

# CONTACT

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The CISDL offices in Montreal are provided by the McGill University Faculty of Law by reason of the involvement of students, graduates and faculty members in its activities. CISDL subsidiary offices are based at the University of Cambridge, the University of Costa Rica, and the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

# THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW



# CISDL



# THE CENTRE

The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law...

The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) is an independent international legal academic research centre based in Montreal, Canada, with subsidiaries in Cambridge, Nairobi, Costa Rica and Hong Kong. The mission of the CISDL is to promote sustainable societies and the protection of ecosystems by advancing the understanding, development and implementation of international sustainable development law.

The objectives of the CISDL are to:

- Advance international law scholarship on sustainable development through research and analysis.
- Build capacity, education and experience in sustainable development law.
- Support the development and implementation of stronger international sustainable development law.
- Promote networks and knowledge dissemination on sustainable development law.
- Continuously strengthen the institutional capacity of the CISDL.

## GOVERNANCE

The CISDL is federally incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation in Canada, and governed by a distinguished Board of Governors, chaired by Hon. Judge Charles D. Gonthier, formerly of the Supreme Court of Canada, with two CISDL Directors. It is guided by a roster of international advisors and expert collaborators. The CISDL is engaged in six primary areas of sustainable development law research and legal analysis, each of which is led by a CISDL Lead Counsel based at a law faculty, international organisation or firm. There are also three Lead Counsels responsible for cross-cutting sustainable development law issues. Through a competitive biennial process, the CISDL selects Associate Fellows, Legal Research Fellows and Senior Research Fellows, who are holders of the associated privileges and obligations of fellowship. CISDL fellows include learned jurists and scholars from all regions of the world and a diversity of legal traditions. Law students and graduates are also engaged through research assistantships and projects.

## LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE

As a result of its ongoing legal scholarship and research, the CISDL publishes books, articles, working papers and legal briefs in English, Spanish and French. It hosts academic workshops, dialogue sessions, legal expert panels parallel to international negotiations, law courses and seminar series, and conferences to further its legal research agenda. The CISDL also provides instructors, lecturers and capacity-building materials for developing and developed country governments and international organisations on national and international law in the field of sustainable development, and works with countries to develop national laws to implement international treaties in these areas.



# PARTNERSHIPS

The CISDL collaborates closely with the Law Faculty of McGill University in engaging students and interested faculty members in sustainable development law research and scholarly initiatives. The CISDL also works in cooperation with a network of developing country faculties of law, and is developing closer ties with the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law through the LRCIL and the Université de Montreal through the CERIUM. It has guidance from three Montreal-based multilateral treaty secretariats, the World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. It maintains a memorandum of understanding with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO). Leading CISDL members serve as expert delegates on the International Law Association Committee on International Law on Sustainable Development.

With the International Law Association (ILA) and the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD), CISDL chairs a Partnership Initiative, 'International Law for Sustainable Development' that was launched in Johannesburg at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development, to build knowledge, analysis and capacity about international law on sustainable development.

## ISSUES

The Centre has developed legal research agendas in the following six areas:

- Sustainable Development Law on Trade, Investment and Competition
- Sustainable Development Law on Biodiversity and Biosafety
- Human Rights and Poverty Eradication in International Sustainable Development Law
- Sustainable Development Law on Natural Resources
- Sustainable Development Law on Climate Change and Vulnerability
- Health and Sustainable Development Law

Each programme takes into account the following cross-cutting and procedural elements:

- transparency and participation
- corporate social responsibility and accountability,
- financing mechanisms,
- enforcement and dispute settlement
- criminal and constitutional law aspects of sustainable development, and
- institutional architecture and governance.

