



Building the North: Ontario's Next Growth Phase

An industry-led conversation on the realities of converting policy into projects in a challenging environment.

The panel will explore project development, community partnership, execution and risk.

Moderator

Nathan Adams **ONEIA**

Nathan Adams is an environmental litigator with a background in environmental science, specializing in contamination and property devaluation claims. As co-counsel on Ontario's leading PFAS "forever chemicals" contamination stigma class actions, he represents property owners in Mississippi Mills and North Bay allegedly impacted by PFAS well water contamination from nearby PFAS-impacted sites. Nathan's scientific expertise allows him to interpret evolving PFAS regulations and craft innovative legal strategies, placing him at the forefront of PFAS contamination stigma class action litigation in Canada. He serves on the Executive of the Ontario Bar Association's Environmental Law Section, is a member of the Ontario Environment Industry Association (ONEIA) PFAS Advocacy Committee, and frequently presents on PFAS litigation and regulatory issues.

Mike McGarragan **Milestone Environmental Contracting Inc.**

Mike McGarragan, the National Manager of Business Development at Milestone Environmental Contracting. Mike leads national growth initiatives and supports the delivery of complex environmental and remediation projects across Canada, with a strong focus on northern and remote regions. He brings over 15 years of experience across the environmental, natural resources, waste management, and analytical services sectors, and is widely known for his ability to build meaningful relationships and bring diverse partners together to achieve successful project outcomes. Guided by core values of caring, collaboration, capacity building, and creating win-win solutions, Mike's work centers on connecting people and opportunities in ways that strengthen partnerships and support sustainable development in some of the country's most challenging environments.

Joanna Vince **Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP**

Joanna Vince, B.Sc. (Hons.) J.D., is a Partner at Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP and is a Certified Specialist in Environmental Law by the Law Society of Ontario. Joanna has significant expertise assisting clients with environmental approvals and permits for developments and industry. Joanna advises industry, conservation authorities, governments and crown corporations, Inuit groups, tribunals and land claims organizations on environmental law matters.

Joanna advises on the environmental liabilities associated with contaminated lands and how to manage those liabilities for holding, redeveloping, buying and selling contaminated lands. Joanna helps clients navigate the environmental regulatory process. She advises clients about compliance obligations and represents them in managing regulatory inspections and investigations. Joanna has appeared before environmental tribunals and boards on behalf of clients to obtain, confirm or dispute environmental permits and approvals, including for certificates of property use, wastewater treatment systems, noise and air emissions, and water permits. Joanna is called to the Bar in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario and the Yukon.

Kati McCartney **Blue Heron Environmental**

Kati is Chief Operating Officer at Blue Heron Environmental and former founding President of FROSKR Environmental. She champions authentic engagement with Indigenous and industry partners to advance responsible resource development—balancing economic opportunity with environmental stewardship and positioning resource sectors as contributors to climate solutions. Her leadership philosophy emphasizes proactive planning, transparency, and using data as a strategic asset. Kati is an experienced environmental leader with an Honours BSc in Chemistry from Wilfrid Laurier University, a Master of Chemical Sciences and an MBA from Laurentian University. She is a Registered Environmental Professional (EP), a LEED Green Associate, and among the first 100 globally to earn the ISSP Sustainability Associate (ISSP-SA) designation. Active in her community, Kati serves as a Director with Mine Connect, is Past Chair of the Cambrian College Board of Governors, former Treasurer of Health Sciences North, a Director with Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc., a member of the Science North Business Affairs Committee, and Board Advisor to Women in Mining Sudbury. Above all, she is most proud to be Mira's mom.