

NEWS RELEASE

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CANADIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE AUTHORITY, VINCENT CALDERHEAD, JOINS DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM, PINK LARKIN

Halifax, NS – Social Justice and Human Rights Lawyer, Vincent Calderhead has joined dispute resolution law firm, Pink Larkin.

Vince Calderhead, an eminent Canadian authority in the area of poverty law, will be offering services to those in need on a pro bono basis. This enables him to undertake work without charge for appropriate cases that meet the profile.

Calderhead's pro bono practice will be supported by lawyers and staff at Pink Larkin in what is widely believed to be a first-in-Canada approach to actively providing access to justice.

"It's the right thing to do," says Ronald A. Pink, Q.C., co-founder and managing partner of Pink Larkin. "This is our way of addressing some of the needs of people in our community who have meager means." "For us there is no monetary return," says firm co-founder Raymond F. Larkin, Q.C.; "This is a contribution to social justice by offering strategic access to justice for the poorest. It is also our obligation to the legal profession."

"My work has and will continue to focus on social justice, which is sometimes referred to by the more dated term of poverty law," says Calderhead. "As its core, my focus is on human rights in its purest form: advocacy for people experiencing hardship. I'm delighted to continue this work with people in poverty and to do so at Pink Larkin, a firm that sees this as an opportunity for a crucially important contribution to the advancement of the rights of the poor."

Calderhead's practice is focused on systemic litigation that presents law reform possibilities for the poor. This will typically involve social assistance and housing cases, often with a human rights or Charter of Rights dimension.

About Vincent Calderhead

Vince Calderhead spent 31 years with Nova Scotia Legal Aid where his practice focused on income support and housing issues. During this time, his work encompassed a range of poverty-related issues, including criminal law (fine default and cohabitation as fraud), refugee issues, social assistance, Employment Insurance and Canada Pension issues, and residential tenancy. His national and international experience is in social and economic rights where his advocacy work has ranged from everyday lawyering on behalf of social assistance recipients and advocacy before appeal boards, to appearances before the Supreme Court of Canada, Nova Scotia Supreme Court, and Court of Appeal.

For over 25 years, Calderhead taught 'Poverty Law and Human Rights' at Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law. In 2008, the Canadian Bar Association awarded him the John Tait Award of Excellence given to public sector lawyers for his accomplishments in the pursuit of the social and economic rights of the poor.

Between 2009 and 2011, while on leave from legal aid, Calderhead acted as Country Director for the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists in Nepal during that country's negotiations of its new constitution in the wake of a 10-year civil war.

Since 1995, he has frequently appeared before United Nations Human Rights treaty bodies in New York and Geneva advocating for the better protection of social and economic rights in Canada.

About Pink Larkin

Pink Larkin is a Canadian dispute resolution law firm based in Atlantic Canada with offices in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Fredericton, New Brunswick. The firm offers the full array of dispute resolution services from negotiation and mediation to arbitration and litigation.

From a "work law" heritage, Pink Lark has honed its unique negotiation skills to creatively and thoughtfully assist people in resolving problems that range from complex high-level conflicts and intricate cases to every day business issues.

Pink Larkin is recognized as a go-to firm for high-stakes risk management planning and, when necessary, takes measured responses and appropriate action to manage disputes and protect interests.

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