



Best Law Firms in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba

[Jump to winners](#) | [Jump to methodology](#)

Legal heart of the West

The best in the West have earned the acclaim by showcasing themselves as trusted partners for clients.

Backed by 642 reader votes across 45 nominees, *Canadian Lawyer's* Top Western Law Firms 2025–26 recognizes the distinguished legal teams in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba delivering:

- national-level results at regional rates
- wide reach combined with community commitment
- success in complex matters that shape business in the West

“Flexibility and adaptability in service levels and business-oriented pricing schemes that enable choice are distinctive features of top-performing law firms,” explains [Heather Suttie](#), legal market strategy and management consultant at Suttie. “Knowing the law and how to apply it are simply expectations of competence and table stakes.”

She notes that clients now prioritize efficiency and value when choosing legal advisors.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LAW FIRMS OPERATING IN WESTERN CANADA (BC, ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN, MANITOBA, AND NORTHERN TERRITORIES)

	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Northern Territories
Sole Practitioner	2,871	1,689	206	293	22
2-10 Lawyers	888	2,444	111	130	3
11-25 Lawyers	131	910	13	10	1
26-50 Lawyers	24	808	2	5	0
51+ Lawyers	25	2,371	3	3	4
Professional Corporations	353	3,594	569	D/A	14
Foreign Legal Consultants	11	16	1	2	0

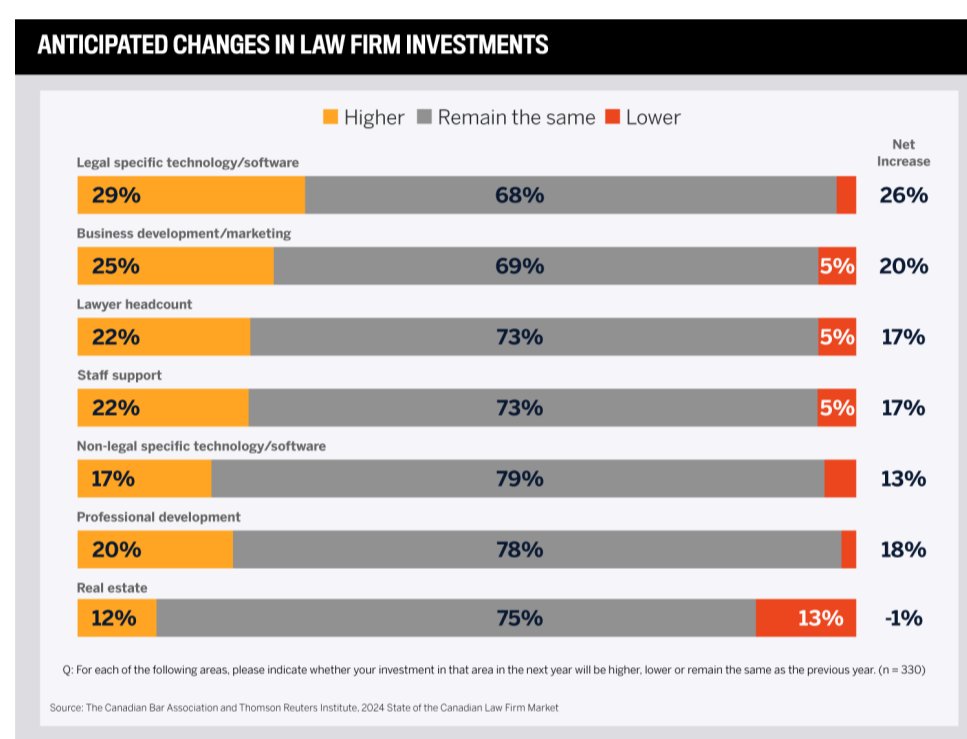
Source: Federation of Law Societies of Canada, Federation Statistics Report 2024

“Despite years of clients citing that responsiveness is problematic, many firms continue to disappoint on this basic service expectation. Those that respond with speed literally jump to the front of the pack,” she remarks.

“Better yet, responsive law firms that insist on providing clients with operational transparency and offer pricing schemes enabling choice, set themselves head-and-shoulders above the competition, and always will.”

Suttie observes that the twin forces of AI and pricing, compounded by continuing transience of the legal service sector’s workforce, are reshaping the market. She asserts that the leading law firms position themselves to be flatter, non-hierarchical enterprises that are streamlined, sleek, and ultra lean by:

- making hard decisions
- having uncomfortable conversations
- restructuring themselves ruthlessly



To identify the Top 10 firms in British Columbia and Alberta, and the Top 5 in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, *CL* invited readers to rank up to 10 firms, with a 10-1 points system determining the final order. The results were integrated with the *Lexpert* peer survey, where applicable.

