



In his role as Senior Legal Counsel with BC's Ministry of Attorney General, Jonathan Eades has made a pivotal contribution to advancing and improving BC arbitration.

A unique professional, Jonathan not only identifies necessary improvements to arbitration legislation, but leads consultation on updates and draft amendments while engaging as advocate in leading, precedent setting cases to the Supreme Court of Canada. Through outreach and advocacy, he tests what he proposes against real problems and top advocates with a view towards meaningful improvements to dispute resolution and access to justice.

Informed by 25+ years of practice in BC, Ontario, and abroad, Jonathan's approach to dispute resolution is not just theoretical or academic. His recognized leadership stems from his own advocacy on leading arbitration issues brought before domestic and international arbitration tribunals and the courts. Building on his prior involvement in [Sattva Capital Corp. v. Creston Moly Corp., 2014 SCC 53](#) and [TELUS Communications Inc. v. Wellman, 2019 SCC 19](#), Jonathan argued for clarity in the framing of questions of law in arbitration appeals most recently in [Wastech Services Ltd. v. Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, 2021 SCC 7](#), an approach and contribution expressly endorsed by the majority.

Jonathan chaired the B.C. Attorney General's Arbitration Advisory Group comprising a distinguished, diverse group of arbitrators, arbitration counsel, litigation counsel, corporate counsel, business and government representatives. Jonathan shepherded a lengthy, meaningful consultation which addressed the dispute resolution and access to justice objectives of government and business community, resulting in a 2018 major overhaul of the [International Commercial Arbitration Act, RSBC 1996, c. 233](#) and the 2020 full repeal and replacement of the domestic legislation with the [Arbitration Act, SBC 2020, c 2](#). When introducing the Arbitration Act, the Hon. David Eby, Attorney General, noted the quality of the contributions and expertise of counsel "*both in-house and outside of house*", highlighting the key involvement of Jonathan and his "*considerable talent*". ([March 3, 2020 Hansard pp. 11451 et seq.](#)).

Jonathan worked with the rebranded Vancouver International Commercial Arbitration Centre, [VanIAC](#), transitioning to its new statutory roles, including new arbitration rules which dovetail with the new legislation, and a new website to facilitate access to the arbitration process.

To support and promote Vancouver as arbitration centre, Jonathan has made multiple recent outreaches and presentations to legal counsel and business people in BC, across Canada, and internationally concerning: consumer arbitration claims and class action overlap; virtual arbitrations; BC's modernized international and domestic arbitration legislation; and VanIAC's new rules. He has also co-authored a recent article in the Canadian Journal of Commercial Arbitration explaining BC's new Arbitration Act, guiding counsel and arbitration users through the biggest legislative changes to BC arbitration in a generation.