



DYE & DURHAM HELPS CLIENT SAVE \$5 MILLION

THE CHALLENGE

Harper Grey, one of Western Canada's leading law firms, had a client that was facing a \$5 million contamination cleanup bill for a plot of B.C. land they had once owned. But when you did not contaminate the land in the first place that bill is not just steep, it's wrong.

The current owner of the land had contacted Harper Grey's client (the former land owner) for compensation of the cleanup costs. The former owner knew that they had not contaminated the land but needed to prove it.

THE SOLUTION

The solution was in a property search using available public records. However, this particular search was not straightforward. The land registry did not contain digital records dating back far enough in time to cover the matter and the land registry naming system is complex. Harper Grey needed expert help; so they contacted Dye & Durham.

etray, Dye & Durham's search and registry platform was put to the test. The search was made in stages.

- First, historical research was done, posing a challenge as the lot that was intact in 1920 had been sold off in parcels over the years.
- Next, each individual property parcel had to be traced back to their original owners and all subsequent owners dating back decades.

Harper Grey needed to know who owned what piece of land and during what particular time period in order to determine the party responsible for the contamination. The request was time sensitive, as mediation was around the corner. etray's collaboration tools proved to be invaluable in this process. The client was able to follow the progress of their work order and the Dye & Durham client services team was available around the clock to assist with any questions.

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME

All the titles, lots and sections were accurately traced and reviewed. Harper Grey was able to determine that their client did not in fact own the section of the property that had the contamination. The current land owner assigned the \$5 million land decontamination costs to the correct party and Harper and Grey had a very happy client.



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I don't think we would be able to have this outcome had we not been able to use Dye & Durham to do this research. ”

Monique Sever

Paralegal
Harper Grey LLP