

Animal Law Section Report 2020-2021

The Animal Law Section held three events in 2020-2021. As a result of the pandemic, all events took place virtually. In October, we held a webinar on “Ag-Gag Laws in Canada”, with presenter Kevin Toyne of Hill Sokalski Walsh LLP discussing recent developments in ag-gag laws in Canada and the United States. In December, we held a webinar on “The Jane Goodall Act: Legislative efforts to strengthen animal protection and recognize animal interests in Canada” featuring Marty McKendry, Senior Advisor – Parliamentary Secretary for Senator Hon. Murray Sinclair (as he then was) and Kaitlyn Mitchell, Staff Lawyer at Animal Justice. We wrapped up the year with a June webinar on “Recent Developments in Service Animals and the Law”, with presenters Jacqueline Boily and William Hedges of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and Yutta Fricke, Executive Director of the Manitoba Accessibility Office discussing legislative and regulatory developments along with case law highlighting the importance of animals in accessibility and accommodation.

We have many exciting ideas for 2021-2022 and hope to be able to meet in person once it is safe to do so.

This year’s section executive was composed of the following members:

Co-chairs:	Catherine Skinner (Worker’s Compensation Board) Elizabeth McCandless (Manitoba Law Reform Commission)
Members-at-large:	Monique St. Germain (Canadian Centre for Child Protection) Dayna Zaharia Jenna Jeffrey, law student representative (Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba)

Submitted by,
Elizabeth McCandless, Co-Chair, MBA Animal Law Section