



MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

The legal complexities faced by today's municipalities are myriad. Our law firm's Municipal Liability Group has extensive experience with the broad range of legal exposures faced by municipal bodies in the administration of their duties.

We are also well-versed in the corresponding insurance concerns. Our objective is to provide cost-effective, results-oriented service to insureds and insurers. We draw on our years of experience and depth of talent to take creative and innovative approaches toward successful solutions.

Services

As recognized leaders in this field, our Municipal Liability Group represents municipalities in a wide variety of cases, including motor vehicle accidents involving road maintenance standards, sewer back-ups, and incidents at public facilities such as arenas and parks. We also have particular expertise in claims that arise from the location of underground utilities.

We are well qualified to litigate liability claims in the following areas:

- winter maintenance
- road maintenance, repair, and construction
- motor vehicle accidents
- Ontario Building Code inspections
- management of playgrounds, parks, and arenas
- utility management
- police and fire department operations
- land use and development
- employment
- human rights
- environmental liabilities
- defamation

Our lawyers have the further skills required to assist with the insurance coverage issues that often face municipalities as a result of liability claims. We readily provide opinions and representation with respect to the nuances of coverage grants, exclusions, and endorsements. This expertise links to a wide range of risk management services for our clients, including:

- drafting and interpreting municipal contracts and agreements
- drafting and interpreting insurance policies
- advising on the sufficiency of existing insurance coverage
- providing seminars and training programs
- reviewing by-laws
- advising on protocols and procedures for record-keeping
- advising with respect to media relations
- acting in quasi-criminal prosecutions
- providing a 24-hour emergency response team

Recent Publications

- *Mediating a Road Authority Claim on Behalf of a Municipality*
- *The Municipal Act: Minimum Maintenance Standards Revisited*
- *Featured Case Study: Water Damage Raubvogel et al v. The City of Vaughan et al*
- *Back to Basics on Betterment: A Primer on Recent Judicial Decisions Pertaining to the Issue of Betterment*