



**RON S. MAURICE**  
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**RON S. MAURICE** is a Cree-Métis lawyer specializing in aboriginal and treaty rights advocacy and land claims negotiations on behalf of First Nations. Ron has practiced law since 1991 and is a member of the bar in Alberta (2000), Ontario (1995), and Saskatchewan (1991). Ron also has extensive experience in the negotiation of land claims, civil litigation, administrative law, and alternative dispute resolution.

In May 2002, Ron established Maurice Law Barristers & Solicitors, a boutique law firm specializing in aboriginal and treaty rights advocacy. Despite being a relatively new firm, Maurice Law has earned a strong reputation for providing top notch legal advice and advocacy and we have a proven track record for delivering excellent results on behalf of our clients. Currently, Maurice Law represents several First Nations, tribal councils, organizations and individuals across Canada in relation to the negotiation and litigation of land claims, the nature and scope of the Crown's fiduciary duties to First Nations, consultations for potential infringements on aboriginal and treaty rights, administrative law, corporate and commercial law, oil and gas, natural resource development, taxation, trusts, and alternative dispute resolution.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Member of Law Society of Alberta 2000
- Member of Law Society of Upper Canada 1995
- Member of Law Society of Saskatchewan 1991
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) - University of Saskatchewan 1990
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A. - Political Studies) - University of Saskatchewan 1988

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

- **Senior Partner**, Maurice Law Barristers & Solicitors, Calgary June 2002 – Present
- **Associate Lawyer**, Rooney Prentice Barristers, Calgary October 1998 – May 2002
- **Commission Counsel**, Indian Claims Commission, Ottawa February 1996 – October 1998
- **Director of Mediation**, Indian Claims Commission, Ottawa January 1995 – January 1996
- **Associate Legal Counsel**, Indian Claims Commission, Toronto August 1992 – January 1995
- **Negotiations Coordinator**, Indian Commission of Ontario, Toronto September 1991 – August 1992

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Successfully negotiated settlement agreement for unlawful taking of 12,500 acres of reserve land for \$82.4 million in compensation, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest specific claim settled at that time. Maurice Law was instrumental in drafting the terms of a Settlement Agreement and an innovative Trust Agreement designed to provide long term prosperity to the First Nation which were overwhelmingly ratified by the membership in February 2003
- Developed Trust Agreement for settlement of \$75 million specific claim involving unlawful taking of reserve lands set apart for three First Nations in southern Saskatchewan.
- Negotiated and drafted terms of a trust agreement providing for the management and investment of \$19.5

million to promote economic development and strategic investment in infrastructure for four northern Saskatchewan communities in 2007

- Ron represents several First Nations across Canada including the Beardy's & Okemasis (SK), Black River (MB), Cote (SK), Deh Gah Got'ie Dene Council (NWT), Missanabie Cree (ON), Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head-Lean Man (SK), Kehewin (AB), Sakimay (SK), Shuswap Indian Band (BC), Siksika Nation (AB), Sagkeeng (MB), Tsuu T'ina Nation (AB), Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake (AB), and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in relation to outstanding claims against the Crown. In addition to the many claims which have been accepted for negotiation based on submissions prepared by Maurice Law, we currently represent First Nations in negotiations on 14 specific claims covering a broad range of issues including treaty land entitlements, illegal surrenders of reserve land and mineral rights, expropriations, mismanagement and breach of trust, and associated claims for damages and restitution.
- Successfully represented the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal on several appeals before the Alberta Court of Appeal including the Charter of Rights and membership issues and oil and gas development on Metis lands
- Appointed as member of Equality, Equity and Diversity Committee of the Law Society of Alberta (2005-2006)
- Independent Chairperson of Implementation Monitoring Committee for Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Framework Agreement from 1999 to 2005. Responsible for monitoring and facilitating implementation of 20 TLE agreements between Manitoba First Nations, Canada, and Manitoba
- As Commission Counsel to the Indian Claims Commission of Canada, Ron was involved in 66 public inquiries into specific claims from 1992 to 1998 (see attached list). Researched and drafted comprehensive legal opinions and Commission inquiry reports on a broad range of claims and issues
- Directed a team of 16 to 20 legal and research professionals and managed the fiscal and administrative operations of the Indian Claims Commission as a member of the Management Committee
- Interviewed over 100 Elders on the spirit and intent of treaties and the historical background of specific claims and assisted in the development of processes to integrate oral history and traditions of First Nations with non-aboriginal concepts of law and justice
- Chaired and facilitated the resolution of disputes in claims negotiations between representatives of First Nations and federal and provincial governments through the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques
- Independent technical advisor to the Assembly of First Nations-Canada Joint Task Force on Claims Policy Reform and assisted in drafting proposed legislation to establish an independent claims tribunal (1996-1998)
- Faculty co-leader of certified course on Specific Claims at the Turn of the Century at Banff Centre for Aboriginal Management (1996-2001) and regular speaker or chair of conferences including Aboriginal Oil and Gas Forum (2007), Maurice Law-Native Law Centre Conferences on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Advocacy (2005-2007), Pacific Business Institute on specific claims (2004), Indigenous Bar Association on the duty to consult (2004), Insight Conference on treaty right to taxation (2003), the Canadian Bar Association on specific claims policy reform (1999), and the Canadian Bar Association on alternative dispute resolution (1999)
- Board Member for the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (1993-1995)
- Board Member for Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto (1992-1994)

