



Access to Justice

Are you or your community facing threats to land, air, or water – including those connected with human health, community well-being, and traditional cultural practices?

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

We're here to help you explore environmental justice issues and identify possible legal options.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND

A fund to help you hire lawyers and experts at reduced rates and work with them to raise your voice about environmental justice issues that affect you.

The support of WCEL has been instrumental in providing legal assistance, public awareness, and advocacy to push for meaningful government action.—**Marilynne Manning, Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound**

FIND OUT MORE →

Legal Advice

We provide free legal information and advice to communities facing environmental justice problems in BC. This includes concerns about how environmental harms are connected with human health, community well-being, and traditional cultural practices. We consider the environment to include anywhere people live, play, work and learn; for example, urban centres and housing.

Our legal advice program consists of a phone call or email to help you understand the law and the legal options you have to address an environmental concern, and occasionally formal representation.

If you think you may be impacted by an environmental issue but are unsure how the law can help you, please contact our Access to Justice team.

CONTACT US WITH YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Email: legalaidd@wcel.org • **Website:** wcel.org/a2j

Phone: (604) 684-7378 ext. 229

Toll-free in BC: 1 (800) 330-9235 ext. 229

Any individual, community group, non-profit organization and/or First Nation within the province of BC can request legal advice through this program.

West Coast acknowledges that intersectional social identities such as race, gender, sexuality, disability, immigration status, income, rural location, and age all magnify the ways in which people experience environmental harms. We strongly encourage members of communities who face systemic barriers to justice and environmental health to reach out for support.

Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund

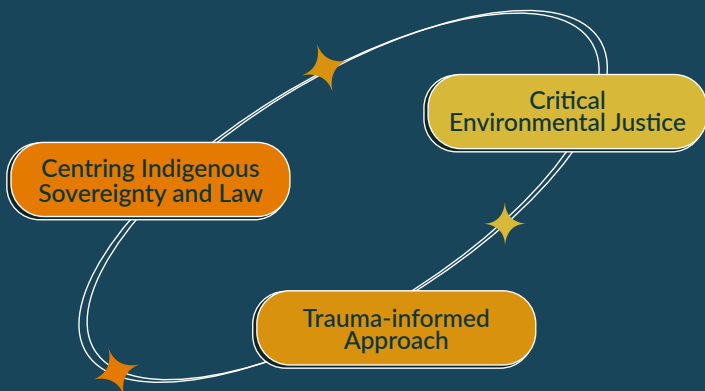
The Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF) supports individuals, grassroots community groups, organizations and First Nations to hire lawyers and experts at reduced rates, and to work with them to raise their voices and participate in environmental decision-making.

THIS WORK COULD INCLUDE

- A legal opinion to help you understand your options and relevant laws
- Traditional litigation (i.e., going to court)
- Participation in administrative tribunals
- Participation in alternative methods of dispute resolution
- Hiring a scientific, Indigenous or other expert to gather evidence to support your legal efforts

WE SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL WORK ON ISSUES:

- Disability, pollution and climate change
- Air and water quality
- Impacts of industry on human health
- LNG and fracking
- Indigenous land rights
- Compensating cultural losses
- Forestry
- Species at risk
- Development
- Urban tree canopy
- Water rights and access
- Lack of enforcement of environmental law



Join our ecosystem of action

COLLABORATE WITH US: If you're doing work that intersects with environmental justice, let's work together to support communities facing environmental harms.

BECOME AN EDRF LAWYER: Work on unique and sometimes high-profile cases, developing innovative legal strategies that can result in positive change for the environment and communities. We welcome you to bring your expertise and passion for environmental protection and justice to this community!



WEST COAST
Environmental Law

We're a non-profit group of environmental lawyers, strategists and communicators dedicated to safeguarding the environment through law since 1974.

Visit our website (www.wcel.org) or call (604) 684- 7378 for more information.



@wcelaw

wcel.org/a2j



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