

Garth L. Wallbridge, LL.B, ICD.D  
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## **PROFILE**

Lawyer with twenty-three years experience as a corporate commercial lawyer in the North including three years as General Counsel for a Northern Aboriginal economic development corporation.

Experience with commercial and corporate law issues including contracts, employment, regulatory, corporate structures, corporate governance, intellectual property and privacy.

Experience in mineral exploration, mining and mine reclamation, Aboriginal land claims, self government and business development, construction and transportation (aviation, road and marine).

Business executive with thirty years practice in leadership, development, operation and expansion of profitable business ventures in Northern Canada.

Extensive board experience, with a personal focus on enhancing skills in this area by continuing education. In 2013 obtained the designation ICD.D from the Institute of Corporate Directors after completion of studies at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.

Experienced executive business leader able to work collaboratively with other senior leaders to develop and implement strategic vision so as to increase employment and profitability. Presently enrolled and nearing completion of studies in the first cohort of the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association's program Business Leadership for In House Counsel, at Rotman, leading to the designation CIC.C, which will be completed in April 2015.

Skilled in complex negotiation, and in combining insightful analytical skills with polished writing and presentation skills.

## **CORE AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Employment Law
- Regulatory Compliance
- Corporate Governance
- Professional and Technical Writing
- Business Case Development
- Business Case Development Speaking
- Employee Training and Development
- Aboriginal Law
- Privacy Law
- Corporate Structures
- Corporate Finance
- Business Expansion
  - Public Relations and Public
- Board Development and Guidance

## **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **PRINCIPAL LAWYER**

**2014 - present**  
**2009-2012**

*WALLBRIDGE LAW OFFICE, Yellowknife, NWT*

Provide legal counsel to Aboriginal economic development companies and to industry generally on Aboriginal and business issues. <http://garthwallbridge.com/>

### **Key Achievements:**

- Was hired as full time in house General Counsel for the Tlicho Investment Corporation in late 2012.

- Trustee for the business assets of a Member of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly; provided guidance and direction to the executive staff of the group of businesses in a remote Nunavut community which operate in the hotel, airline service contracting, heavy equipment construction (including quarry operations) and a heavy equipment repair shop. (From 2010 to 2013.)
- Prepared an academic research paper titled *Towards a Sahtu Regional Economic Development Corporation*.
- Invited to speak at the International Bar Association's annual conference in Dublin, Ireland (2012) and to Lyon, France (2013) on the subject of Canadian Aboriginal businesses and individuals in the mining business.
- Regularly travel throughout the NWT and Canada to lecture and to teach courses on *Employment Law, Effective Board Governance* and *Understanding Canadian Aboriginal People*.

## **PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**Nov/13-Feb/14**

*DENINU KÙE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., Yellowknife, NWT*

Retained for two specific tasks on a short term assignment: to oversee the work of the General Manager, a citizen of the First Nation and to consider new, profitable enterprises generally, and more specifically to capitalize on the Accommodation Agreement with Avalon Rare Metals Inc. for the development of the Nechalacho Rare Earth Element (REE) Project; recommended to the Board strategic directions for the Corporation's businesses.

### **Key Achievements:**

- Negotiated with DeBeers Canada Inc., leading to the purchase, for a nominal sum, of 27 used mobile camp units.
- Appointed Chairman of the Board of a joint venture company supplying goods and services to industry within and outside the NWT.
- Sought out by investors in southern Canada to broker a deal to provide \$700M in capital financing to expand the NWT hydro electric grid and discussions with the NWT Power Corporation in regards to this subject and possible contract work for the Corporation and citizens of the First Nation.

## **GENERAL COUNSEL**

**Oct/12-Sept/13**

*TLICHO INVESTMENT CORPORATION, Yellowknife, NWT*

After three years of near full time work as outside counsel for the firm was hired to move in house and to be responsible for legal services for the parent corporation and its twenty-six wholly owned subsidiaries, and liaise with legal counsel and management of ten joint venture companies in all areas of commercial law including: employment, contracts, regulatory, business transactions, privacy, Aboriginal joint ventures, corporate governance and corporate structures.

<http://www.tlicho.ca/businesses/tlicho-investment-corporation>

Primary point of contact for all leaders and business units for all legal matters. Oversaw work of outside legal providers.

Worked closely with the Board of Directors of the parent company and joint venture appointees on government relations (including amongst Aboriginal governments), strategic planning and Board training. Developed a complete set of policies for the activities of the Board.

As a member of a small executive management team shared business management responsibilities for strategic direction, budgets, increasing revenues, development of new business ventures, achievement of corporate objectives, external messaging, expansion and improvement of existing operations.

Lead a successful project to put in place a surety program for the engineering and construction companies and initiated an organization wide insurance program with good granular underwriting information, plugged coverage gaps and dealt with non-compliance issues moving insurance from a commodity to a strategic purchase.

#### **Key Achievements:**

- Trained a Tlicho citizen to be a paralegal, responsible for corporate records, both internal and external.
- Presented a training session at all quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors to the eleven Aboriginal Board members on topics to aid them in their work. Led a strategic planning process for the Board. Recommended and received approval to implement a system of committees to better manage the workload of the Board, developed committee mandates and accomplished the full implementation of the committee structure.
- Lead responsibility for a newly created joint venture with the Deninu K'ue First Nation to seek work to develop a new mining property under an *Impact and Benefits Agreement* for the Avalon Rare Minerals Thor Lake Project and lead negotiator to develop a business relationship with a group of Yukon First Nations to expand the mine reclamation book of business in the Yukon.

#### **DIRECTOR OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS 2006-2009**

*NORTHWESTEL INC., Yellowknife, NWT*

Joined the primary public communication provider for all of Arctic Canada to lead services optimization for aboriginal clients and staff, while overseeing planning and operations for this initiative. <http://www.nwtel.ca/>

#### **Key Achievements:**

- Chaired a multidisciplinary team tasked with increasing corporate Aboriginal employment rates and successfully increased this metric by 38% in one year.
- Served as the sole NorthwTel ambassador to Aboriginal communities across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon, Northern British Columbia and Northern Alberta.
- Developed the curriculum and personally taught an in-house Aboriginal Awareness Training Program to a total of more than 500 company Board members, executives and employees to foster a strong and positive understanding of cultural diversity so as to optimize work performance, team morale and customer service. (Have taught this course in Calgary, AB for other clients.)
- Negotiated with Aboriginal groups leading to the development of one new Aboriginal joint business venture – Tundra Communications (with the Inuvialuit Development Corporation), enhanced business relations with existing Latitudes Wireless (with the Dakwakada Development Corporation of the Champagne and Aishikik First Nation, Yukon), negotiated with a First Nations community, Iskut, in Northern British Columbia considering fibre optic infrastructure to every

business and residence in the community and laid the groundwork for several Aboriginal joint ventures relating to the pending Mackenzie Gas Project.

- Collaborated with the Human Resource department to market strategic recruitment processes that appealed to the Aboriginal community, earning a reputation as a leading employer of choice for its diversity initiatives as recognized by Canada's Top 100 Employers for two years running.
- Implemented Sunchild's real-time distance learning program in Paulatuk, NWT, becoming the premier corporate partner North of 60 for the Sunchild E-Learning Community <http://www.sccyber.net/>, including successful negotiations to establish NorthwesTel as the sole corporate sponsor from the telecommunications industry.

## **PRINCIPAL LAWYER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**1992-2006**

*WALLBRIDGE & ASSOCIATES, BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS, Yellowknife, NWT*

Founded a boutique law firm, employing as many as 4 lawyers and 10 support staff to manage the operations, finances, planning and client relationships. Directed the full HR cycle from initial screening to ongoing training and development initiatives, including recruitment of the first female Inuk lawyer in Canada. Represented a diverse clientele across aboriginal and land claim organizations, the government and crown corporations. Operated a satellite law office in Rankin Inlet for two years.

### **Key Achievements:**

- Legal counsel for Mr. Chuck Fibke, for C.F. Mineral Research and for Dia Met Minerals prior to the opening of the NWT's first diamond mine at Ekati. (Do not represent these parties at this time.)
- Legal counsel for the North Slave Metis Alliance under two successive presidents.
- Legal counsel for Sakku Investments Corporation <http://www.sakkuinvestments.ca/>: (owned by an Inuit "Regional Inuit Organization" under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*; created 15 corporate bodies for the parent company; assisted in the development of a joint venture to operate a ship for ocean transportation of fuel and dry goods; shared the negotiation and business development responsibilities with the CEO to create Sakku Drugs, a pharmacy in Rankin Inlet; responsible for the financing and security to build, then expand, an office building including the development and completion of all leases; prepared a comprehensive corporate analysis to restructure the companies into three operating divisions; tasked with reviewing the possible acquisition of an equity interest in NWT Air; attended Board meetings to provide legal counsel to the Board and to assist the CEO with business case development and presentation; assisted with the transition from a southern CEO to a local Inuk.
- Pursued and secured key client accounts through exceptional relationships management acumen and effective legal advice and service including the Nunavut Power Corporation, NWT Power Corporation, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation.
- Active in the business analysis and lending decisions for an Aboriginal Capital Corporation, the NWT Metis-Dene Development Fund. Regularly sought assignments to manage tasks such as the full hiring process for a new General Manager, and retaining and overseeing the work of experts to develop a plan to increase the size of the fund of monies available to lend.
- Coached, mentored and supervised law students and new hires to become key contributing team members.
- Earned a reputation as a key consultant for business development and operations, public relations and strategic planning.

