

Heather Keachie

Partner

Get in touch

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Executive summary

Heather is the lead partner of Gardiner Roberts' Non-Profit and Charities practice and works exclusively with charities and non-profit organizations. She advises on a wide range of matters, including corporate governance, organizational structuring, commercial agreements, and tax and regulatory compliance. Her work regularly involves charitable registrations and CRA filings, charitable receipting, endowment funds, gifting and restricted gift arrangements, and advising on relationships with non-qualified donees. Heather also assists clients with related commercial real estate matters, including leasing, title review, development, and transactional work.

In addition to her client work, Heather is actively engaged in sector advocacy through leadership roles with the Ontario and Canadian Bar Associations' charities and not-for-profit sections. As part of her work with the Canadian Bar Association, she was appointed to the federal government's Technical Issues Working Group, where she worked closely with the Charities Directorate on regulatory issues affecting registered charities and other qualified donees.

Heather began her legal career as a law clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa and later taught law in The Gambia, West Africa, before returning to Toronto to practise in a solicitor-side general practice. She has volunteered within Toronto's charitable and not-for-profit community for more than 15 years and is a committed advocate for the volunteer sector.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto, JD, 2009

University of Toronto, MA in International Relations, 2009

University of King's College, BA (Hons) in Philosophy, 2006

BAR ADMISSION

Ontario, 2011

Expertise

Non-Profit & Charities

Corporate & Commercial

Real Estate

Insights

Gardiner Roberts

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Publications

“The How (and WHY) of Supporting Non-Qualified Donees”, Canadian Association of Gift Planners, October 2024

“Get Ready for the ONCA”, ONN Nonprofit Driven 2019, November 2019

Presentations

“Ideas and Perspectives on Qualifying Disbursements”, Canadian Bar Association Charity Law Symposium, May 2024

“Social Clubs with Share Capital - Options for Continuing” Gardiner Roberts LLP Toolbox Seminary, November 2023

“Case Law Update”, Canadian Bar Association Charity Law Symposium, May 2023

“Key Governance Considerations for Ontario Corporations under the ONCA”, Law Society of Ontario, November 2022

“Strategic Philanthropy During Covid-19”, GTA Accountants and Finance Network and Toronto Foundation, September 2022

“ONCA Transition Provisions”, Ontario Bar Association, November 2021

“How to manage dual loyalties on not-for-profit boards”, Canadian Society of Association Executives, Annual Conference, February 2020

“Case Law and Public Guardian and Trustee Update”, Ontario Bar Association Institute, February 2019

“Governance in the Not-for-Profit Sector”, Guest Lecture at Seneca College, September 2017

Blogs

Fewer Than 90 Days Remain for Ontario Share Capital Social Clubs to Continue Out of the OCA or Face Dissolution

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29 July 2026

Resolving Statutory Ambiguity Regarding By-law Amendments Under the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (Chifor et al. v. Windsor/Essex County Humane Society)

22 July 2026

Three Tips for Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations as ONCA Deadline Approaches

15 July 2024

Bill 139 Receives Royal Assent: Fewer Non-Profit Filings, Easier Social Company Continuances

8 December 2023

Non-share capital corporations in Ontario have one year left to update key corporate documents

17 October 2023

News

Three Gardiner Roberts lawyers recognized in the Charities/Non-profits Legal Rankings in the latest edition of Chambers Canada

30 September 2022

Memberships and recognition

Professional memberships

- The Law Society of Ontario
- Canadian Bar Association, Charities and Not-for-Profit Law Section
- Ontario Bar Association, Charities and Not-for-Profit Law Section
- Adjunct Professor, University of Windsor Faculty of Law, Charity and Not-for-profit Law intensive course, January 2022
- Chair, 2023-2024, Canadian Bar Association Charity and Not-For-Profit Law Section
- Chair, 2019-2020, Ontario Bar Association, Charity and Not-For-Profit Law Section

Recognition

- Recognized since 2023 nationwide by Chambers Canada — Canada's Leading Lawyers for Charities/Non-profits
- Recognized in the 2026 edition of Chambers Canada in the area of Charities/Non-profits, Nationwide - Canada (Band 3)

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