All full-service firms with offices in those provinces or the Northern Territories were assessed on:

- regional coverage
- client base
- notable mandates
- service excellence
- legal expertise

Best law firms in Western Canada face structural change with strategic focus

Firms entered 2025 contending with a market defined by transition. Growth opportunities in real estate, energy, and infrastructure remained robust, yet every province faces persistent challenges in talent, governance, and pricing.

According to [Grand View Research](#), Canada's legal services market generated an estimated US\$27 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach US\$35.4 billion by 2030, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of 4.5 percent from 2025 onward.

Litigation remains the largest revenue source, while corporate work is expected to post the fastest growth over the next five years. These national trends provide a strong backdrop for the best law firms in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba that continue to compete across expanding and increasingly specialized practice areas.

The year's leading firms are distinguished by adaptability, balancing business-minded service models with a renewed focus on community connection and internal resilience.

Talent outside major centres

Recruitment remains a defining constraint across the region. According to Robert Half's 2025 Legal Salary Guide, hiring continues to be tight, especially beyond the large urban markets.

- 55 percent of legal leaders reported **skills gaps within their department**
- 46 percent said the impact of those gaps **has increased in the past year**

The [Law Society of Manitoba's 2025 annual report](#) and 2022–25 strategic plan both emphasize culture, professional development, and Indigenous awareness training as top operational priorities. While regulators promote well-being and equity initiatives, firms still report difficulty attracting and retaining experienced associates.

Alberta's labour mobility reforms under the Fair Registration Practices Act and Labour Mobility Act have eased cross-provincial licensing, offering some relief in a competitive labour market.

Governance and compliance load

British Columbia's transition under the Legal Professions Act is reshaping professional oversight. The creation of a Transitional Board, Indigenous Council, and Advisory Committee has introduced new compliance requirements and sparked constitutional litigation, according to the [Law Society of BC's 2024 annual report](#).

Meanwhile, discipline and practice-management caseloads remain high, prompting firms to devote more partner time to governance and reporting.

Operational and regulatory change

In Alberta, updated client-identification and verification rules effective January 1, 2025, require new authentication technology or in-person verification. The change, noted by Open Alberta and the [Law Society of Alberta](#), adds practical workload to intake and risk processes.

Saskatchewan's limited licensing regime, approved in 2024 and now moving toward 2026 implementation, will introduce new market entrants offering focused legal services. Regional full-service firms are preparing to collaborate or compete on discrete service lines.

Permitting risk and Indigenous consultation

Project lawyers in Alberta face heightened procedural complexity following the province's 2025 Code of Practice for renewable energy projects, which added registration and security requirements for solar and wind developments.

Open Alberta and firm commentary confirm extended timelines and new diligence expectations for contractors and municipalities. In addition, Indigenous consultation exposure is rising. Federal guidance updates and appellate rulings, referenced by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and JFK Law, underscore the legal stakes of early engagement and documentation in permitting and resource work.

Well-being and workforce capacity

According to the [2024 State of the Canadian Law Firm Market](#) report, 69 percent of lawyers cite stress and burnout as ongoing concerns, with early-career professionals and under-represented groups reporting the highest distress levels.

These findings mirror internal reports across Western firms, where mental health programs and flexible policies are now seen as business imperatives rather than cultural add-ons.

Market trends

Municipal and real-estate demand

Provincial housing initiatives are keeping land-use and property teams busy. BC's department of housing and municipal affairs confirms that municipalities are under pressure to meet small-scale, multi-unit housing targets, prompting steady workflow in development, covenant, and zoning matters.

Energy-transition mandates

Firms with environmental, municipal, and regulatory depth continue to advise on renewables, reclamation, and security obligations. Open Alberta notes that the 2025 registration rules for renewables have broadened advisory and disputes work for legal teams with sector experience.

Reconciliation and access to justice

Operational commitments to reconciliation, EDI, and wellness are now embedded in firm strategies. Reports from the Law Society of BC and Law Society of Manitoba in 2025 call for measurable progress through mandatory training, cultural competency programs, and community-based partnerships.

Flexible staffing and ALSP use

Alternative legal service providers (ALSP) are increasingly part of regional workflows. Reuters reports ALSP market growth in 2025 as firms mix contract lawyers and managed services to sustain competitive price points. The trend supports Suttie's view that "flexibility and adaptability in service levels and business-oriented pricing schemes" now define high performance.

Mobility-enabled scaling

Interprovincial credentialing reforms, according to Alberta Labour Mobility data, are streamlining lateral movement across Western offices. This mobility supports leaner, cross-jurisdictional teams and helps regional firms cover larger territories without significant overhead.

Technology catch-up phase

AI may dominate industry discussions, but firms are focusing their spending on practical upgrades. The 2024 State of the Canadian Law Firm Market found that 29 percent of firms plan to boost spending on core systems, such as time billing, e-signature, and research tools, rather than on frontier technologies. For most regional practices, modernization still means operational efficiency before innovation.

Best law firms in BC, Alberta, and Western Canada

The profiles of the celebrated firms reflect the attributes *CL* readers recognized across the full list:

- expert teams
- community-rooted reach
- proven results on complex files

Farris LLP **FARRIS** LLP

Recognized as one of British Columbia's most accomplished full-service law firms, [Farris](#) is distinguished by its breadth of expertise, depth of talent, and unwavering commitment to client service.

With more than a century of history and offices in Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, and Kelowna, the firm delivers the sophistication of a top-tier national practice with the accessibility and responsiveness of a regional partner.

Farris' deep roots in BC have equipped the team with a thorough understanding of the unique considerations at play across the province. One of the things it prides itself on is how often its lawyers are retained by national and international clients.

"Our clients hire us because they believe we can achieve their goals better than any other firm, and they appreciate our ability to provide seamless, elite-level service tailored to their specific needs," explains managing partner Bo Rothstein.

"What differentiates us is not that we are regional, but that we are independent. All of our decision-making is done right here in BC. We do not need to pass on the pressures and billing demands of firms headquartered elsewhere to our clients."



“Our differentiator is making sure we have the best lawyers in BC”

Bo Rothstein
Farris LLP

The firm's unofficial motto is "Always outnumbered, never outlawyered." When Rothstein joined Farris 19 years ago, he worked on several complicated cross-border M&A transactions and financings where the team was five or six lawyers deep, and the firms opposite them frequently had 20 or more lawyers.

"That is still our experience today. We put the fewest number of lawyers on a file who can achieve successful results for our clients, and our client satisfaction levels have never been higher," he says.

Some of the deals and cases they have recently worked on include:

- a C\$950-million global equity offering, which ranks among the largest equity offerings in the global mining sector in recent years and one of the most significant ever in the uranium industry
- representing Canada's largest biotechnology company on two significant cross-border acquisitions
- a litigation matter for which the firm was honoured with a national Impact Case Award from Benchmark Litigation, the only legal directory focused exclusively on litigation

Voters describe Farris as the go-to firm for M&A, complex litigation, commercial real estate transactions, and home to the largest estates and trusts group in Western Canada. Its lawyers are known for producing consistent results across corporate, litigation, tax, family, and regulatory work due to their:

- practical business sense
- technical precision
- collaborative approach

Clients commend Farris' ability to handle complex, high-stakes matters with the same care and attention devoted to routine mandates.

The firm's culture of professionalism, mentorship, and teamwork stands out in voter comments, with many highlighting how approachable and supportive its lawyers and staff are. From articling to partnership, Farris is seen as a place that develops exceptional legal talent.

Across all feedback, it's clear that clients come first. Farris' reputation rests on trusted relationships, proven results, and an enduring focus on quality, earning it a place among the most respected and frequently engaged firms in Western Canada.

As the firm plans what's next, its leaders have put measures in place to ensure it implements and uses the most up-to-date technology available, from AI programs to practice-specific software and other hardware and software.

"Our people are our biggest asset and what elevates our game," Rothstein adds. "Technology itself doesn't do the work, but the best lawyer using the best technology can achieve outsized results."

Farris will continue to invest in technology to ensure its lawyers have every tool available, but the major investments it is making are in:

- developing talent
- attracting lateral candidates

Since late 2024, the firm has added 13 lateral lawyers to its offices in Vancouver, Victoria, and Kelowna, from associate to partner level across a variety of core practice areas. The investments it is making in technology, training, and recruitment will enable it to continue practicing law at the highest levels.

Duncan Craig LLP



As one of Alberta's most established full-service law firms, it is known for combining legal expertise with a personal, community-driven approach. Founded in 1894, [Duncan Craig](#) has served clients across Alberta and Western Canada for more than a century, earning a reputation built on trust, professionalism, and consistency.

Relationships and community are the foundation of the firm. For more than 130 years, it has combined an understanding of its regional market with genuine care for the people, businesses and communities it provides practical legal solutions for.