- Worked with a team of Metis leaders from throughout Canada to advocate for a Metis Policy Team within the Royal Commission for Aboriginal people. Retained as the Team Leader of the Metis Policy Team and worked as a contractor with them for 18 months.

### **EARLIER CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Purchased a small business in Yellowknife, The Woodstove Shop, a vendor and installer of woodstoves and related products. Expanded operations to include the manufacture of sporting goods including sled dog harnesses and packsacks, which were both sold at retail in Yellowknife and sold to wholesale clients throughout Canada. Doubled sales every year for three years. Purchased and renovated two commercial properties for the business: one, a retail store with three tenants and the second on which I built a warehouse. Sold the business after three years with a net profit sufficient to fund three years of law school.
- Worked for Transport Canada for three years as a Crash Rescue Firefighter where regularly sought out extra tasks such as being a planner working with the Airport Manager and worked in the Maintenance Division to develop and implement a preventative maintenance program for twelve airports in the Western Arctic.
- General Manager of the Katudgevik Co-op in Coral Harbour (where I trained a local Inuk to take on the role of General Manager on my departure), store manager of a Peoples Jewellers store, and department manager for a Canadian Tire store, both in Winnipeg.

### **EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS**

**BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FOR IN HOUSE COUNSEL, CIC.C,** (anticipated April 2015)  
*University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, Toronto, ON*

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ICD.D, 2013**  
*University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, Toronto, ON*

**FRENCH LANGUAGE TRAINING (50 HOURS OF PRIVATE LESSONS), 2009**  
*University of Quebec, Chicoutimi, QC*

**CALLED TO THE BAR OF NUNAVUT 1999, CALLED TO THE BAR OF THE NWT 1992**

**BACHELOR OF LAWS, LL.B., 1991**  
*McGill University, Montreal, QC*

**PROFESSIONAL MEDIA TRAINING** (On several occasions most importantly when serving at the national level with the Canadian Bar Association.)

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Practical Tools to Reduce your Organization's Risk with Social Media Use, Canadian Corporate Counsel Association webinar, October 2014.*

*Managing Risk and Ensuring Business Continuity, Canadian Corporate Counsel Association webinar, September 2014*

*Share Capital Basics, Canadian Bar Association webinar, April, 2014.*

*Understanding the Canadian European Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* by the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association, December, 2013.

*National Environmental, Energy and Resources Law Summit: Natural Resources and Energy Legal Developments*, Continuing Legal Education Conference Canadian Bar Association, two day program, Yellowknife, NT, June, 2013

*Boardroom Financial Essentials*, Institute of Corporate Directors, one day program, Edmonton, AB, March, 2012

*Get on Board*, Board of Directors Training (four half day courses)  
Canadian Board Diversity Council, Calgary, AB, 2011

*Perspectives on Treaties Between Aboriginal People and the Crown*, Continuing Legal Education Conference, Canadian Bar Association, Winnipeg, MB, 2011

*New Developments in Law, Policy and Legislation*, Continuing Legal Education Conference, Canadian Bar Association, Toronto, ON, 2010.

*Standing at a Crossroad: How are Indigenous Perspectives Influencing the Evolution of Canadian Law?*, Continuing Legal Education Conference Canadian Bar Association, Yellowknife, NT, 2008.

*Verbal Judo*  
Arctic College, Yellowknife, NT 2008

*Train the Trainer Training*  
Aurora College, Yellowknife, NT 2008

*An Update on Current Legal Issues in Representing and Doing Business with Indigenous Peoples*, Continuing Legal Education Conference Canadian Bar Association, Winnipeg, MB, 2007.

*The New Realities of Doing Business: Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resources*, Continuing Legal Education Conference, Canadian Bar Association, Calgary, AB, 2006.

*Aboriginal Law in Canada Today*, Continuing Legal Education Conference, joint Canadian Bar Association and Indigenous Bar Association, Victoria, BC, 2005.

