

WHO SHOULD WE CALL?

Sometimes, getting started is the hardest part. Any member of our core Education law team can help point you in the right direction, including connecting you with other members of the Brownlee team. Part of our goal is to ensure that the best person, both in practice area and experience, can assist.



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5 REASONS **SCHOOLS LOVE** **BROWNLEE LAWYERS**

Choosing a lawyer to work with is about more than finding a knowledgeable and experienced person. It's also about finding someone that you trust who will help you get to brass tacks. That nebulous "fit" is why schools, administrators, boards and school associations love Brownlee lawyers. It's not just about what we do, but also how we do it:

1

WE VALUE LIFE-LONG LEARNING.

Whether in a classroom or conference room, you teach the value of life-long learning every day. That perspective isn't just for your students - it's cultivated in your teachers, staff and administrators too. At Brownlee, we also share the high importance of life-long learning. Not only do we prioritize our own learning and development to best serve you, but it is our goal to forecast and anticipate emerging issues to ensure you stay ahead of the curve. We also provide more than legal advice; we love to engage in training and workshops with you to grow your legal skills too.

2

UNLIKE OUR STEREOTYPE, WE'RE FULL OF COMPASSION.

It's not enough to just get the job done. Decision-making and the implementation of those decisions must take place in alignment with the law and your values. Policy development, procurement, terminations, locker searches, school closures and all the other decisions you make should reflect and be consistent with your goals and values, not just legal principles. At Brownlee, our team takes the time to truly get to know your team so that we never deliver legal advice or services in a black hole.

3 WE UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE STRUCTURE AND GOALS OF YOUR “BUSINESS”.

Schools are unique, not-for profit organizations that deliver vast community, social and cultural benefits. You’re so much more than curriculum! One of our goals is to provide legal support that reduces or even eliminates the risks, tasks and costs that distract from the achievement of your core objectives and team development. Put it this way, the less time you have to spend with us, the more time and money you can invest in your school and community. We love to work with school teams to help build proactive and versatile skills, programs and processes so you can focus on what matters most to you.

4 LIKE YOU, WE’RE COMMUNITY-MINDED.

You are servant-leaders in your community, and so are we. Through our legal work, we do our best to support the communities in which we live. And when we go home, our service continues. We provide free legal information through the Edmonton Community Legal Centre, we volunteer our time on not-for-profit and charitable boards, we coach community sports, we sponsor kids through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, we raise money for the United Way (over \$100,000 last year alone!), and the list goes on. Like you, we want to do our part to help our communities flourish.

5 NOT TO BRAG, BUT WE’RE WILDLY SMART AND PRACTICAL.

You won’t find us in an ivory tower. (It’s actually glass.) What we really mean is that you won’t find us spewing out a lot of academic theory and case summaries, followed by a conclusion that begins with “Well, it depends.” We are an experienced and versatile team of lawyers, paralegals and staff who want to support you in getting to a meaningful outcome. At the end of the day if we haven’t helped you to save time, energy, money or all of them to reinvest in your real core objectives and people, then we frankly haven’t done our job.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our firm has been around for over 80 years, and in that time we have definitely developed some skills. We don’t mean to bore you with a laundry list of practice areas, but it can be surprising to discover the many ways we can help. Here are just some of the ways:

- **Education law:** This is a weird bucket of issues that includes everything from the process to expel a student, operating a school outside of your geographical boundaries, closing down schools, custody and guardianship issues and the effect on decision-making, and the list goes on. This is an area of law with nooks and crannies that only experienced counsel dares to navigate.
- **Labour & Employment:** Our team not only has experience in labour and employment law (union and non-union), but also in the specific nuances that apply to school divisions. These include managing volunteers, Board of Reference appeals, Principal and other administrative designations, applying the TQS and policies, and so forth.
- **Administrative law:** Brownlee has one of the largest local authority focused administrative law practices in Western Canada. This means that our lawyers are savvy in issues such as Board governance, conflict of interest, pecuniary interest, election and removal of Trustee and many others.
- **Commercial, Finance and Real Estate:** Whether you are procuring goods or services, leasing space (either yourself or to others), constructing new structures or renovating old ones, or entering into Shared Use or Joint Ownership agreements, our experienced team can help.
- **Privacy and Access to Information:** A diverse range of issues may face school divisions including access to student records, what should or should not go into a “student record”, managing students’ medical information, responding to privacy breaches, and so forth.
- **Good ol’ Litigation:** Hopefully you don’t find yourself here often, but when you do you can rest assured that we have substantial experience in defending school divisions and related organizations, as well as advising school insurers. We are also experienced in forms of alternative dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation.