



# Health Ethics Symposium

## The Landscape of Health Law in Canada: Understanding Commonalities and Differences Across Provinces

Thursday, 20 November 2025, 12:00 – 3:00 PM MST

### AGENDA Overview

Virtual presentations via Zoom application

**Zoom link**



| Session    | Time        | Title                                                                         | Speakers/Moderators                                                       | Description/Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Welcome    | 12:00-12:10 | Opening Remarks                                                               | Michael van Manen                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Speaker #1 | 12:10-1:00  | <b>Substitute Decision-Making Across Canada:<br/>A Health Law Perspective</b> | <b>Tracey Bailey</b><br><br><b>Moderator:</b><br><b>Michael van Manen</b> | In situations when a person is unable to make independent decisions in matters pertaining to their health care, a substitute decision maker may be needed. This could be a close friend or family member, or alternatively, a person appointed through a representative agreement or the law courts. Substitute decision-making can be challenging, particularly in situations where an individual has not voiced their values, beliefs, or other aspects to be used to inform decision-making. In comparison, there are also those situations where substitute decision-makers hold different values or beliefs or otherwise disagree regarding decision-making. This session will address the following questions: What is the legal basis for someone making decisions on behalf of another? What latitude do substitute decision-makers have when it comes to decision-making? What differences exist across Canada when it comes to substitute decision-making? |
| Break      | 1:00-1:10   |                                                                               |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <b>Speaker #2</b> | 1:10-2:00 | <b>Regulated Health Professionals in the Age of Social Media</b> | <b>Lisa Spiegel</b><br><br><b>Facilitator:</b><br><b>Gillian Lerner Meyer</b>    | As social media becomes woven into our lives, regulated health professionals face unique challenges in navigating its risks. This presentation will examine how professional regulators across Canada are responding to the impact of social media on standards of practice, public trust and professional accountability. Drawing on recent cases and guidelines from regulators, the session will highlight consistent themes and where regulators may be divided. Topics will include professional boundaries, privacy and confidentiality, the lines between personal expression and professional conduct. This presentation will also examine how regulators and Courts have balanced freedom of expression with the regulatory guidelines and the duty to uphold public confidence in the profession. It will also explore proactive strategies for risk management, including best practices for personal use of social media and guidance for engaging with patients or the public on line. By situating these issues within a cross-Canadian framework, this presentation will discuss how to remain compliant, ethical and credible in the age of social media. |
| <b>Speaker #3</b> | 2:00-2:50 | <b>Virtual Health Care in Canada – Practical Implications</b>    | <b>Karen Bennett-Clayton</b><br><br><b>Facilitator:</b><br><b>Sarah Andersen</b> | An overview of the unique issues arising from the provision of virtual health care in Canada provincially and extra-provincially. Topics to be covered include: current legislative and regulatory requirements impacting the provision of virtual health care; standard of care issues unique to provision of virtual health care; and, risks arising from provision of virtual health care.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wrap-Up</b>    | 2:50-3:00 | <b>Closing Remarks</b>                                           | <b>Michael van Manen</b>                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta, 5-00 University Terrace, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2T4**  
**Email: [dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca](mailto:dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca), Phone: (780) 492-6676**