*Co-operative Organizational Theory*  
Co-operative College of Canada – Correspondence course, Saskatoon, SK, 1978

## **SPEAKING AND TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS**

Prospects North *Aboriginal Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements North of 60 – Why Should I Care?* Yellowknife, NT (September, 2013) (Speaker)

Naturallia Sault Ste. Marie *Mining Round Table: Aboriginal Land Claims and Mining in the NWT*, Sault Ste. Marie, ON (October, 2013) (Presenter)

Salon Classe Export Lyon *Canadian Aboriginal People in the Mining Industry*, Lyon, France (November, 2013) (Speaker)

D2K Avocats, World Trade Centre *Aboriginal Business Joint Venture Opportunities in Northern Canada*, Lyon, France (November, 2013) (Speaker)

*Arctic Logistics & Infrastructure: Innovative Solutions for Canada's North*, Yellowknife, NT, June, 2013. (Conference Chair)

International Bar Association, Dublin, Ireland, 3 October, 2012, *Canadian Aboriginal People in the Mining Business* (Presenter).

Public Interest Law Alliance, Dublin, Ireland, 4 October, 2012, *Indigenous Law in Canada* (Presenter).

Infonex Conference *Best Practises in Human Resource Management for First Nations and Northern Communities*, Yellowknife, January 25, 2012 and prepared and presented a one hour session titled *Drafting Proper Employment Agreements*. (Conference Co-chair).

"Metis People and Natural Resource Issues", *Canadian Bar Association – National Aboriginal Law Section, Saskatoon, SK, 2012* (Speaker)

*Infonex : Best Practices in Human Resource Management for Aboriginal and Northern Communities*: Presenter – "Drafting Proper Employment Agreements" and Conference Chair, Yellowknife, NT, January, 2012 (Speaker and Chair)

#### *Effective Board Governance*

Teach a two day course on the topic to various groups on an ongoing basis. (Instructor)

"Understanding Canadian Aboriginal People"

*Arctic Gas Symposium, Calgary, AB 2011*

Taught a one day Master's Session for industry leaders. (Instructor)

"What Everyone Needs to Know About Wills and Estates"

Two hour primer on the subject delivered to workshops in Fort Good Hope, N'dilo and Dettah for First Nations, and to groups such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Employee Assistance Program and the Yellowknife Seniors Society. 2000 - present (Instructor)

"Best Practices for Creating a Clear, Transparent Consultation Process – An Aboriginal Perspective"  
*Aboriginal Consultation for Industry North of 60 Conference, Yellowknife, NT, 2010* (Speaker)

"Exploring Aboriginal Perspectives on Arctic Oil & Gas Development and Examining Ways to Improve Aboriginal Involvement in the Sector"

*Arctic Gas Symposium, Calgary, AB, 2010* (Speaker)

"The Duty to Consult in Aboriginal Law – Impact of Land and Resource Boards"

*Aboriginal Law North of 60 Conference, Yellowknife, NT, 2009* (Speaker)

"Understanding Canadian Aboriginal People" *NorthwesTel 2006-2009* Developed the curriculum for and taught a one day class on more than 40 different occasions to a total of 500 Board Members, Executives and Employees. (Instructor)

"NorthwesTel and Aboriginal Joint Ventures"

*Inuvik Petroleum Show, Inuvik, NT, 2006* (Speaker)

"Bill C-7, The First Nations Governance Act"

Government of Canada, Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources, Ottawa, ON

*On behalf of the Canadian Bar Association, 2003* (Speaker)

“A Primer on Aboriginal Joint Ventures”  
*Prospects North Conference, Yellowknife, NT, 2001*(Speaker)

“The New Northwest Territories: Land Claims and Economic Development”  
*Partners North Conference, Edmonton, AB, 1996* (Speaker)

“Utilisation of Firewood for Home and Industrial Use in the NWT”  
*Canadian Wood Energy Institute, Quebec City, QC, 1986* (Speaker)

### **COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Board Member, Northern Aboriginal Business Association, 2011-present

Chair, Canadian Bar Association, NWT Aboriginal Law Section, 2010-2012

President, Habitat for Humanity Yellowknife, 2005–2009

Dispute Resolution Panel Member, Federal Agreement on Internal Trade, 1997–2002

Member, Rotary Club of Yellowknife, 1985–present

National Chair, Canadian Bar Association, Aboriginal Law Section, 2002–2003

Adjudication Panel Member, Assessment Appeal Tribunal, Government of the NWT, 2001–2004

School Board Trustee, Yellowknife Education District #1, 1996–1997

Chairman, Yellowknife Economic Development Authority, 1996, Board Member, 1994-1995

Lay Member, NWT Certified General Accountants Board of Governors, 1994–1999

Board Member, Métis Dene Development Fund Ltd., 1994–1996

Corporate Secretary and Vice-President, Junior Achievement Council of the NWT, 1993–1998

Founding Director, Metis Nation Lawyers Association, 1993 - 1996

Board Member, Ecology North, 1991–1992

Adjudication Panel Member, McGill University Student's Society Judicial Board, 1990-1991

Founding Director, McGill Law School Aboriginal Law Students Association, 1989