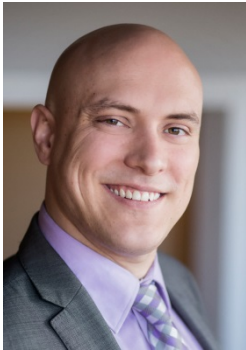


# Where Are They Now?

## KFPA ALUMNI PROFILE



### Simon Walter – Participant 2004-2007

Simon became involved with the KFPA after discovering the South Kamloops Secondary School Band program. He received his Speech Arts training from Sheda Petersen, a retired teacher from John Peterson Secondary.

As a result of his enjoyment of Speech Arts, Simon ultimately pursued theatre as an undergraduate degree. After completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in acting at the University of Victoria, Simon went on to obtain his Juris Doctor (JD) in Common Law at the University of Ottawa.

Simon is currently employed as a lawyer with Cates Ford Epp, Barristers & Solicitors in Kamloops. As a litigator, he enjoys presenting in the courtroom and credits his ease with presenting to the preparation/presentation/relaxation cycle that performing arts and the legal profession both observe.

“There are periods of great stress while one prepares for the big day(s), and then a cathartic release afterwards.”

Simon credits the KFPA for guiding him down the road of not being afraid to put himself out there and present to others.

“So many people are paralyzed by a fear of failing in front of others, but my performing arts background has given me the courage to stand up and make my case, win or lose.”

The Kamloops lawyer believes the Festival is something that every parent should seriously consider enrolling their child in. “It doesn’t matter in what discipline. The life skills learned by children who take on a project, rehearse the material, perform for judges, and ultimately receive praise for their performances will engender in the important life skill of committing to a project and seeing it through.”