



Alberta Environmental Appeals Board

What is the Environmental Appeals Board?

The Environmental Appeals Board was established in 1993 pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. The Board hears appeals from individuals, groups, and corporations who are directly affected by certain decisions made by Alberta Environment under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, and the *Water Act*. This includes environmental approvals, enforcement actions, reclamation certificates, and water licences. The Board prepares decisions with respect to these appeals.

Board Organization

Cabinet appoints the members of the Board. At the present time there are eleven Board members with a wide range of backgrounds and experience in the environment field. Dr. Steve Hrudey is Chair of the Board and a Professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Alberta. Dr. Hrudey has a risk management and environmental health sciences background with a Ph.D. in Public Health Engineering and a D.Sc. (Eng.) in Environmental Health Sciences and Technology from the University of London.

The Board employs eight full time staff members, including Mr. Gilbert Van Nes, General Counsel and Settlement Officer, and Ms. Marian Fluker, Associate Counsel. The Board's office is in Edmonton, but hearings, preliminary meetings, and mediations are held in various locations in Alberta.

Articling and Summer Positions with the Board

The Board generally hires two articling students each year, subject to available funds. Articling students are under the supervision of the Board's General Counsel. The maximum time for articling with the Board is 6 months, as the Law Society requires you to article elsewhere for the remaining 6 months to gain a wider variety of experience. Depending on funding, the Board may hire a summer student.

Areas of Law

At the Board you would gain experience in primarily administrative law and environmental law. You will also get exposure to the Board's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. Other areas that you may be exposed to include civil procedure, aboriginal law, and if time permits, some time may be spent with the environmental section of special prosecutions in Alberta Justice.

Skills Required

The Board is looking for a person who has exceptional writing and research skills and has a keen interest in environmental law. A science background would be beneficial. The person hired must be able to travel as proceedings are held throughout the province. The position requires someone who is willing to take on projects that may not be considered the norm for an articling position, but you could step up and do it. You must definitely be a team player.

Benefits

Salary is comparable to Alberta Justice articling and summer positions. While at the Board you are hired in a wage position. The Board will pay wages and tuition for the Bar course while you are articling with the Board. Any travel required for Board business will be paid by the Board.

The Board is generally a quiet, stress free environment compared to a larger law firm. Although the work required often has specific deadlines, the Board also recognizes the importance of a balanced life.

Employment Opportunities with the Board

There are limited opportunities for re-hiring at the Board. However, the Board has hired past students for specific research projects on a contract basis.

The Board generally hires shortly before the commencement of articles or the start of the summer for summer students.

Candidates should submit to the Board's General Counsel a cover letter, resume, transcripts, and a 10 page writing sample. Potential candidates will undergo a security clearance check and academic check.

Contacts

If you would like further information regarding the Board, articling positions or summer positions, please contact the following:

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