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## **SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

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- Proven negotiation skills and ability to resolve outstanding land claims and reach settlements between First Nations and government representatives by generating creative options for mutual gain
- Excellent analytical and advocacy skills coupled with strong oral and written communication skills
- Sound judgment and strategic decision making abilities with solid understanding of legal, policy, historical, and practical issues relevant to validation, negotiation, settlement, and implementation of specific claims agreements
- Resourceful, adaptable, and dedicated professional with strong interpersonal skills and sensitivity to client's needs and aspirations

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## **REFERENCES**

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- Available upon request

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## LITIGATION – LIST OF COURT CASES

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- *Lameman et al. v. Canada and Alberta* – ABCA & SCC [Illegal Surrender of Papaschase Indian Reserve 136]
- *Jackson et al. v. Piikani Nation, Yellowhorn et al.* – FCTD [Judicial review re unlawful removal of Councillors]
- *Vicklund v. Peavine Metis Settlement and Willier* – ABCA [Membership appeal and Charter of Rights]
- *Little Chief v. Minister of Indian Affairs, Siksika Nation, et al.* – FCTD [Judicial review challenging validity of referendum approving settlement of land claim]
- *Woodward v. Larocque* – ABCA [Métis Land Appeal]
- *Martineau v. Martineau and Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement* – ABCA [Métis Land Appeal]
- *Tsuu T'ina Nation (Band) v. Canada* – FCTD [Illegal surrender of reserve land]
- *Siksika Nation v. Walji Holdings Ltd., Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission and Attorney General of Alberta* – ABQB [Judicial review re approval of liquor license adjacent to Siksika Indian Reserve]
- *Fishing Lake Metis Settlement v. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, Metis Settlements General Council, and Imperial Oil Resources Ltd.* – ABCA [Oil and Gas Appeal]
- *Paramount Resources Ltd. v. Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, Elizabeth Metis Settlement, et al.* – ABCA [Oil and Gas Appeal and judicial review application for order of prohibition]
- *Stoney Tribal Administration v. Walsh Wilkins Barristers & Solicitors* – ABQB [Taxation of Legal Accounts]
- *Fletcher v. Ontario and Canada* – Ont. SC [Treaty Land Entitlement – Missanabie Cree First Nation]
- *Wood Buffalo First Nation v. Petro-Canada* – AEUB [Hearing re Meadow Creek In Situ Oil Sands Project]
- *Her Majesty the Queen v. Clement* [Treaty 9 Hunting Rights]
- *Her Majesty the Queen v. Landry* [Treaty 9 Fishing Rights]
- 44 Saskatchewan First Nations v. Canada [Accounting of Lands and Monies]

