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Government Affairs and Public Policy



Strategic advice locally,
across Canada and around
the globe.



Overview

The Dentons Government Affairs and Public Policy group in Canada comprises a world-class team of former politicians, policy leaders and leading recognized lawyers who assist clients with their policy, business, legislative, legal, political and regulatory needs at the local, provincial, national and international levels to strategically address complex issues and mitigate risk. We take advantage of Dentons' full service legal platform to achieve client goals in an increasingly complex policy and regulatory landscape.

The group offers services to clients across all of our six Canadian offices, in collaboration with our leading public policy practice in the US and Dentons professionals around the globe.



Who we are

Experienced team

The **Government Affairs and Public Policy group** has capability that is without peer in Canada.

Our team includes:

- The **Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, PC, CC, OM, QC**, Canada's 20th Prime Minister (1993-2003). First elected in 1963, Mr. Chrétien also served as a federal cabinet minister in over ten ministerial departments.
- The **Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC**, Canada's 22nd Prime Minister (2006-2015), through a global Dentons affiliation with **Harper & Associates**. Mr. Harper was elected Member of the House of Commons in 1993. He was the longest serving Conservative Prime Minister since Sir John A. MacDonal and also served as Leader of the Opposition from 2002-2004 and 2004-2006.
- **Gary Doer**, former Ambassador of Canada to the United States and former Premier of Manitoba (1999-2009).
- **David Hancock, QC**, former Premier of Alberta, Deputy Premier and Minister of many different Alberta Government departments (Justice and Attorney General, Solicitor General, Education, Advanced Education and Technology, and Human Services).
- The **Honourable James Moore, PC**, former Canadian Minister of Industry, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Minister for the Asia Pacific Gateway and the 2010 Olympics.
- **Gil Rémillard**, former Minister of International Relations, Minister of Public Security, Minister of Justice, Attorney General, and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs within the Quebec Government.
- **Robert (Bob) Murray, Ph.D.**, former Vice-President of Research at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Alberta and Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association.

This group also draws on the experienced **Dentons US Public Policy and Regulation** practice, whose members include over 240 legal and public policy advisors, including former ambassadors, senior party officials, members of the US Congress, top aides to US presidents, governors and senators, including **Newt Gingrich**, former US presidential candidate and former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, **Howard Dean**, former US presidential candidate, Governor of Vermont and chair of the Democratic National Committee, **Gordon Giffin**, former Ambassador of the United States to Canada, **Ron Kaufman**, former White House political director for President George H.W. Bush and **Maryscott (Scotty) Greenwood**, Chair of the Canadian American Business Council. The US Public Policy and Regulation practice is supported by a leading team of lawyers across eleven US states.



What we do

Global strategic advice

- Dentons Canada also draws on the international experience of the 20th Prime Minister of Canada, the **Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien, PC, CC, OM, QC**, as Counsel. Mr. Chrétien's experience in international markets and global affairs provides valued counsel and strategic advice to Canadian companies and Dentons clients. Mr. Chrétien is based in our Ottawa office.
- Through Dentons' global affiliation with the **Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, PC**, 22nd Prime Minister of Canada, and Harper & Associates, and working with our international offices and lawyers as appropriate, the Government Affairs and Public Policy group is able to provide strategic advice to global clients entering new markets, strategic issues management and implementation. Mr. Harper is based in our Calgary office.

Public policy advice and strategic political intelligence

- By knowing the legislative and political "pulse" across Canada and around the world, we offer clients a unique insight into the rapidly changing world around us. In the modern era, investment decisions, asset management strategies, business development decisions must only be made after seeking the best legal and policy advice possible. The scope of our collective experience, networks and capability is unparalleled.

Government relations and advocacy

- We provide on-the-ground support for, and management of, public policy and advocacy initiatives.
- Major changes in the political and economic landscapes across Canada, the US and around the globe have impacted legislation, regulations, trade and interactions with various levels of government. Our advisors and lawyers can help

guide you through these changes and how to work with governments to effect positive change for your organization.

