

THEME – Law for Small Businesses

1. There are many important decisions with legal implications that have to be made before a new business opens its doors for the first time. Roberto Noce, Q.C., a partner with the firm of Miller Thomson LLP, runs through a number of considerations to help make these decisions.
2. To err is human, but it can also be costly. Carole Aippersbach, a staff lawyer with the Legal Resource Centre in Edmonton, Alberta looks at the “Top Five Mistakes” that new business owners tend to make, so that they can avoid pitfalls and make the best possible choices.
3. Many small businesses start with a brilliant idea. Douglas Thompson, a lawyer with the Edmonton firm of Thompson Lambert, writes about intellectual property and how the law protects it and its owners.
4. Jim McCartney, a Calgary lawyer, arbitrator, and mediator, discusses the uses and advantages of mediation and arbitration to resolve disputes for small businesses in a timely and cost-effective process.
5. When it is time to sell a gem of a small business, what can the owner do to maximize his or her return? Mark Borkowski, the President of Toronto-based Mercantile Mergers & Acquisitions Corp., describes the importance of polishing up the business so that it sparkles in the spotlight!

SPECIAL REPORT – Going Global: Canadians Donate Legal Expertise

Canada is well-respected around the world for the quality of our courts, judges, laws, and justice system. As a result, Canadian lawyers and legal organizations are in much demand to help developing countries work on their own legal structures. This Special Report highlights some of them.

1. A willingness to help and a determination to create change starts early in the legal careers of idealistic and enthusiastic law students with ProBono Students Canada. Noah Aiken-Klar, the National Director, based in Toronto, Ontario describes the way the organization works, and highlights a recent project involving Canadian law students and their counterparts in Korea.

2. There can be no justice without access to justice. Edmonton lawyer Connie L. Mah writes about three innovative Canadian organizations that are making significant headway on access to justice issues in many different places in the world.

3. The British Columbia Law Courts Education Society is working with partners in Ethiopia and South Africa to help end domestic violence in those countries. Kevin Smith, the organization's Communication and Event Coordinator, writes about this ground-breaking and inspiring project.