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## INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION – LIST OF INQUIRIES AND MEDIATIONS

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From 1992 to 1998, Ron was involved in the following inquiries as legal counsel for the Commission:

- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation [Damage to I.R. 201 from WAC Bennett Dam]
- Athabasca Denesuline [Treaty Harvesting Rights North of 60°]
- Bigstone Cree Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Blood Tribe/Kainaiwa [Akers Surrender]
- Buffalo River Band [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Canoe Lake Cree Nation [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Carry the Kettle First Nation [1905 Surrender]
- Carry the Kettle First Nation [Cypress Hills Reserve]
- Chippewa Tri-Council [Coldwater Narrows Reservation]
- Chippewa Tri-Council [Collins Treaty]
- Chippewas of the Thames [Muncey Land Surrender]
- Cold Lake First Nation [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Cowessess First Nation [1907 Surrender]
- Cowessess First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Duncan's Indian Band [1928 Surrender]
- Eel River Bar First Nation [Eel River Dam Claim]
- Fishing Lake First Nation [1907 Surrender]
- Flying Dust First Nation [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Friends of Michel Society [1958 Band Enfranchisement]
- Gamblers First Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Homalco Indian Band [Aupe IR 6 & 6A]
- Joseph Bighead Band [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Kahkewistahaw First Nation [1907 Surrender]
- Kahkewistahaw First Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Kawacatoose First Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Key Band [1909 Surrender]

- Lac La Ronge Indian Band [Candle Lake Claim]
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band [School Lands Claim]
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Lax Kw'Alaams First Nation [Tsimpsean IR 2 Surrender]
- Long Plain First Nation [TLE Loss of Use Claim]
- Lucky Man Cree Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Mamaleleqala'Qwe'Qwa Sot Enox Band [McKenna-McBride Applications]
- Mikisew Cree First Nation [Treaty Entitlement to Economic Benefits]
- Mississauga Tribal Claims Council [1923 Williams Treaty]
- Mississauga Tribal Claims Council [Crawford Purchase]
- Mississauga Tribal Claims Council [Gunshot Treaty]
- Mississauga Tribal Claims Council [Toronto Purchase]
- Mistawasis First Nation [1911, 1917, 1919 Surrenders]
- Mistawasis First Nation [Compounded Interest on Compensation]
- Muskowpetung First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Moose Deer Point First Nation [Recognition of Pottawatomi Rights in Canada]
- Moosomin First Nation [1909 Surrender]
- Nak'Azdli First Nation [Aht-Len-Jees I.R. 5 Claim]
- Namgis First Nation [Cormorant Island Claim]
- Namgis First Nation [McKenna-McBride Applications] BC
- Nekaneet First Nation [Entitlement to Treaty Benefits]
- Ocean Man Band [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Ochapawace First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Pasqua First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Peguis First Nation [1907 Surrender]
- Peguis First Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Peepeekisis First Nation [File Hills Colony]
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation [1903 Surrender]
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation [Medical Aid Claim]
- Sakimay First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation [Treaty Land Entitlement]
- Squamish Nation [Bouillon Claim]
- Standing Buffalo First Nation (QVIDA) [Flooding Claim]
- Sturgeon Lake First Nation [1913 Surrender]
- Sturgeon Lake First Nation [Agricultural Lease]
- Sumas Indian Band [I.R. 7 Surrender]
- Walpole Island First Nation [Boblo Island]
- Waterhen Lake First Nation [Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range]
- Washagamis Bay First Nation [Reserve 38D]
- Young Chippewyan Band [Stony Knoll Indian Reserve]

In addition to these inquiries, Ron was also involved in the following matters as a mediator or facilitator:

- Chippewas of the Thames [Muncey Land Surrender]
- Cote First Nation [1905 Surrender]
- Cote, Key and Keeseekoose First Nations [Pelly Hay Lands]
- Fishing Lake First Nation [1907 Surrender]
- Kainawa / Blood Tribe [Akers Surrender]
- Lax Kw'alaams First Nation [Tsimpsean IR 2 Surrender]
- Michipicoten First Nation [Pilot Project]