



Accessible justice and human rights for persons with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

February 29, 2024

Speakers

**Lawyers: Philippe André Tessier, Julius Grey, Patrick Martin-Ménard,
Robert Lattanzio, Pierre-Luc Fréchette**

John Molot MD, Sébastien Otis, Michel Gaudet, André Prévost

[Description and Agenda](#)



Philippe-André Tessier

**PRESIDENT QUÉBEC HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOUTH RIGHTS
COMMISSION (CDPDJ)**

Mr. Philippe-André Tessier was appointed Chairman by the National Assembly on February 28, 2019, and was reappointed on December 7, 2023. Mr. Tessier had previously been Vice-Chairman responsible for the Charter mandate since December 2017 and had been acting Chairman since March 15, 2018. Prior to his appointment to the Commission, he was a partner and head of the labor law group at Robinson Sheppard Shapiro, and his practice focused on labor and employment law and administrative law.

A graduate of the Université de Montréal in law, industrial relations and communication sciences, Mr. Tessier is a member of the Québec Bar and the Ordre des conseillers en ressources humaines agréés. He also holds the Certified Corporate Director (CCD) designation. Mr. Tessier has been very active in his professional order, having served as President of the Young Bar Association of Montreal (YBAM), Secretary and Treasurer of the Montreal Bar Council, and member of the Executive Committee and General Council of the Québec Bar. He was also a member and secretary of the Board of Directors of Éducaloi and, until his appointment to the Commission, a member and president of the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ). Mr. Terrier was also very involved in the college and university student movement during his studies and chaired the accreditation committee set up under the Act respecting the accreditation and financing of students' associations.



Julius H. Grey, Ad.E.

Member of the Quebec Bar

Education:

B.A. McGill (Great Distinction) 1970

BCL 1971

MA 1973

BCC Oxford (1st class) 1973

Senior Partner – Grey Casgrain (numerous cases at all levels of court) 1978 – to present ; Mentor, Trudeau Foundation – 2021-2022 ; Member of the Faculty of Law McGill 1977-2003 ; Teacher – Human Rights Course – PEI 1983 – 1994 ; Lecturer Université de Montréal 1977 – 1985 ; President Canadian Human Rights Foundation 1985 – 1988 ; Author – Capitalism and the Alternatives, 2019 ; Author – Immigration Law in Canada, 1984 ; Co-Author – Entretiens avec Julius Grey, Boreal 2014 (with Geneviève Nootens) ; Numerous articles (law, politics, literature, music) ; Médaille du Barreau du Québec - 2004 (highest distinction of the Quebec Bar).

Environmental Health Association of Canada - Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada
Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec - Environmental Health Association of Québec



Patrick Martin-Ménard

Patrick Martin-Ménard is a graduate of McGill University's Bachelor of Civil Law/Common Law (B.C.L./LL.B.) program. He joined our team in 2016 as an articling student and is now an associate with our firm. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Health Law and Policy program at Université de Sherbrooke.

Mr. Martin-Ménard holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the Université de Montréal (with a place on the Dean's List for academic excellence) and a Masters of International Affairs (M.I.A.) from Columbia University in New York. He also holds a Masters of Sciences (M.Sc.) in journalism from Columbia University in New York. Mr. Martin-Ménard worked for several years as a journalist at Radio-Canada before focusing his career on law and joining our firm.

His areas of practice are medical malpractice, forensic psychiatry and professional liability.



Pierre-Luc Fréchette LL.L., J.D.

**Co-manager of public and legal affairs
Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation**

Pierre-Luc has been a member of the Ontario Bar since 2017 and is a former criminal lawyer. He now works in public and legal affairs for the Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation. The RQOH brings together, supports and represents 8 regional federations and 1,200 housing OSBL in Quebec. Pierre-Luc is also neuroatypical and, in addition to the legal, political and social issues surrounding housing, is interested in philosophy and poetry.

His 10-minute presentation will focus on the normative framework of housing policies and its impact on the inclusion of people with disabilities and on indoor air quality in residential living environments.



Robert Lattanzio, LLB BCL
Executive Director, ARCH Disability Law Centre

Robert Lattanzio, who has served as the Executive Director of ARCH Disability Law Centre since 2015, embarked on his journey with ARCH back in 2003.

Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the field, arguing influential test cases up to the Supreme Court of Canada. As a recognized authority, Robert is a frequent guest lecturer on pivotal topics such as human rights law, education law, and disability rights.

His profound commitment to disability rights and social justice is evident in his extensive work and volunteer involvement within various equity-seeking communities. A recipient of the Law Foundation of Ontario's Guthrie Award in 2022, Robert's contributions to access to justice are unparalleled. He earned his LL.B and B.C.L. degrees with distinction from McGill University in 2003.

In his forthcoming presentation, Robert will discuss the role of medical professionals within the duty to accommodate process and highlight some key considerations when determining what information is needed within the context of human rights law.



John Molot, MD

Dr. John Molot began his focused medical practice on environmental health in Ottawa in the 1980s and has been a staff physician at the Environmental Health Clinic at Women's College Hospital in Toronto since 2007. He is an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Molot has developed an expertise in indoor air quality and health effects. In the 1990s, he was appointed as Medical Advisor to the Federal Task Force on Material Emission Standards, chaired by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and from 2014 to 2016, he was a member of the National Research Council Task Group on Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality.

In 2007, he collaborated in developing *The Medical Perspective on Environmental Sensitivities* for the Canadian Human Rights Commission, which led to the Commission's recognition of environmental sensitivities as a disability with the legal right to accommodation. In 2013, he wrote the *Academic and Clinical Perspectives* segment of a business case proposal to build a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health, which led to the creation of the Ontario Task Force on Environmental Health (2016-18), to which Dr. Molot was appointed by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario.

Presently, he is a member of the Canadian Committee on Indoor Air Quality, and medical advisor for Canadians for Properly Built Homes and the Environmental Health Associations of Quebec and Canada. He has recently published peer-reviewed articles on MCS titled, *Neurological susceptibility to environmental exposures: pathophysiological mechanisms in neurodegeneration and multiple chemical sensitivity* and *Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: It's time to catch up to the science*. Dr. Molot has also authored a book called *12,000 Canaries Can't be Wrong*.



Sébastien Otis

Education and Cooperation Counselor

**Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse Québec
(Human Rights Commission Québec)**

Employed by the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission (Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse) since 2018, he is an Education and Cooperation Advisor. In this capacity, he provides training on human rights in the employment sector, with a particular focus on reasonable accommodation in employment and service delivery.



André Prévost

Strategic Advisor and Coordination

La Confédération des organismes de personnes handicapées du Québec (COPHAN)

André Prévost has worked for nearly 40 years in public health, notably as director of customer service at CHA Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis, CSSS analyst, director of social services at Agence de santé et des services sociaux de la Côte-Nord and coordinator of the public health department. He holds a doctorate in measurement and evaluation, a master's degree in political science, a bachelor's degree with a major in political science and a minor in economics, as well as a certificate in business administration. He has been a lecturer at Université du Québec à Rimouski and Université Laval, and currently teaches at ÉNAP. Most recently, he was political advisor to the Minister responsible for Seniors, and then to the Independent Member for Bonaventure. He was corporate affairs advisor to the general management of the Conseil québécois d'agrément, visitor evaluator and team leader at Accreditation Canada. He is currently Strategic Advisor and Coordinator for COPHAN.



Michel Gaudet
Vice-President & Executive Director
Environmental Health Associations of Québec and Canada

Michel Gaudet has worked on environmental health issues for close to thirty years. He is the Vice President and Executive Director of the Environmental Health Associations of Quebec and Canada.

In 2012 he collaborated with the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), TELUQ and SAC of UQAM to develop a project on the biological, social and legal aspects of environmental sensitivities entitled 'When the environment makes you ill: Need to understand, need to act'. He has been trained by the University of Québec in Montreal (UQAM) and has given many workshops on this project in more than ten regions of Quebec.

Presently, his work with the Environmental Health Associations of Québec and Canada puts him in contact with people who are disabled with multiple chemical sensitivities. Michel works closely with expert physicians at the environmental health clinic at the University of Toronto, and other expert physicians and scientists.

He has also participated as a speaker at many conferences in the United States and Canada.

Environmental Health Association of Canada - Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada
Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec - Environmental Health Association of Québec