

# Legal minds gather at Mississauga Summit

By Mike Beggs

Presidents, chief financial officers, general managers, HR professionals, and other company leaders will receive a short but sweet update on the latest legal issues at the Business Law Summit 2007 on Thursday, September 20 in Mississauga.

Back for a second year, the summit will present 11 speakers in less than four hours at the Novotel Hotel, 3670 Hurontario St.

Industry experts will shed light on such areas as: commercial real estate law, environmental law, insolvency law, trademarks and patents, immigration law, human resources law, construction law, family-owned businesses, human resources, intellectual property, litigation and more.

"The idea is, you don't need to get this kind of information on Bay Street. We have it all here," says Ray Mikkola, a partner in Mississauga's Pallett Valo law firm, who will double as emcee for the event.

About 75 people attended last year's inaugural summit.

"We're certainly hoping to go over 100 people this year. It really is snowballing," he adds. "Just about everybody who came last year said they would make it an annual event."

"I'm particularly pleased with the format. It's very fast-paced and there is broad appeal to anybody involved in business," he continues. Anybody who attends (from small, medium, large or even Fortune 500 companies) will find a number of matters of interest to them.

Slated to speak about "Holdback Obligations Under The Construction Lien Act", is Pallett Valo's Managing Partner Anna Esposito.

She says the summit was purposely structured as a half-day event, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "It worked so well because I think everybody is very busy and to receive good information in a short period of time, it's a hard thing to do," she said.

"It takes up just enough time that people can still get back to their lives, and their work day. To take up the entire day is a lot to ask of small businesses."



Speakers at the 2007 Business Law Summit, to be held at the Novotel Hotel in Mississauga on Thursday, September 20, will update business leaders in Mississauga and Peel on recent legal developments that can impact their businesses, all in just one half-day. From left to right are speakers Anna Esposito, managing partner and head of the Construction Law Group at Pallett Valo LLP, lead sponsor of the Summit; Larry Petovello of the Economic Development Office of the City of Mississauga; and Tony Cugliari, director, Legal Services at Parmalat Canada. Topics on the agenda range from commercial real estate law, construction law, labour and employment law, environmental law, insolvency law, trademark & patent law, immigration law, and other aspects of business law and business opportunities. Details at [www.BusinessLawSummit.com](http://www.BusinessLawSummit.com)

Photo by Stephen Uhraney

As lead sponsor, Pallett Valo (Peel Region's largest law firm) will provide half the speakers at the '07 summit.

"We've broadened the scope this year, to join with other sponsors," Esposito explains. "We thought if we can't provide the information, we'd bring in others who can."

Among the new areas is one of interest: business growth issues. Mississauga's Manager of Economic Development, Larry Petovello, will kick the day off with a talk about "Developing Canada's 21st Century

City."

He will touch on how to do business with the City of Mississauga, programs and services available to businesses, and permits, regulations and by-laws.

Lance Madden with the Buffalo law firm Hodgson Russ will address the topic of "Canadian Business Expansion Into The U.S."

"There's a lot of people from here looking south of the border, (we're so close)," says Mikkola. "We're ideally suited for that in

the Region of Peel."

Tony Cugliari of Parmalat Canada, will address the hot button issue of "A Client's Thoughts On Litigation...From The Perspective Of An In-House Lawyer".

Pallett Valo's Karen Groulx will touch on another timely subject: "The Long and Winding E-Mail Trail - The Potential Pitfalls of E-Mail When Litigation Looms".

"For business leaders there's a real issue here: How do you handle e-mail," he adds. "Even 10 years ago, litigation would require disclosure of all files. Now most records aren't in paper form, they're electronic."

"There's a huge issue of electronic documents. Cases are often won by what's in the e-mail, even though it seems off the cuff."

Donna Shier of Willms & Shier will cover "New and Pertinent Environmental Law Issues", while Steven Leach, from the Mississauga office of Ridout & Maybee, will look at "Recent Changes to Canadian Patent Law That Impact Your Business".

Beyond information, the Business Law Summit offers some first-rate networking opportunities.

"There's about an hour's opportunity over coffee and danishes to meet the speakers and other attendees (starting at 7:30 a.m.), and a coffee break at 10:15 to renew acquaintances or make new ones," Mikkola relates. "There will be a Q&A at the end and then lunch, where people can meet and greet. There was a lot of that going on last year."

Everything is covered (including hotel room) for a reasonable \$75 plus GST. Summit registration can be done online at [www.pallettvalo.com/bls](http://www.pallettvalo.com/bls).

"The feedback from last year was that it's really a must-attend event," Mikkola says.

## Best and brightest to discuss city's future

What will it take to make Mississauga a great city in which to live and do business?

That's what those attending the Mississauga City Summit (September 25, The Living Arts Centre) hope to find out.

This one-day conference of key business and community leaders is designed to be a catalyst for development of solutions to address issues facing the fast growing and increasingly complex urban landscape of Mississauga and to create a more sustainable, resilient city.

The Summit was inspired by the growing range of issues impacting our community including:

- The worsening fiscal gap in health and social services;
- The challenges involved in fostering environmental innovation;
- The future dimensions of economic development; and
- The growing need to strengthen community inclusion and engagement.

This summit is patterned after the successful series of summits held by the Toronto City Summit Alliance which has been credited with bringing together civil society in Toronto and thereby setting the City Agenda in the past few years in Canada. The focus of the Mississauga City Summit will however focus on the issues of most concern to Mississauga and other cities on the periphery of Toronto.

This invitation-only event for CEOs and senior executives of Mississauga companies and leaders in government, labour, non-profit agencies, and the volunteer sector, will bring international, national and local speakers to the podium to provide thought-provoking commentary.

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