

FAQ's: Corporate Membership and ADR Stakeholder Status

Why is it important to understand various potential alternatives to litigation – such as mediation and arbitration?

Many parties with commercial and other types of disputes experience dissatisfaction with the status-quo litigation process in Canada because of excessive delays, inefficiency, high costs, and unpredictability. Further, there continues to be stress, worry, and a diversion of attention and significant amounts of time from creative business activity.

There are opportunities to consider alternatives to litigation which may provide significant opportunities to resolve disputes much more quickly, at a much lower cost, and with better overall outcomes – that is, “faster, cheaper, better”. We refer to these alternatives, which include mediation and arbitration, as “alternative dispute resolution” – or ADR.

What is the role of the ADR Institute of Canada (ADRIC) and what does it do?

ADRIC is the preeminent non-profit national organization in Canada which, together with its regional affiliate ADR organizations across the country:

- Promotes cost-effective conflict resolution and alternatives to litigation;
- Provides a regulatory framework for its members through a [code of ethics](#), [a code of conduct](#) for mediators, a complaints process, and a member discipline procedure;
- Accredits eligible mediators and arbitrators with [prestigious designations](#) demonstrating high levels of achievement, experience, and skills;
- Establishes rosters of ADR professionals to meet specific client needs;
- Develops and updates model national [mediation rules](#) and [arbitration rules](#) which save parties significant time and cost in resolving their disputes through ADR, and provides parties with mediation and arbitration appointments and [arbitration case administration services](#); and
- Provides parties with access to the [ADR Connect](#) database of ADRIc-member mediators and arbitrators which sets out experience, specialties and relevant professional designations.

ADRIC works together with regional affiliate “ADR institutes” across Canada consisting of member ADR neutrals with experience in arbitration, mediation, systems design, training, and conflict resolution.

An important ADRIC objective is to improve awareness of the positive attributes of ADR with key stakeholders – individuals, corporations, law firms, governments, educational institutions, and other for-profit and non-profit organizations – thereby simplifying and improving processes and access to justice.

What are the choices for ADRIC corporate membership – and what types of organizations are eligible?

Eligible organizations consist of organizations which do not primarily provide ADR services to the public, and which include law firms, business corporations, governments and government bodies/departments, educational institutions, industry associations, and with approval of the ADRIC board of directors, other organizations.

There are two separate ADRIC membership categories to meet the needs of your organization. Each membership category provides benefits to others in your organization through *ADR Stakeholder* status.

- Sustaining Corporate Member – Annual membership fee: \$1,000 per year for law firms and \$500 per year for corporations and other organizations; and
- Associate Corporate Member – No annual membership fee.

What is ADR Stakeholder status?

ADRIC, and its regional affiliates, are offering individuals with an interest in learning more about the potential benefits of alternative dispute resolution with the opportunity of becoming an “*ADR Stakeholder*” – at no cost.

Benefits include:

- Opportunities to stay in touch with developments and best practices in ADR.
- A subscription to ADRIC’s [ADR Perspectives](#) e-publication which focuses on issues and updates with ADR-party and ADR-lawyer perspectives. Follow the above link to see an inventory of the informative articles published over the past three years.
- Invitations to ADRIC national and regional affiliate education sessions – to learn more about ADR and to meet and network with arbitrators and mediators, and to better understand the benefits of mediation, facilitation, workplace issue resolution, arbitration and other forms of conflict preservation and resolution.
- Invitations to ADRIC annual conferences, with registration at member rates – with several conference streams to meet the needs of a broad cross-section of attendees.
- Access to ADRIC’s *ADR Connect* database of arbitrators and mediators – which you can sort to identify those with particular expertise.

What is the role of the new ADRIC corporate advisory board?

The purpose of the ADRIK corporate advisory board is:

- To provide ADRIK with ideas and perspectives which will improve awareness, understanding, and the use of ADR – in a way that meets ADR-user and ADR-lawyer needs, and to stay up to date on ADRIK/ADR initiatives through conference calls and email communications; and
- To serve as ADRIK/affiliate ambassadors within the legal, business, academic, government, First Nations, and consumer communities to improve awareness of the positive attributes of ADR and the value of ADRIK/affiliates – and their dispute-resolution resources such as the ADRIK *National Arbitration Rules*, *Mediation Rules*, and arbitration administration services.

What law firms and other organizations are already ADRIK sustaining corporate members?

The following organizations are already sustaining corporate members:

- Aga Khan Ismaili Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Canada
- Alberta Energy Regulator
- Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
- Bruneau Group Inc.
- Burnett Duckworth & Palmer LLP
- Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution
- Cox and Palmer
- Dentons Canada LLP
- DLA Piper
- Graham Construction
- Alberta Environmental Appeals Board
- Gowlings WLG Canada LLP
- Imperial Oil Limited
- Insurance Bureau of Canada
- McInnes Cooper LLP
- Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP
- Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
- Rose LLP
- Shell Canada Limited
- Stewart McKelvey LLP

How do I sign up?

Register your organization – to become either an ADRIK associate corporate member or a sustaining corporate member – by sending an email to ADRIK's executive director, Janet McKay (janetmckay@adric.ca) and indicating the category of membership for which you wish to register.

Individuals in organizations who do not choose to become ADRIK corporate members at this time may still sign-up as an ADR Stakeholder for following the [ADR Stakeholder](#) link.