limits on municipal authority in Canada to developments involving the ADA and state-created-danger doctrine in the United States, courts are reshaping the legal framework within which municipalities must act. At the same time, municipalities are developing new approaches to housing, shelter, services, and other supports for people experiencing homelessness. This comparative session will explore these emerging legal challenges and practical responses, and what they may mean for municipal governments on both sides of the border.	Bevin Shores & Susana Alcala Wood

Friday – November 6, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Ethical issues for Integrity Commissions and Commissioners	Beth Anne Childs & David Boghosian
10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	Coffee Break	
10:50 AM – 12:05 PM	Defining and Refining the Scope of Freedom: The Municipality as a Battleground This presentation is against a municipal backdrop, already complex debates surrounding the proper exercise of fundamental freedoms like freedom of expression and freedom of religion raise further questions about the limits to state power in a modern democracy. To what extent can protesters disrupt the flow of municipal services? What happens when a citizen wants to marshal municipal authority to benefit a particular religion or creed? What role can a municipal employee’s deeply-held beliefs play while on the job? A comparative examination reveals the strong link between contemporary approaches to these questions, and the diverse constitutional and legal histories of different jurisdictions.	David Grossman, Siobhan Quigg & Katherine Read
TBD	Group Lunch	
TBD	Dinner and Special Cultural Experience	

Last Updated: 09/25/26. Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.