

Brian Johnston, QC

Partner



Suite 900, Purdy's Wharf Tower One
1959 Upper Water St.
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 3N2

Effective March 9, 2020, our civic
address will change to:

Queen's Marque
600-1741 Lower Water Street
Halifax, N.S.

B3J 0J2 (*Please note: postal code was
updated February 12th*)

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[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Nova Scotia, 1981

Legal Assistant(s): [Susan Snow](#)

***Providing legal services through a professional
corporation.***

Brian works with virtually every type of employer in Canada in a wide variety of industries, including transportation, manufacturing, construction, mining, financial services, universities, healthcare, telecommunications, retail and utilities. His work has included:

- Successfully concluding collective agreement settlements at less than mandate.
- Discreetly dealing with executive level employment terminations.
- Developing labour relations strategies for clients across Canada and internationally.
- Advising employers on drug and alcohol policies.

Practice Areas

Cannabis

Education

Human Rights

Labour & Employment

Pensions & Benefits

Education & Career

Education

Dalhousie University, LL.B., 1980

Mount Allison University, B.Comm. (honours with distinction), 1977

Activities

Fellow, College of Labor and Employment Lawyers

Member, Canadian Bar Association

Member, American Employment Law Council

Practice group leader, Labour & Employment, Stewart McKelvey, 2008-2011

Member, American Bar Association

Member, Human Resources Association of Nova Scotia

Member, Canadian Industrial Relations Association

Member, Employment Advisory Board for Practical Law - Canada

Chair, Board of Regents, Mount Allison University, 2005-2006

Accolades

Chambers and Partners, Employment & Labour - Atlantic Canada, Band 1 lawyer

Queen's Counsel, 1998

Best Lawyers 2016 and 2012 Labour and Employment Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Halifax

Legal Media Group, Expert Guides, World's Finest Labour & Employment lawyers, 2014

Best Lawyers: Labour and Employment Law, 2006-2020

The International Who's Who of Management Labour and Employment Lawyers (2014-2018)

Who's Who Legal: Canada 2011-2018 (Management Labour & Employment)

Legal Media Group, Guide to the World's Leading Labour and Employment Lawyers

Lexpert rating: Employment Law

Lexpert rating: Labour Relations

Martindale-Hubbell rating: BV Distinguished®

Thought Leadership

Change is the only constant - Bill C-86 changes in federal labour and employment regulation

January 18, 2019

2018 Year in Review: Atlantic Canada Labour & Employment Law Developments

January 17, 2019

Countdown to Cannabis: A Stewart McKelvey Newsletter: The legalization of cannabis: 7 reasons why employers should take notice

May 24, 2018

Client Update: Medical marijuana found to be undue hardship in safety sensitive positions – the problem of residual impairment

May 01, 2018

The Latest in Employment Law: A Stewart McKelvey Newsletter – Changes to the federal pay equity scheme expected in 2018

November 17, 2017

The Latest in Employment Law: A Stewart McKelvey Newsletter – Good faith expected of employers!

August 16, 2017

Canadian employers facing marijuana challenges in the workplace

November 25, 2016

Nova Scotia Government Introduces Public Services Sustainability (2015) Act

December 16, 2015

Publications

Regular contributor, *Canadian Employment Law Today and Canadian HR Reporter*

Presentations

Nova Scotia CEO Safety Charter Council – 10 Things Every CEO Should Know About Cannabis, October 2018

CPHR Nova Scotia, “Trends in Labour and Employment Law”, May 2017

AMANS/UNSN, Legalization of Cannabis: Municipal Impacts, “Cannabis in the Workplace”, May 2017

Innis Christie Lecture & Symposium in Labour and Employment Law, “Coping with the Fissured Workplace and Precarious Employment”, March 2017

HRANS Conference, “Marijuana in the Workplace”, November 2016

American Bar Association’s International Labour and Employment Law Conference, Barcelona Spain, May 2015

HRANS Conference, “Recent Legal Developments”, May 2015

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Bill C-377, Union Financial Disclosure, April 2015

Lancaster House Labour Law Conference, "The Supreme Court's Irving Decision - Last Call for Random Drug and Alcohol Testing", October 2014

Innis Christie Lecture & Symposium in Labour and Employment Law, "Labour Market Regulation and the Ivany Report", October 2014

Lancaster House Labour Law Conference, "Collective Bargaining and the Right to Strike: Are they endangered species?", October 2013

HRANS Conference, Top Legal Trends, June 2013

CBA-NS Labour & Employment Law Section Dinner Meeting "Experienced Counsel Analyze Tough Decisions", November 2012

Insight Conference, Atlantic Canada Construction Labour Relations, "Practical Advice on Drug & Alcohol Testing. Update on Where the Law is Taking Us", May 2012

Insight Conference, Co-Chair, Disability Claims in the Workplace, May 2012