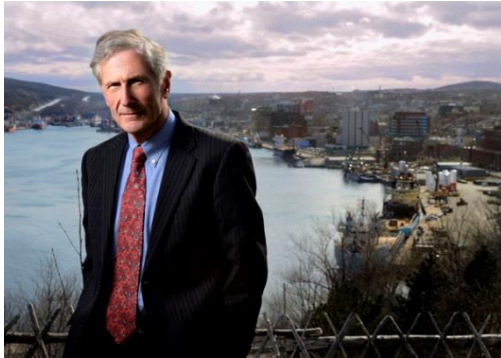




Outstanding Contribution Award James (Jim) Thistle, QC



James (Jim) Thistle was a founder of the Newfoundland and Labrador oil & gas industry.

During the 1980s, as a lawyer with the provincial Department of Justice, Jim was directly engaged in the province's legal work on offshore jurisdiction. In 1985, he was a participant in the federal-provincial negotiations that led to the Atlantic Accord, which he assisted in drafting. Later, in private practice, he was general counsel for the Hibernia project and, among other things, led the drafting of the project's joint operating agreement. It is said that, at one time or another in

his career, Jim worked for every operator and on every project in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore.

A partner in McInnes Cooper's Newfoundland office, throughout his career Jim's work was recognized through many distinguished awards. He was included in *Best Lawyers in Canada 2012* as St. John's Natural Resources Lawyer of the Year; recognized in the 2014 *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* and in *Who's Who Legal Canada on Environmental Law*; and was listed as Provincial Litigation Star under Aboriginal Energy and Natural Resources, and Public Law in *Benchmark Canada 2015*.

Considered a leading partner in his firm, as a litigator, Jim had been counsel before all levels of court and tribunals in Canada and in various Canadian and international arbitration matters. He also played an extensive role in mentoring others throughout the industry and in facilitating effective working relationships that often overcame complex contractual arrangements.

As a lead negotiator of the Atlantic Accord, Jim managed to break through decades of federal-provincial conflict and a Supreme Court case that awarded all offshore rights to the Government of Canada. The Atlantic Accord was recognized as fair, responsible and innovative and the fact that the Accord has continued for 25 years with no major changes is a reflection of the effectiveness of his work.

Through his many publications and regular speaking engagements, Jim was a tireless proponent of the Newfoundland and Labrador industry. He was a steadfast supporter of Noia, always taking the time to answer questions and offer insight and guidance.

Tragically, Jim Thistle passed away on March 3, 2016, after a brief battle with ALS. Jim's legacy is that he made Newfoundland and Labrador a better place, and the work he did will live on in the agreements and contracts he negotiated and drafted and in the many people he mentored throughout the years.