"Our lawyers deliver strategic, results-driven advice rooted in collaboration with our clients and a deep understanding of their businesses or their individual needs," says managing partner Darren R. Bieganeck, KC. "Through the Duncan Craig Community Fund and firm-wide charitable initiatives, we continue to give back, ensuring our success as one of Alberta's leading law firms also strengthens the province we proudly call home."



"Our focus is on continued excellence, both in client service and community impact"

Darren R. Bieganeck, KC

Duncan Craig LLP

Voters describe Duncan Craig as creative, cost-effective, and skilled, a firm that delivers service, expertise, and value for money across litigation, corporate and commercial work, employment, insurance, real estate, Indigenous law, and wills and estates.

Its lawyers are recognized for practical solutions, disciplined advocacy, and an ability to manage complex matters while keeping client priorities front and centre.

Comments highlight Duncan Craig's long-standing contributions to local initiatives and the genuine care its lawyers show. This civic engagement reflects a culture where professional excellence and social responsibility work hand-in-hand.

Clients value the stability of the firm's long history and the agility with which it responds to evolving business and personal needs.

With an eye on the future, Duncan Craig remains committed to thoughtful growth, innovation in client service delivery using technology and other tools, and the mentorship of the next generation of its lawyers.

“Our strength as a regional firm lies in our ability to evolve while staying true to our roots, combining practical legal expertise with the integrity and community focus that have defined us for more than a century,” Bieganeck adds.

McKercher LLP



With offices in Saskatoon and Regina, this full-service firm has been part of Saskatchewan’s legal fabric for nearly a century. Recognized among Western Canada’s most respected practices, [McKercher LLP](#) combines institutional depth with modern agility, offering clients trusted counsel across 49 practice areas.

Voters cite consistent outcomes in health, insurance, Indigenous, and regulatory law, and describe the firm as:

- disciplined
- practical
- results-driven

They note its impressive client base, exceptional coordination, and positive results on complex files, reflecting a culture built on collaboration and client focus.

“Clients are at the centre of all we do,” says managing partner executive committee chair Collin K. Hirschfeld, KC. “Without them, we’re not here. We’re here to serve.”

That philosophy underpins everything from the firm’s integrated service model to its approach to mentorship and leadership development.

“We ensure we have continuity and knowledge transfer because we realize that clients can’t just rely on one single person. They need a team behind them,” Hirschfeld says.

McKercher LLP’s lawyers work across departments using knowledge-sharing systems that strengthen continuity for clients. Teams are structured to ensure no single contact point, promoting consistent service and seamless file transitions. Integrity, excellence, innovation, and community commitment guide the firm’s strategic planning and long-term vision. Its Indigenous law practice plays an active role in reconciliation efforts across Canada, while diversity and inclusion remain embedded in recruitment, training, and daily practice.



“We regularly assess if what we’re doing is still the best and cutting edge, or if there’s something different we should do”

Collin K. Hirschfeld, KC

McKercher LLP

“Reconciliation isn’t just a word, it’s a concept. It informs so many things that we do,” Hirschfeld remarks.

Outreach initiatives and community partnerships reinforce the firm's identity as both a regional leader and a community anchor.

Recognition from *Lexpert* and induction into the Saskatchewan Chamber Hall of Fame attests to the firm's enduring impact, yet Hirschfeld views such honours as motivation, not milestones.

"We don't want to become complacent," he adds. "Recognition affirms that we're on the right path, but it also reminds us to keep evolving."

McKercher LLP is channeling investment into talent development, leadership training, and technology to strengthen service delivery. Strategic partnerships with organizations such as Lawyers Associated Worldwide, the Employment Law Alliance, and Startup Canada broaden its reach and ensure clients receive coordinated support across jurisdictions.

"We recognize that sustainable growth requires focusing on more than business outcomes. We have a deep commitment to social impact and how what we're doing affects society as a whole," Hirschfeld says.

Robertson Stromberg LLP



From its base in Saskatoon, this full-service firm combines deep provincial roots with national reach. For more than a century, [Robertson Stromberg](#) has been built on Prairie values and trusted for expert counsel across the legal spectrum.

Voters emphasize that "each lawyer in the firm is expected to become, and does become, a go-to person in their field of practice." That sense of individual mastery is evident across Robertson Stromberg's core strengths in commercial litigation, corporate and governance, real estate and transactions, insurance defence, Indigenous commerce, and estate litigation.

The firm is also recognized for its depth in banking and finance and for client-service excellence in corporate, commercial, and litigation work.

Lawyer Jennifer Pereira, KC, says the recognition carries particular meaning for the firm.

"We're thrilled to be part of this group, particularly since we're probably one of the smaller firms among the crowd. We've always believed that we punch above our weight, and this is confirmation."



"Our retention demonstrates that if you give people good work and the opportunity to succeed, they will"

Jennifer Pereira

Robertson Stromberg LLP

That mindset extends through every level of the firm. Pereira notes that most of the partners are “homegrown,” having completed their articles and built their careers at Robertson Stromberg.

“It starts at the bottom with our articling program,” she explains. “We give our students exposure across core areas and encourage mentorship to develop organically. The expectation is that they become leaders in their field – writers, presenters, instructors, and contributors to the legal community.”

The result is a strong culture of mentorship and professional development, reflected in the firm’s retention and leadership record.

“If you look around our partnership table of 13 partners, six are women. I don’t think there’s another firm in Saskatchewan with that kind of balance,” Pereira says.

That mix of ambition and accessibility is what clients describe as “Prairie values” and Pereira defines it as a practical approach.

“We’re humble, we’re efficient, and we focus on getting the job done. Our clients notice that. We do what it takes, but we don’t overdo it.”

Voters describe Robertson Stromberg as reliable, pragmatic, and responsive, trusted with complex mandates across corporate, litigation, insurance, and Indigenous matters. Its lawyers are known for their:

- technical depth
- personal commitment
- practical solutions

As the firm plans for what’s next, its leaders are investing in both talent and infrastructure. Pereira points to recent lateral growth, including the addition of Mark Dolan, KC, a leading corporate and M&A practitioner and current president of the Canadian Bar Association in Saskatchewan.

“We’re attracting top talent to round out our departments, and there are more announcements to come,” she adds.

The firm is also expanding its presence inside the historic Canada Building in downtown Saskatoon, adding another half floor to accommodate new meeting spaces, a staff lounge, and client facilities.

“It’s about reinvesting in our people and creating spaces where our lawyers and staff can meet, work, and serve clients more effectively,” Pereira explains.

Conclusion: Keys to Western excellence

- **Regional independence is a strategy, not a map.** It lets firms control pricing, talent, and technology choices clients value.
- **Execution beats theatre.** Leaders win on responsiveness, pricing transparency, and knowledge management.
- **Culture is infrastructure.** Mentorship, well-being, inclusion, and community ties sustain retention and client trust.

Best Law Firms in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba



McKercher LLP



Carbert Waite LLP



Duncan Craig LLP



Farris LLP



Koffman Kalef LLP





Robertson Stromberg LLP



► **British Columbia**

► **Alberta**

► **Saskatchewan**

► **Manitoba**

Insights

As part of our editorial process, *Canadian Lawyer's* researchers interviewed the subject matter expert below for an independent analysis.



Heather Suttie

Legal Market Strategy and Management

Consultant

[Suttie.](#)

Methodology

Canadian Lawyer asked readers to vote for the top full-service regional firms in Western Canada. In the survey, which took place between Aug. 11 and Sept. 5, 2025, respondents were asked to rank up to 10 firms from a long list provided. They were also given the option to add a firm not included in that list. The respondents were asked to vote for firms based on their regional service coverage, client base, notable mandates, service excellence, and legal expertise.

To qualify for the list and be voted for, firms were required to have offices only in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and/or the Northern Territories, and offer a wide range of legal services.

Voters ranked the nominees from 1 to 10, with first-place votes earning 10 points and points decreasing by one up to one point for a 10th-place vote. Points were added up and the firms were ranked accordingly.

The quantitative results were combined with the *Lexpert* peer survey results, where applicable. The winners were categorized by geography, in ranked order for the Top 10 in British Columbia, Top 10 in Alberta, Top 5 in Saskatchewan, and Top 5 in Manitoba.

Editor's note: A previous version of this article included Field Law in the incorrect province. The article has been updated to reflect this change.

[Lexpert](#)
[Law Times](#)
[Canadian Law List](#)
[Lexpert® Rising Stars](#)
[Canadian Law Awards](#)

[Glossary](#) [Newsletter](#) [Digital editions](#) [Authors](#) [External contributors](#) [Editorial board](#) [Sitemap](#) [RSS](#) 

[Advertise](#) [About us](#) [Contact us](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookie Policy](#) [Consent Preferences](#) [Terms of Use](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Digital Subscription Agreement](#) [Submit your move](#)

Copyright © 2026 KM Business Information Canada Ltd.