

## G. John Samms

### Associate

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Language(s) spoken: English

Bar Admission(s): Newfoundland and Labrador,  
2016

Legal Assistant(s): [Sharon Tucker](#)

John is uniquely positioned to provide advice and advance interests on some of the most complex matters facing the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Since joining Stewart McKelvey, John has provided legal and strategic counsel to leading natural resource, mining and energy clients. John has expertise in regulatory compliance, environmental assessment, and public law, including constitutional and administrative law.

Prior to joining Stewart McKelvey, John provided legal counsel to the Premier's Office – some of his representative experience includes:

- Member of the lead negotiating team as part of the \$2.5 Billion Hibernia Dividend Backed Annuity Agreement – an aspect of the 2019 Atlantic Accord renewal.
- Advising on provincial rate mitigation efforts to account for anticipated rate increases after the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project.

Outside of his busy natural resources and energy practice, John is also an experienced litigator, where he has experience:

- Defending against applications for an election recount in the district of St. John's East – Quidi Vidi.
- Acting as co-counsel for the Toronto Maple Leafs ECHL affiliate, the Newfoundland Growlers, in a highly publicized lease dispute with St. John's Sports and Entertainment Limited.
- Defending against multiple challenges to a development in the St. John's Battery region.

John has become a thought leader in terms of legal aspects of the burgeoning hydrogen industry in Atlantic Canada. John's passion for the natural resources and energy sector predates his time as a lawyer – he studied about the fallout of the 1969 power contract in relation to the Upper Churchill Falls hydroelectric project as well as the Atlantic Accord while pursuing Bachelor's and Master's degrees in political science at Memorial University, which influenced his teachings as an instructor of Constitutional Law and Law, Government and Public Policy at Memorial University. His immense knowledge of the past uniquely positions him to advise clients on how best to approach the future.

In addition to his practice in energy, natural resources and litigation, John also represents employers on labour and employment issues, a skillset strengthened by his time working at the Premier's Office on the province's Collective Bargaining Steering Committee. John also represents municipalities on tax issues – in 2021, the City of St. John's appointed John as Commissioner of the Assessment Review Court.

## Practice Areas

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Energy  
Environmental & Natural Resources  
Human Rights  
Insurance  
Labour & Employment  
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Municipal  
Privacy

## Education & Career

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### Education

University of New Brunswick, JD, 2015  
Memorial University of Newfoundland, MA, 2012  
Memorial University of Newfoundland, BA, 2010

### Activities

Member, Canadian Bar Association  
Advisory committee member, Drug Treatment Court Feasibility Study: An Opportunity for Hope  
Commissioner, City of St. John's Assessment Review Court  
Chairperson, Legal Appointments Board for Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Instructor, "Law, Governance and Public Policy" and "Constitutional Law", Memorial University  
Member, Judicial Council of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Chairperson, Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee for the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Member, Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA), 2023  
Board member – Choices for Youth  
Board member – Newfoundland and Labrador Film Development Corporation

### Accolades

Winner of New Brunswick Trial Lawyers Association Prize for best performance in Trial Practice

## Thought Leadership

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Federal Government introduces amendments to expand the mandates of the two historic Atlantic Accord Acts to include offshore wind energy

June 01, 2023

The Winds of Change (Part 7): Paying the Piper: New Newfoundland and Labrador Fiscal Framework expects billions in revenues from wind to hydrogen projects

February 24, 2023

The Winds of Change (Part 6): Place your bids – Crown lands soon to be available for wind energy projects

December 15, 2022

The Winds of Change (Part 4): A Review of Rental and Royalty Regimes for Wind Development on Crown Lands: Options for Newfoundland and Labrador's Economic Wind Policy

August 03, 2022

The winds of change (part 3): Newfoundland and Labrador releases wind energy guidelines

July 27, 2022

The winds of change (part 2): Crown Land

July 21, 2022

**Update:** The winds of change (part 1) – Newfoundland and Labrador Government signaling major shift in energy policy

July 06, 2022

Right time to strike – Courts less reticent to strike pleadings in Newfoundland and Labrador

August 12, 2021

Newfoundland and Labrador mandates masks in workplaces

August 24, 2020

Temporary lay off timeline extended to 26 weeks from 13... temporarily

June 15, 2020

COVID-19 public health emergency in Newfoundland and Labrador – what you need to know

March 19, 2020

Are you compliant with the *Canada Elections Act*? New changes mean entities ought to be careful in assessing their obligations

September 09, 2019

Hydro-Quebec now subject to annual energy cap, but not a monthly cap, under much-disputed 1969 power contract:

*Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corp. v Hydro-Quebec, 2019 QCCA 1072*

June 24, 2019