

Christie A. McLeod

Associate

Vancouver

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Industries & Expertise

INDUSTRIES

Energy & Natural Resources | Environmental

EXPERTISE

Aboriginal Law | ESG and Carbon Finance |
Environmental Law

Biography

BAR ADMISSION

Yukon, 2022

British Columbia, 2021

EDUCATION

- Osgoode Certificate in ESG, Climate Risk and the Law, 2022
- JD/Masters of Environmental Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School/York University, 2020
- BA (Human Rights & Global Studies; International Development Studies), University of Winnipeg, 2014

As part of Miller Thomson's Advocacy Group, Christie advises Indigenous communities and businesses on environmental, Indigenous, administrative, regulatory, and ESG issues. She has appeared before the Federal Court, the BC Court of Appeal, the BC Supreme Court, the BC Provincial Court, the Manitoba Court of King's Bench, the Territorial Court of Yukon, and the Nunavut Court of Justice. Always involved in climate advocacy,

Christie brings a compassionate, multifaceted approach to her legal practice.

With a deep commitment to human rights and environmental advocacy, Christie's active involvement in and outside of the legal field reflects her dedication to shaping a more sustainable and equitable future. Christie's extensive involvement includes serving on the ESG Advisory Committee for Mondetta Clothing, as a member of the Legal Working Group for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, and on the boards of Lawyers for Climate Justice and Human Rights Hub Winnipeg (an organization she co-founded).

Christie is a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and York University, where she completed the joint JD and master's degree program in Environmental Studies, with a focus on Canadian climate accountability. Her academic background is rich and varied, reflecting a deep interest in human rights and the environment. With publications in prestigious journals and numerous speaking engagements, her commitment to legal research and advocacy extends beyond traditional areas of law, making her a dynamic and knowledgeable advocate. As a contributor to global climate change discussions, Christie has been recognized as a Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leader.

Industry involvement

Recognition

- Environmental Law Institute, *Emerging Leaders Initiative*, 2022
- Corporate Knights: Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leader, 2019
- Osgoode Hall Law School Upper Year Award of Excellence, 2018
- Gowling WLG Award in Climate Change Law, 2018
- Victor Internship Award in Environmental Law, 2017 & 2018
- The University Women's Club of North York – Lee Robertson Memorial Award, 2017
- Centennial Entrance Scholarship for the Prairie Provinces, 2016
- CBC Manitoba: Future40 Award, 2016
- Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, and the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties: Sybil Shacks Human Rights Youth Award, 2015
- The Winnipeg Foundation: Emerging Leaders' Fellowship, 2015

Thought leadership

Interviews:

- *Canadian Lawyer*, "Data and full lifecycle analysis crucial for ESG reporting, says Miller Thomson's Christie McLeod", June 2024

- *Law Times*, “Mathur ruling contains ‘important precedents’ for climate-change related litigation, says lawyer”, May 2023
- *National Observer*, “Christie McLeod is changing the way lawyers think about climate”, May 2022

Selected blog articles:

- “*Mathur v Ontario: The Ontario Court of Appeal orders rehearing of unprecedented climate case*”, EnviroNotes!, Nov. 2024
- “Historic advisory opinion issued by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on States’ international obligations regarding oceans and climate change”, EnviroNotes!, June 2024
- “The right to a healthy environment recognized in federal Canadian law”, MT Biosphere™, Jun. 2023
- “Mathur et al: Youth climate litigation against Ontario government found to be justiciable but dismissed for failing to establish charter violations”, MT Biosphere™, Apr. 2023 (co-authored)
- “Greenwashing in Canada: Enforcement and trends for 2023”, MT Biosphere™, Jan. 2023 (co-authored)
- “The Right to a Healthy Environment Gains Global (and some Canadian) Traction”, EnviroNotes!, Jul. 2022
- “Book Review: Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law edited by Oonagh E. Fitzgerald”, The London School of Economics and Political Science, Apr. 2021
- “SCC Upholds Validity of Federal Government’s Carbon Pricing System”, EnviroNotes!, Mar. 2021
- “New triggers requiring site disclosure statements: BC rolls out a new contaminated sites regime”, EnviroNotes!, Mar. 2021
- “*Cambie Surgeries Corporation v. British Columbia (Attorney General): Case comment*”, Health Communiqué, Dec. 2020
- “Appeal launched against Federal Court’s dismissal of youth climate change lawsuit”, EnviroNotes!, Nov. 2020
- “How Are Vulnerable Populations Impacted by Carbon Pricing Schemes in Canada?”, Osgoode Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic Blog, Apr. 2018
- “Welcome to Winnipeg: The Human Rights Capital of Canada”, Human Rights Hub Winnipeg, Jan. 2018

Op-eds and articles:

- “ONCA orders rehearing of youth-led climate lawsuit”, LAW360 Canada, Nov. 2024
- “Environmental Law 2023: Definitive global law guides offering comparative analysis from top-ranked lawyers”, Chambers Global Practice Guide, January 2024
- “Canada: Trends & Developments”, Chambers Global Practice Guides – Environmental Law 2022 (co-authored)
- “Fighting for Change Within (and Outside) the Law”, CBABC BarTalk, Dec. 2022
- “Canada: Trends & Developments”, Chambers Global Practice Guides – Environmental Law 2021 (co-authored)