- A "force multiplier," our network has the ability to mobilize, organize and activate public policy campaigns through targeted nationwide legislative and regulatory tracking; provide high-calibre analysis of national, regional and local issues and visibility; and assist with relationship-building in new markets.

Strategic counselling and planning

- Setting priorities, focusing resources where they are most needed, and strengthening governance to support those functions are keys to successful outcomes. We can help your organization set the right priorities and develop a plan to maximize your success.





Issues management and communications

- Every organization is vulnerable to crises and contentious issues, requiring high-stakes decisions to be made quickly and a number of variables to be managed effectively. A poor approach to crisis management could catalyze new issues and crises. We have a proven track record in applying strategies to help organizations successfully deal with any sudden or significant events.
- The best way to manage a crisis is preparedness. We are proficient in crisis management and can help prepare a comprehensive risk analysis so you can be prepared for issues which will minimize the impact to your organization.
- With social media and the 24-hour online news cycle, there are now more avenues than ever available for reaching an audience, which has also made it more difficult to have a lasting impact. We will help your organization infuse your communications efforts with an agenda or master plan, to ensure audience penetration and impact.

Risk analysis and mitigation

- Legislative and political change creates risk and uncertainty for business. Our advisors and lawyers can help assess and mitigate your risks across Canada, the US and globally.

Governance counselling

- Our lawyers and advisors can provide objective and detailed analyses that will guide an organization on how to be more productive, innovative, competitive and successful.
- Decision-making, reporting and accountability are essential to the success of any organization. Without good governance, an organization's chance of success is diminished. Our extensive knowledge in governance across public, private and non-profit sectors enables us to counsel any organization on the best approach to governance to fit your organization's unique needs.

Regulatory affairs

- We provide full service legal and strategic support to firms in all regulated industries. With the benefit of extensive experience our team can counsel companies on the full range of requirements for regulatory authorization or compliance. This includes preparation and submission of applications, advocacy at written or oral public hearings, as well as counsel at possible appeals or judicial reviews of agency decisions. On an ongoing basis, we provide advice on strategic engagement with regulators and oversee government authorities.

What makes Dentons different?

- We're polycentric. Dentons has no headquarters and no dominant national culture. We proudly offer clients talent from diverse backgrounds and countries, with deep experience in every legal tradition in the world.
- We offer effective business solutions. Rather than focus on theoretical legal analysis, we provide specific, dynamic advice that gets a deal done or a dispute resolved.
- We measure our success by the service we provide. Regardless of the scale and scope of your business needs, you get the individual attention you need and deserve. Whether the matter is big or small, if it is important to you, then it is important to us.



Countries
66



Locations
158

Total number of lawyers
8,300+ 

All timekeepers
11,000+ 

Total number of people
15,000+ 



Lead national contacts



Joe Lougheed

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Joe leads our Government Affairs and Public Policy group. Joe's practice is in the corporate commercial area, including private equity and corporate governance. Joe provides advice to domestic and international companies and major public institutions concerning corporate matters, the drafting and negotiation of contracts and agreements, private mergers and acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, start-ups and corporate governance and compliance.

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James Moore

Senior Business Advisor

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James Moore is a Senior Business Advisor in our Government Affairs and Public Policy group. James provides strategic advice to clients in British Columbia, across Canada and around the world. With an extensive background as a senior cabinet minister in the Government of Canada, extensive knowledge of Canada's business community, and his public policy background, he is a valued member of the Dentons team.

James served as Canada's Minister of Industry, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific Gateway and Minister for the 2010 Olympics. He served as the Senior Regional Minister for the province of British Columbia, he was also Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Prosperity, and Vice Chair of the Operations and Social Affairs Cabinet Committees.

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Dr. Robert (Bob) Murray

Managing Director

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Bob Murray is the Managing Director of our Government Affairs and Public Policy group.

Bob offers a wealth of experience in business, research, public affairs, and issues and crisis management, allowing him to provide clients with the high-caliber service they need. He advises clients on strategic planning and development, public policy, risk analysis, governance, and government relations in Canada and internationally.

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