- “Canada’s new climate target still jeopardizes our future”, National Observer, May 2021 (co-authored)
- “Canada can’t afford to put the climate crisis on the back burner”, National Observer, May 2020
- “Canada is seen as a global human rights beacon-but not so much, at home”, Maclean’s, June 2017
- “Opting for litigation over reconciliation”, Winnipeg Free Press, Apr. 2017
- “Calling all feminists”, Winnipeg Free Press, Mar. 2016
- “State of Emergency? Or State of Indifference?”, Winnipeg Free Press, Nov. 2015
- “Canada Falling Behind on Gender Equality”, Winnipeg Free Press, Apr. 2015

Academic publications:

- “Book Review: Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law edited by Oonagh E. Fitzgerald”, *London School of Economics and Political Science*, Apr. 2021
- “The Human Rights-Based Approach to Carbon Finance by Damilola S. Olawuyi.” *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 58.3 (2021) : 759-773.
- “Does Climate Change Increase the Risk of Child Marriage? A Look at What We Know— and What We Don’t—With lessons from Bangladesh and Mozambique”, *Columbia Journal of Gender & Law*, Dec. 2019 (co-authored)

Presentations & speaking engagements:

- “Indigenous Rights and Climate-Change Litigation: A Day in the Life of an Indigenous Rights Lawyer”, Peter A. Allard School of Law – Business Law Clinic, 2024
- “Greenwashing Litigation and Trends”, Miller Thomson panel, 2023
- “ESG and the Mining Industry”, Miller Thomson panel, 2023
- “Learning from Parallels and Precedents: Lessons for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty”, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Symposium, Sept. 2022 (London)
- “International Efforts to Address the Global Climate Crisis”, BC CLE Climate Law Conference, 2022
- “International Climate Litigation & its Applicability to Canada”, Osgoode Hall Law School – Climate Litigation Panel, 2021
- “Climate Litigation Trends”, National Environmental Law Group 2021 Cross Country Seminar, 2021
- “Climate Legislative and Policy Updates”, Environmental Litigation and Project Development, Miller Thomson seminar, 2021
- “An Overview of Bill-C12”, Divest Canada Coalition, 2021
- “Advocating for Climate Change”, Humans, On Rights (podcast), 2021
- “The Weaknesses of Regulating Highly Hazardous Pesticides in International Law”, Guest Lecturer, Osgoode Hall Law School – International Environmental Law class, 2020; 2019

- “Climate Change & Child Marriage”, Columbia Law School Climate Justice Symposium, 2018

Notable matters

- Successfully argued in Federal Court in the case of *Trophy Lodge NWT Ltd. v. Canada (AG)* (2024 FC 218) that Parks Canada breached the rules of fairness in its handling of Trophy Lodge’s business licence application. The Trophy Lodge is a commercial tourism and sport fishing lodge that has been operating since 1965. It is located within Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve which was created in 2019. When the lodge was sold and the new owners applied for a licence the application was supported by the local Łutsel K’e Dene First Nation. Parks Canada had denied the licence based in part on the management board’s recommendation.
- Assisted Stk’emlúpsenc te Secwépemc Nation in carrying out an independent Indigenous-led assessment of the proposed Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project.
- Successfully argued in the Territorial Court of Yukon that a warrantless search of a commercial property carried out by the Crown violated rights under section 8 of the *Charter*, and that evidence obtained during the search was to be excluded from future proceedings pursuant to section 24(2) of the *Charter*.
- Successfully challenged the Inspector of Mines’ permit amendment to increase production in the McAbee Quarry on the basis that the amendment was unreasonable and failed to adequately discharge the honour of the Crown regarding the consultation process with the Stk’emlúpsenc te Secwépemc Nation (*Ignace v. British Columbia (Chief Inspector of Mines)*, 2021 BCSC 1989).

Community roles

- ESG Advisory Committee Member, Mondetta Clothing, Present
- Board Member, Human Rights Hub Winnipeg, Present
- Board Member, Lawyers for Climate Justice, Present
- Legal Working Group Member, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, Present
- Delegate, Leading Change Canada, 2018 & 2020
- Editor, Osgoode Hall Law Journal, 2016-2018
- Volunteer, Justice Corporate Accountability Project, 2017
- Commissioning Clinic, Parkdale Community Legal Services, 2017
- Board Member, Institute for International Women’s Rights-Manitoba, 2016-2017
- Resolutions Committee, Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, 2015-2017
- National Council of Women of Canada Delegate, UN Commission on the Status of Women, 2015
- Founding Member, Friends of Shoal Lake 40, 2015

Memberships & affiliations

- Canadian Bar Association
- Law Society of British Columbia

- Law Society of the Yukon
- IUCN Climate Crisis Commission
- IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Climate Change Law Specialization Group
- Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment