



With the support, partnership and guidance of Indigenous communities, organizations, Elders and knowledge keepers, Canadian law schools have acted on their commitment to reconciliation and put in place a variety of initiatives to ensure meaningful and effective engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. The attached summaries were prepared by Canadian faculties of law with a view to sharing information about new developments over the past two years. These current statements supplement summaries that were prepared in 2017 and 2021.

For the current round of updates, the Council of Canadian Law Deans offered guidelines and themes to ensure that law faculties have an opportunity to report on their activities and responses to the TRC in a structured and fulsome manner.

The themes were as follows:

- 1) Pre TRC initiatives
- 2) Organizational TRC responses
- 3) Recruitment
 - a. Indigenous students
 - b. Indigenous Faculty and Staff, faculty and staff with TRC related duties
- 4) Curricular innovation
- 5) Governance
- 6) Facilities/Safe Environment
- 7) Research
- 8) Mentorship/Internship
- 9) Community engagement
- 10) Future Initiatives

This year's updates continue to demonstrate that Canadian faculties of law are taking varied and creative approaches to responding to the TRC, and that these initiatives reach beyond the adoption of a (mandatory) course. The summaries provide an overview. For more information, we encourage readers to refer to faculty websites or contact the schools directly.



Avec le soutien, le partenariat et les conseils des communautés et des organisations autochtones, des aînés et des gardiens du savoir, les facultés de droit canadiennes ont données suite à leur engagement en faveur de la réconciliation et ont mises en place diverses initiatives pour assurer un engagement significatif et efficace à l'égard des appels à l'action de la Commission de vérité et de réconciliation. Les résumés ci-joints ont été préparés par les facultés de droit canadiennes dans le but de partager des informations sur les nouveaux développements au cours des deux dernières années. Ces déclarations complètent les résumés qui ont été préparés en 2017 et en 2021.

Pour ces mises à jour, le Conseil des doyens et doyennes des facultés de droit du Canada a proposé des lignes directrices et des thèmes afin de s'assurer que les facultés de droit aient l'occasion de faire un compte rendu de leurs activités et de leurs réponses à la CVR de manière structurée et complète.

Les thèmes étaient les suivants :

- 1) Initiatives préalables à la CVR
- 2) Réponses organisationnelles de la CVR
- 3) Le recrutement
 - a. Étudiants autochtones
 - b. Professeurs et employés autochtones, professeurs et employés ayant des fonctions liées à la CVR
- 4) Innovation dans les programmes d'études
- 5) Gouvernance
- 6) Installations/environnement sécuritaires
- 7) Recherche
- 8) Mentorat/stage
- 9) Engagement communautaire
- 10) Initiatives futures

Les mises à jour de cette année continuent de démontrer que les facultés de droit canadiennes adoptent des approches variées et créatives pour répondre à la CVR, et que ces initiatives vont au-delà de l'adoption d'un cours (obligatoire). Les résumés donnent un aperçu. Pour plus d'informations, nous encourageons les lecteurs à se référer aux sites Web des facultés ou à contacter directement les écoles.



July 29, 2022

University of Alberta Faculty of Law - Law Responses to the TRC Calls to Action

Located in Treaty Six Territory and the Métis Homeland, the University of Alberta Faculty of Law has taken numerous steps to implement TRC Call to Action 28. In 2022, the Faculty's part-time Indigenous Support Officer (providing support and assistance to Indigenous Law Students) was expanded to a full-time position and the Faculty created several new scholarships and awards to recruit and support Indigenous law students. The Faculty also recently altered its existing upper year course requirements to include a mandatory course in Indigenous or Aboriginal Law for all students and hired a new Indigenous faculty member. The Faculty's ongoing Indigenous initiatives include:

- A standing Indigenous and Aboriginal Law Committee to advise on the continued development of curricular offerings in Indigenous and Aboriginal Law and to support the continued integration of Indigenous Law into the existing curriculum.
- The Indigenous Law Students Association Speaker Series is an annual public event featuring a series of five lectures by lawyers, legal scholars and other subject matter experts, and includes the presentation of the Aboriginal Justice Award. Speakers and themes are chosen by the Indigenous Law Students' Association.
- Foundations of Law: A mandatory course for all first-year students includes a concentrated unit on Indigenous legal traditions and taught on the land of the Enoch Cree Nation.
- Upper level courses include: *Indigenous Laws--Foundations & Methods* (an interactive intensive seminar exploring current challenges in accessing, understanding and applying Indigenous legal traditions today); *Indigenous Peoples and the Law* (a course to introduce students to the legal issues faced by Indigenous peoples pertaining to Indigenous lands, rights, and governance); *The TRC, Law, Justice & Reconciliation* (a course that focuses on the residential school experience and its legacies); *Miyowícêhtowin Principles and Practice* (an on the land course in Cree Law taught by faculty and community members); and *Métis Law & the Canadian State*.
- Our students participate annually in the Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot. Professor Tamara Pearl will be coach for the moot in 2022/23.
- Wahkohtowin Law & Governance Lodge: This project supports the identification, articulation and implementation of Indigenous laws and practices and provides public legal education by partnering with several Indigenous communities and organizations in Alberta and across Canada.
- We have dedicated a suite of rooms on the main floor of the Law Centre to the Wahkohtowin Lodge and the Indigenous Law Students' Association. The space includes a room for ceremony.
- Our Indigenous Support Officer runs a variety of group and one-on-one mentoring programs for Indigenous students. These includes a spring short course for incoming Indigenous students (*the Launchpad to Law* program), a variety of academic and social sessions for current students, and a special convocation event for Indigenous graduates every June after the University's formal convocation ceremony.
- We have 41 self-identifying Indigenous JD students and 2 self-identifying Indigenous PhD students enrolled for the 2022-2023 academic year. In the spring of 2022, 14 self-identifying Indigenous students graduated from the JD program.

The University of Calgary Faculty of Law acknowledges the traditional territories of the People of the Treaty 7 Region and historic Metis Homeland in Southern Alberta.

In 2017 our Faculty established the Indigenous Strategy Committee to develop responses to the TRC Calls to Action and *ii 'taa'poh'to'p*, the University's Indigenous strategy. The committee, which includes current Indigenous law students, Indigenous staff and faculty, alum, and non-Indigenous allies, has made good progress on developing responses and supporting current and future Indigenous students. Some of our prior and future work includes:

- Integration of Indigenous programming in our *Foundations in Law & Justice* 3-week intensive first-year course September and January that includes:
 - Indigenous speaker panel;
 - Mandatory completion of the CBA's and LSA's "The Path";
 - Topics on Indigenous and Critical Race perspectives and anti-racism;
 - Blanket exercise;
 - Indigenous Welcome Ceremony for newly admitted Indigenous law students.
- Continuing to expand the breadth and depth of Aboriginal and Indigenous law content in the curriculum generally, especially in the mandatory curriculum. Across the mandatory curriculum students now get a full course worth (36 credit hours) of instruction in these topics. Across the entire curriculum no fewer than thirty-four of our courses contain content dealing with issues of Aboriginal and Indigenous law.
- Expansion of Indigenous and Aboriginal course content offerings, including:

• Indigenous Peoples and the Law	• Legal Practice: Indigenous Business Law
• Indigenous Legal Theory	• Reconciliation & Lawyers
• Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot	• Negotiating Indigenous Rights
• Residential Schools Settlement Agreement	• Indigenous Economic Development
• Selected Topics in Indigenous Peoples and the Law	• On-the-land Indigenous Self-Government and Modern Treaties Intensive
- Building relationships with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous lawyers and professionals, and Indigenous Counsel of the LSA.

- Building relationships and working closely with the student-run Indigenous Law Students Association to understand student concerns and interests and ensure they have a voice in decision making (including two seats on the Indigenous strategy committee).
- Development of Indigenous Students Admissions Process to equitably address the underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples within the legal profession, including the creation of an all-Indigenous Admissions Committee.
- Creation and hiring of the Staff position of Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation.
- Hiring of one Indigenous Faculty member.
- Development of a strategy to identify, recruit, hire, and support Indigenous Faculty and Staff.
- Funding for students to attend the University of Saskatchewan Spring and Summer Law Courses prior to their first year.
- Funding for students to complete the University of Calgary First Nations Leadership program as part of their degree.
- Funding for Indigenous students to attain membership and participate in the annual IBA Conference and other Indigenous-focused opportunities.
- Playing a partnership and hosting role in the “Dare to Dream” student program.
- Working to develop a Certificate Program in Indigenous & Aboriginal Legal studies.
- Working to create scholarship and bursary opportunities to support Indigenous students through their studies.
- Working to create career opportunities for Indigenous students through partnership with Indigenous communities and the profession.
- Working to create Indigenous mentorship opportunities with the LSA, ILF, and Provincial Court.

**Schulich School of Law: Reconciliation Initiatives & Responses to the TRC Report
(January 2023)**

The Schulich School of Law has been promoting Indigenous participation in the legal system since establishing the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative (IB&MI) in 1989 in response to the *Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution* report. We have six dedicated spaces for Mi'kmaq students in each first-year class. The IB&MI is supported by the University, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, and the provincial and federal governments.

In 2016, we formed a TRC Committee, made up of faculty and students. The TRC Committee's focus has been on enhancing our curriculum and creating internship, research, mentorship and articling opportunities and other supports for our Indigenous students.

The courses we have added since 2016 include a mandatory two-credit intensive course for our first-year students, *Aboriginal and Indigenous Law in Context 1 and 2 (AILC)*. This course provides foundational knowledge about the history and contemporary experiences of Indigenous peoples (particular Mi'kmaq people, as we are located in Mi'kma'ki) and their relationship with Canada. It also introduces students to the various ways Aboriginal and Indigenous law intersect with Canadian law.

We now offer seven upper-year courses in Aboriginal and/or Indigenous law. This year we also offered an intensive course in applied Indigenous law, with Prof. Alan Hanna from the University of Victoria, entitled "Indigenous Law in Conversation with Anglo-Canadian Contract Law." We also welcomed Justice Tony Mandamin to the Law School in October 2022 as a visiting lecturer in several courses. He gave presentations to students and faculty on "The Seven Sacred Teachings." In 2020, we created our Certificate in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law. Twenty-five students in the JD Class of 2022 graduated with the Certificate, and many more are currently enrolled in this Certificate program. Student interest and enrollment in our upper year Aboriginal and Indigenous Law electives is high.

We support our Indigenous students in many ways. They receive full tuition support (partial if they have some Band support), in addition to financial support for books and a living allowance. We give our students financial support every year to attend the national Indigenous Bar Association Conference. Several workplaces have dedicated summer employment and/or articling positions for our IB&MI students, including the NS Department of Justice, NS Legal Aid, and the NS Court of Appeal. Our TRC Committee and Career Development Office have been working with Indigenous organizations to create and support internship opportunities for our students. These positions are fully paid by the law school. In 2021-22 three paid summer internships were created for our Indigenous students with the Atlantic Policy Conference of First Nations Chiefs, the Kwilmu'kMawklusuaqan Mi'kmaq Rights Office, and the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. We also hired two summer Research Assistants to undertake research for faculty members to include more Indigenous content in their courses and programs; this summer the RAs assisted with 12 different research requests from faculty

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members across a range of subjects. This year we were able to reincorporate the Blanket Exercise, which had been suspended due to COVID), into our Orientation Week programming with the help of the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre.

In October 2022 we acquired an eagle feather as a gift from IB&MI alumni Jamie Vacon and Jade Pictou, and Professor Cheryl Simon. The Welcome Ceremony taught us about the feather and the related protocols and ceremony in relation to stewarding the feather.

We have three Mi'kmaq tenure-track professors (one is a joint position with the Faculty of Management). Plans for the future include continuing to enhance the curriculum, introducing a graduate certificate and graduate scholarships, and continuing to recruit and invite Indigenous scholars and visitors. Professor Naomi Metallic, with colleagues, is currently developing and obtaining funding for the LnuweyTpludaquan Seeding project, a Mi'kmaq law, governance and Indigenomics wigwam. This joint Law School and Faculty of Management project will support Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada in revitalizing their laws, governance and economic participation.

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action: Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Responses

1) Pre TRC Initiatives

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University was established in the fall of 2013 with the blessing and support of Indigenous communities, including Fort William First Nation, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Anishinabek Nation (formerly the Union of Ontario Indians), Grand Council Treaty #3, and the Metis Nation of Ontario. Since it opened, the faculty's three mandates have served the legal needs of Northern Ontario: 1) Aboriginal and Indigenous Law; 2) Natural Resources and Environmental Law; and 3) Small Town Practice with the Integrated Practice Curriculum. Even before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their final report in 2015, Bora Laskin faculty and staff have been responding to many of the TRC Calls to Action.

Since opening our doors, first-year students have been required to take two courses in Aboriginal Worldviews and Indigenous Law. The first is LAWS 1530 (Indigenous Legal Traditions) introducing students to the worldviews and perspectives of Indigenous peoples in Canada examining laws and legal traditions of various Indigenous nations. It covers the history and legacy of residential schools, treaties understood from an Indigenous perspective, Indigenous law, Aboriginal-Crown relations, and skills-based training in using talking circles as a form of conflict resolution. The second is LAWS 1535 (Indigenous Perspectives) requiring law students to engage in thirty-six (36) hours of activities approved by the Director of Indigenous Relations. The approved activities introduce law students to FNMI culture, traditions, and perspectives through speakers, dialogue, media, and experience-based opportunities to interact with Indigenous communities. In second year, all law students are required to complete a full year course, LAWS 2000 (Aboriginal Legal Issues) which covers Canadian laws applied to Indigenous Peoples, addressing historical and current interactions affecting Indigenous Peoples including Aboriginal-Crown relations, treaties and Aboriginal rights. The course also introduces all Lakehead law students to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Beyond these mandatory courses, we also offer electives with Indigenous and Aboriginal Law content including IP and Indigenous Knowledge Governance, Federal and Aboriginal Law of Work, and Land Use in the North. All instructors are encouraged to also weave Indigenous contents into all their courses where possible and Lakehead University has recently appointed an Indigenous Curriculum Specialist to help with further curricular developments in these areas.

Not only are Indigenous content and concerns integrated throughout our curriculum, but also throughout our building and every major event we host. Our Restorative Justice Room, Aboriginal Law classroom, and Indigenous Law Students' Association Resource Centre all provide culturally safe and comfortable spaces for students. We also include Elders, drummers/singers, and cultural teachings in our Welcome Day, Orientation, Graduation, and other significant events. We have been guided from the beginning by the Anishinaabe Oma-Minowaywin (the Faculty's Indigenous advisory council which provides guidance to the Dean and faculty) and the Ogimawin Indigenous Education Council (the university's Indigenous governing body which provides guidance to the President on all Indigenous programs and services at Lakehead). Further, we have a ProBono Students Canada chapter at our law school focused primarily on Indigenous legal issues, as well as a very active Indigenous Law Student Association which hosts various cultural workshops, film screenings, feasts, social gatherings, mentorship and networking opportunities, and academic panels and presentations.

2) Organizational TRC Responses

The Office of Indigenous Relations and the position of Director of Indigenous Relations were established in September 2016. The Director is a support for those who seek information on applying to law school, our current law students, and our law graduates as they enter the legal job market. The Indigenous Law and Justice Institute was launched on April 1, 2021. The Institute will focus on: research, including engaging students with community members and elders and building on our series of Indigenous law conferences; strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations to revitalize Indigenous laws; and on curriculum development for land-based learning and a law camp.

The above-mentioned Anishinaabe Oma-Minowaywin (AOM) and the Ogimawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) both provide input and advice from Indigenous communities and organizations to the Faculty of Law and Lakehead University, respectively. Our Indigenous Admissions Committee is responsible for reviewing all self-identified Indigenous applicants and monitoring the Indigenous Admissions Policy for effectiveness. The law faculty also has committees overseeing the Indigenous Law & Justice Institute, our biannual Indigenous Law Conference, and ad hoc events (such as Truth & Reconciliation Day and Treaty Week), as well as representation on main campus committees, including the President's Council on Truth & Reconciliation (PCTR), the Provost's Task Force on the Indigenous Content Requirement (PTF-ICR), and the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages (UNDIL) Planning Committee.

3a) Recruitment – Indigenous students

The Indigenous Admissions Policy's mandate is to assess the self-identified Indigenous applicants for admission to the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. In doing so, the Indigenous Admissions Committee is guided by eleven principles covering the faculty's mandate areas, the applicant's suitability to our program, entrance scholarships, and expertise and competency of committee members. In recent years, the Faculty of Law has decided to offer all successful Indigenous applicant an entrance scholarship, typically valued at \$5,000. Incoming students also receive support from the Director of Indigenous Relations in locating resources, whether financial, housing, food, legal, or academic.

3b) Recruitment – Indigenous Faculty and Staff (and Staff with TRC Related Duties)

The faculty currently employs one Indigenous staff member in the position of Director of Indigenous Relations. Established in September 2016, the Director coordinates the Indigenous Perspectives course, the Elder-in-Residence program, chairs the Indigenous Admissions Committee and serves on others, conducts student & faculty recruitment activities as well as other events in the region, such as the annual Indigenous High School Law Day and the annual Indigenous Legal Traditions field trip, and liaises with the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law along with other Indigenous legal supports across the country. Currently, one Indigenous faculty member is employed by the faculty, though we are committed to hiring more as we grow. The Dean is also heavily involved with TRC related duties, including securing resources and training for staff and faculty professional development.

4) Curricular Innovation

Our mandatory courses with dedicated Indigenous content, as well as our electives, are outlined above (see 'Pre TRC Initiatives'). In addition, we support our students in competing at the annual Kawashkimohn Moot, which incorporates Indigenous Legal Orders alongside federal, provincial, and international laws, we send a delegation of students on a land based excursion to the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre every year, we started a law camp incorporating land learning and Indigenous law

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at Quetico Conference & Convention Centre in August 2022, and we include skills and competencies for Aboriginal and Indigenous Law throughout much of our programming.

5) Governance

In addition to the AOM, the OIEC, and the Indigenous Admissions Committee (see ‘Pre TRC Initiatives’ and ‘Organizational TRC Responses’), staff and faculty support and work with many Law Student Society (LSS) clubs, including the Indigenous Law Students’ Association (ILSA), the Black Law Students’ Association (BLSA), and the Asian Law Students’ Association (ALSA).

6) Facilities/Safe Environment

The Faculty of Law contains many safe and inclusive spaces, such as the LSS Lounge, the ILSA Resource Centre & Library, the Restorative Justice Room, and the Office of Indigenous Relations. The LSS Lounge is a place where students can gather to relax and study when not in class. The ILSA Resource Centre contains a reading library, a large round table for meetings and feasts, our student medicine bundle, and seating for social events or studying. The Restorative Justice Room is our cultural classroom on the third floor which overlooks Lake Superior and the Sleeping Giant. It contains no desks and seats are arranged in a circle. It also houses our faculty’s medicine bundle. The Office of Indigenous Relations contains office space for the Director of Indigenous Relations, space for student collaboration, and it houses our Indigenous Law & Justice Institute’s medicine bundle. We also have a classroom dedicated to teaching Aboriginal and Indigenous Law. All spaces at the law school are designated smudging areas.

7) Research

Regarding research, the Indigenous Law & Justice Institute is actively engaged in employing Student Researchers and a Research Coordinator to examine the revitalization of Indigenous laws for communities and organizations, such as Fort William First Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, Nookiwin Tribal Council, and Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services. In addition to the ILSA Resource Centre & Library, our Law Library has a categorization strategy which utilizes a colour-coded system to identify resources related to our mandate areas, including Aboriginal and Indigenous Law. The Director of Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Law Professor also provide support to students looking to access Indigenous Law resources.

8) Mentorship/Internship

Entering our ninth year, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law continues to build on the mandate of Aboriginal and Indigenous Law. We have many initiatives that have been generously funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario and the federal Department of Justice to further our efforts in strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations. Continued initiatives include annual participation in the Kawashkimohn Moot, expanded Pro Bono Students Canada projects with Indigenous partners and content, an increased number of Debwewin student internships, and volunteer and employment opportunities with Lakehead University Community Legal Services, Kinnaaweya Legal Clinic, and Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services. New initiatives include monthly check-ins with Indigenous students conducted by the Director of Indigenous Relations and collaboration with the National Advocates for Indigenous Law Students to discuss and address issues around student support, admissions, recruitment, online learning. In addition to the Peer Mentorship Program facilitated by Student Services, ILSA also creates opportunities for mentorship and networking with the local legal community through seasonal feasts and social gatherings. The Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference and the

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National Indigenous Law Students' Association (NILSA) also provide a venue for networking and mentorship among Indigenous law students.

9) Community engagement

In addition to the outreach activities and speaker series facilitated by the Indigenous Law & Justice Institute Outreach Coordinator (see 'Organizational TRC Responses'), the Faculty of Law has coordinated a Violence in Policing Workshop for the local legal community, as well as a semi-annual Indigenous Law Conference for law students, scholars, and practitioners from across Canada. We are also involved every year with supporting Lakehead University's events around the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Treaties Recognition Week, and we are planning a series of Gladue awareness workshops to educate the local bar and judiciary.

10) Future Initiatives

In the near future, the Bora Laskin Faculty of law plans to hire an Indigenous Relations Intern through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation on a one-year term to support the Office of Indigenous Relations. Funding is being sought for an additional full-time support person. We are also planning an Indigenous Law Conference (*Languages, Land & Sovereignty: Revitalizing Indigenous Legal Orders*) for January 2023, our second law camp for September 2023, and a series of smaller land-learning excursions over the course of the academic year.



Mise à jour des actions posées en 2022 en réponse au Rapport de la CVR du Canada

Faculté de droit de l'Université Laval (Québec)

Embauche d'une professeure d'origine innue

Depuis le 1^{er} janvier 2022, la Faculté de droit de l'Université Laval compte dans ses rangs la professeure Kathy Bellefleur, d'origine innue, spécialiste en droit civil. Madame Bellefleur soutiendra bientôt sa thèse de doctorat, entreprise à l'Université McGill, et qui examine les fondements de la propriété en établissant des ponts conceptuels entre la tradition de droit civil et la tradition innue.

Création de la Chaire de leadership en enseignement René-Dussault sur l'inclusion des traditions autochtones dans les programmes de formation en droit

En janvier 2022, l'Université Laval a créé la Chaire de leadership en enseignement René-Dussault sur l'inclusion des traditions autochtones dans les programmes de formation en droit. Cette chaire, dirigée par la professeure Kathy Bellefleur, a pour mission de contribuer à la bonification des programmes de formation en droit en permettant aux étudiantes et étudiants de s'initier et de comprendre, dans un esprit d'ouverture, les traditions juridiques autochtones. Elle bénéficie d'un don philanthropique de Me René Dussault, juge retraité de la Cour d'appel du Québec.

Les travaux réalisés au sein de la Chaire permettront de:

- Favoriser l'intégration dans l'enseignement du droit des perspectives normatives des peuples autochtones afin d'enrichir cet enseignement et de le rendre plus représentatif des réalités québécoise et canadienne;
- Développer des outils pédagogiques propres aux nations autochtones, afin de les inclure dans l'enseignement à la Faculté, notamment sous forme de capsules vidéos, incluant des témoignages d'aînés ou des récits;
- Inclure l'enseignement des traditions juridiques autochtones dans les programmes de formation de la Faculté;
- Intéresser et faciliter le recrutement de futurs juristes autochtones en s'appuyant sur les structures déjà mises en place au sein des communautés autochtones pour aider leurs étudiantes et étudiants souhaitant poursuivre des études universitaires;
- Former d'actuels ou de futurs juristes non seulement aux injustices subies par les peuples autochtones, mais également à leurs traditions, culture et différents modes normatifs.

Création d'un nouveau cours obligatoire *Traditions et enjeux juridiques autochtones* dans le programme de baccalauréat en droit

À compter de la session universitaire 2023-2024, un cours obligatoire de trois (3) crédits intitulé *Traditions et enjeux juridiques autochtones* sera intégré au programme de baccalauréat en droit. Ce cours, qui sera donné à la deuxième session, aura comme objectif d'introduire les étudiantes et

étudiants au concept de pluralisme juridique, en les ouvrant à une diversité d'expressions normatives et culturelles, mais aussi à leur présenter un historique des relations avec l'État ainsi que certains enjeux liés aux interactions entre droit civil et normativités autochtones. La formation juridique vise également à sensibiliser les personnes étudiantes aux enjeux contemporains relatifs à l'identité autochtone, notamment le *Principe de Jordan*, la condition des femmes autochtones, le statut juridique et l'accès à la justice et au logement.

Création du Comité permanent Droit et peuples autochtones

En 2022, la Faculté de droit a créé un Comité permanent sur le droit et les peuples autochtones, composé de professeurs, d'étudiants et de personnes ressources, dont au moins un étudiant ou une étudiante autochtone et d'un représentant externe issu d'une nation autochtone du Québec. Ce comité a pour mandat de :

- Conseiller la direction sur la formation et la sensibilisation des étudiants ou du personnel sur les enjeux autochtones ainsi que sur la compétence et la sécurisation culturelles;
- Proposer à la direction toute orientation, activité ou mesure propre à favoriser l'autochtonisation de la Faculté et la décolonisation du droit;
- Conseiller la direction sur la sensibilisation et la formation des professeures et professeurs sur les enjeux juridiques liés aux peuples autochtones et notamment sur la *Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones*;
- En collaboration avec la personne-ressource de la Faculté et les instances universitaires et étudiantes pertinentes, conseiller la direction sur les mesures de soutien et d'accompagnement des étudiantes et étudiants autochtones qui sont susceptibles d'augmenter leur taux de diplomation et d'assurer leur sécurisation culturelle;
- En collaboration avec la personne-ressource de la Faculté et les instances universitaires et étudiantes pertinentes, conseiller la direction sur les mesures ou initiatives visant le recrutement d'étudiantes et d'étudiants autochtones;
- Faire rapport à l'assemblée de ses travaux tous les deux ans.

Anne-Marie Savard

Vice-doyenne aux études et à l'expérience étudiante

9 décembre 2022

CTA 28 Activities and Planning at Robson Hall

Prior to July of 2021, the following initiatives have and continue to exist in the Faculty of Law:

1. CTA 28 was adopted by Law Faculty in Spring of 2016.
2. The Academic Innovation Report of 2014 was adopted by Law Faculty Council in Spring of 2016 and it contained many recommendations regarding experiential learning and Indigenization of the curriculum.
3. The following dedicated courses deliver Indigenous content relevant to legal practice: Aboriginal Law – Criminal Justice and Family Law; Aboriginal Peoples and the Law; Indigenous Economic Development and the Law; Oral History, Indigenous Peoples, and the Law.
4. The following courses contain Indigenous-related units of study for a substantial period of the course offering, in addition to doctrinal and clinical learning:
 1. Access to Justice
 2. Administrative Law
 3. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 4. Charter Issues in Criminal Law
 5. Children, Youth and the Law
 6. Clinical Criminal Law
 7. Constitutional Law
 8. Criminal Law and Procedure
 9. Environmental Law
 10. Evidence
 11. Human Rights Law
 12. Intensive Criminal Law
 13. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing Wrongful Convictions
 14. Law and Resistance
 15. Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg, Inc. (LHC), Externship
 16. Legal Methods
 17. Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility
 18. Legal Systems
 19. Preventing Wrongful Convictions

20. Property
 21. Public Interest Law Centre Internship
 22. Robson Crim Research and Practice Experience
 23. Sentencing and Penal Policy
 24. University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC) Criminal Law Externship
5. The Faculty of Law houses a number of scholarly journals and blogs that regularly publish on Indigenous issues:
 1. The Manitoba Law Journal Oral Histories
Special Edition:
<https://themanitobalawjournal.com/indigenous-law-issues/>
 2. Robsoncrim.com
 3. The Manitoba Law Journal Criminal Law Editions (also available on Robsoncrim.com)
 4. The Canadian Journal of Human Rights (<https://cjhr.ca/>)
 6. Robson Hall houses the Centre for Human Rights Research (<https://chrr.info/>) which engages in a variety of public and research-oriented experiences that deal with issues of Indigenousness and rights.
 7. The Faculty of Law houses the Master of Human Rights program which offers a number of core courses and electives that deal with Indigenousness and rights including: Theory and Practice of Human Rights: Critical Perspectives in Human Rights; Selected Topics in Human Rights Research and Methods; Human Rights Law and a Master's Practicum (often with a placement in organizations that work in Indigenous issues). Interdisciplinary Electives include the above law offerings and: ANTH 4780 - Museums, Memory, and Witnessing; SWRK 7730 – Indigenous Research Methodologies and Knowledge Development and SWRK 7750 – Indigeneity, Power, Privilege, and Social Work.

Since July 1, 2021 and into the Future

Under the guidance of the Faculty of Law Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator, we have mapped and curated our existing curriculum and have developed course descriptions across all offerings that engage with Indigenous learning outcomes.

Steps undertaken include:

- 1) An Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator was hired to liaise with Indigenous students and to work with Faculty to review their course curricula to help improve Indigenous content that is being provided currently.
- 2) We have also retained up to two Elder in Residence positions including architects of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, to provide ancillary support to the Coordinator and students.
- 3) We developed and passed a new course on Indigenous Methods and Perspectives that will become mandatory in Fall 2023 for all law students
- 4) All hiring committee decisions dealing with Indigenous hiring contain a minimum of 3 Indigenous community members.
- 5) We have committed resources to have our students participate in The Kawaskimhon Moot.
- 6) We have created a Truth and Reconciliation Action Team to advise on curricular reform and to advise on admissions, recruitment and student pathways. The mandate of the team includes:
 - a. Instituting CTA 28 in substance by making motions to the Academic Affairs Committee which governs law curriculum
 - b. Ensuring fairness and contributing to our Indigenous Admissions process
 - c. Developing strategies for Indigenousizing our core curriculum
 - d. Advising on all issues of interest to Truth and Reconciliation that involve the Law School
 - e. Helping ensure that our Practicing Professional community is well represented by Indigenous lawyers in a teaching capacity
 - f. Advising on recruiting and retaining more Indigenous Faculty Members and Instructors
 - g. Brainstorming events, workshops and CPD at the School that foster Truth

and Reconciliation

- h. Meeting with the Dean to discuss issues of concern to the Indigenous bar and community

The committee members include Indigenous Faculty, the Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator, Faculty and up to 12 members of the Indigenous Bar. A subcommittee deals with Indigenous category admissions in each year.

- 7) We are launching an Indigenous Rights Clinic at Robson Hall, and have partnered with Manitoba's largest Indigenous law firm, Cochrane Saxberg which hosts, as counsel, The Honourable Murray Sinclair. The clinic includes land-based learning opportunities, a pardons clinic, a status clinic, and outreach with local school divisions that connects Indigenous law students and student government with prospective Indigenous law students.
- 8) Robson Hall hired two full time tenure track academics who are Indigenous and connected to geographically proximate nations.
- 9) Robson Hall is working to develop a Chair in Indigenous Economic Reconciliation.
- 10) Robson Hall regularly confers with the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association on a range of far-reaching decisions.
- 11) Robson Hall runs a workshop series together with local Indigenous Bar members on *Indigenous People and The Criminal Justice System Seminar*. The Seminars are scheduled in Fall of each year. This intensive seminar will follow the general introduction to the complexities and principles of criminal law presented in courses on criminal law and evidence. It emphasizes the ways in which these complexities and principles intersect with Indigenous concepts of justice. The class will engage in a critical analysis of the relationship between Indigenous accused and the Courts through multiple stages of the justice system: arrest, bail,

pre-trial procedures, and sentencing. Throughout the course the role of the Crown and defence counsel and the obligations created by these roles will be discussed. Participants will examine Gladue reports, culturally important ceremonies and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. Lawyers in practice who attend will receive CPD credits. Students will attend for free.

- 12) We fund MILSA and students to attend national workshops and seminars on issues pertaining to Indigenous rights
- 13) Orientation exercises emphasize that ethical professional practice is to be informed by the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and that ethical practice is Indigenous practice.
- 14) Local Indigenous Bar members deliver a “Welcome from the Bar” annual address, and they also bring welcome from their Treatylands.
- 15) The Keynote address at first year orientation is delivered by an Indigenous Senator explaining the role of a law maker and providing context in respect of experiences in residential schools.
- 16) Smudging and other ceremonies are routinely hosted at Robson Hall and on the grounds.
- 17) Our Legal Systems required first year course engages the following Manitoba Museum curated educational activities:
 - a) **YOU ARE ON TREATYLAND**
The module begins with the main Treaty exhibit next to bison. The discussion will explain the original spirit and intent of the Treaties and of the foundational importance of Treaties and the basis of all kinds of law and how these discussions create the possibility of a moral inflection

point in relations with First Nations peoples.

b) ROSEAU ELDERS

In this module, discussion will orient around pipes in an exhibit case, the role of Roseau elders, and the role that the pipes play as teachers in educating visitors, especially First Nations students, about First Nations Treaty leaders.

c) *EXHIBIT: PEGUIS SELKIRK TREATY:* At the Peguis Selkirk Treaty Exhibit this module will discuss Treaties as long-term relationships, that Peguis people policed that Treaty for 50 years, and the recent visits of Lord Selkirk, evidence of 200 years of respect and commitment.

d) *EXHIBIT: TREATY NO 1- FIRST TREATY TO BE MADE - FIRST TREATY TO BE BROKEN* In this module, at the Treaty One exhibit, a lesson plan will orient around those who made Treaty, like Forever Thunderbird, whose photo is there; discussions about making and breaking Treaty promises and the importance of the side promises will occur— also there – that we see in Treaty One. Treaty Two and the story of Greyeyes will be discussed.

e) *EXHIBIT: WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE and TREATY NO. THREE*

At Treaty Three, the many firsts in this Treaty, will be discussed, including the inclusion of Metis and the framing of hunting and fishing rights and how it was the people of this Treaty area who used the law to get their hunting rights back again.

f) *EXHIBIT: TREATY NO. 5 and THE BERENS FAMILY COLLECTION*

At Treaty No. 5, a discussion is led by a descendant of Jacob Berens who signed the Treaty.

Robson Hall has a robust set of vehicles, opportunities and resources to meet CTA 28 as we embark on bringing further coherence to our program and obligations. We endeavor to develop even better pathways for Indigenous achievement, by first, including Indigenous content in our program and the courses that contribute to it, and, second, in giving

meaning to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 28 and other calls to action.

Responses to the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

McGill Faculty of Law – November 2022

Process

- Survey of Indigenous Issues (February 2016, drafted by then law student Molly Churchill)
- *Taskforce in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action* (2016–17)
- Subcommittee of Curriculum Committee (2017–)

Initiatives

Teaching

- Multi-pronged response to Call to Action #28, including the following
 - Creation of a mandatory, three-credit course in Indigenous Legal Traditions for all first-year BCL/JD students beginning in Fall 2020
 - Integrated modules on Indigenous law in all existing mandatory courses
- Existing Indigenous content in mandatory courses:
 - Introduction to Indigenous ways of knowing as part of intensive weeks for first-year students
 - Criminal Justice course (6 cr.) integrates common law, civil law and Indigenous laws, and explores the impacts of criminal justice on Indigenous communities in Canada
 - Property course (6 cr.) integrates common law, civil law and Indigenous laws
- Indigenous faculty:
 - John Borrows, Professor at the University of Victoria Law School, and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, appointed Tomlinson Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2017-18
 - Aaron Mills, from Couchiching First Nation, appointed Assistant Professor in August 2018
 - Kerry Sloan, Metis law scholar, appointed Assistant Professor effective August 2019
 - Joshua Nichols, from Treaty 8 territory, appointed Assistant Professor effective August 2021
- Combined Law (BCL/LLB) program with Minor concentration in Indigenous Studies

Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students

- Field courses:
 - One-month interdisciplinary Indigenous Field Studies Course in collaboration with Social Work, Medicine and Anthropology, which includes one week spent in Kahnawà:ke, Mohawk Territory
 - Anishinaabeg Law Class: 3-day intensive land-based course taught by John Borrows on territory of Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation (Ontario) (2018)
 - Anishinaabe Law Field School, pilot project offered in July–August 2022 in Winnipeg, in collaboration with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
- Outreach:
 - Participation in the annual Eagle Spirit High Performance Camp run by McGill's First Peoples' House (FPH)
 - LEX high school outreach program (partnership with Kahnawà:ke Survival School and other Montreal area schools with 10 dedicated lesson plans)
 - Developing partnership with Connected North to broadcast lessons to remote and northern schools
- Internships and legal clinics:
 - Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services (Nunavut)
 - Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre (Saskatoon)
 - Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Justice Department (Ontario/QC/NY border)
 - Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government (Waswanipi, James Bay)
 - Yukon Human Rights Commission

- Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
- Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
- Academic exchange opportunities:
 - University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law and Policies program
 - Osgoode Hall Law School's Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments
 - University of British Columbia's Indigenous Legal Studies program
- Student research: Aboriginal Human Rights Initiative run through the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
- Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Law Moot (hosted in 2018)

Student Experience & Support

- Hire of Assistant Dean (Inclusion – Black and Indigenous Flourishing) (spring 2021), succeeded by Dean's Lead, Black and Indigenous Flourishing (2022)
- Recruitment:
 - Annual visit to [Kiuna Institution](#) (First Nations CEGEP)
 - Admissions workshop in collaboration with Faculty of Medicine in Fall 2018
 - Welcome Days for students at Kahnawà:ke Survival School
 - Lunch events for Indigenous undergraduate students at First Peoples' House to introduce students to faculty members and relevant resources
 - Language training for admitted Indigenous candidates to improve abilities in English or French before or during the law program
- Indigenous Law Students:
 - Creation of an Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator position (part-time students)
 - Indigenous Law Association / Association de droit autochtone (ILADA)
 - *Rooted* (publication run with ILADA)
 - Dedicated bilingual pages [on the Faculty website](#) (explaining admissions process, available resources and sources of financial support)
 - Annual inter-tribal welcome for all first-year law students during orientation and welcome lunch for Indigenous students at First Peoples' House
 - Survey of Indigenous students to identify needs and desired support measures
 - Annual career panels featuring Indigenous legal practitioners and lawyers in Aboriginal law
 - Development of mentorship program and creation of a database of summer job and internship opportunities
 - Installation of RedDress project commemorating missing and murdered Indigenous women in March 2019
 - Development of an Indigenous awareness workshop with university's Social Equity and Diversity Education Office for all law students
- Funding:
 - For Indigenous student participation in professional and academic conferences (e.g. annual IBA conference)
 - Funding available for ILADA initiatives
 - Donor-funded bursaries and scholarships with preference for Indigenous students
 - Dedicated funding for Indigenous graduate students

Decolonization of Space

- Addition of Indigenous artwork in law library, main lobby, and space outside Student Affairs Office
- Proposals for Indigenous learning classroom underway

Inventaire des interventions et initiatives relatives au droit des peuples autochtones à la Faculté de droit de l'Université de Moncton

1. Recrutement

La Faculté de droit a en place des conditions d'admission spéciales pour les personnes autochtones. Le règlement 1.1.3 prévoit ainsi qu'en reconnaissance de la discrimination systémique subie par les autochtones au Canada, la Faculté tiendra compte de ce facteur dans l'évaluation des candidatures d'autochtones et pourra admettre à titre exceptionnel ces personnes même si elles ne satisfont pas aux exigences minimales d'admission.

2. Formation et recherche

Le cours DROI3033 Droit des peuples autochtones fait partie du programme du J.D. et est actuellement offert sur une base annuelle. Cependant, il convient de noter d'autres cours qui sont importants à cet égard. Ainsi, dans le cadre du cours DROI1221 Droit constitutionnel, environ 5 heures d'enseignement sont consacrées aux droits constitutionnels des peuples autochtones au Canada, y compris leur historique. De même, le cours DROI1017 Droit des biens consacre environ six heures d'enseignement à la question du titre ancestral, ainsi qu'à l'obligation de la Couronne de consulter et d'accommoder les peuples autochtones dans le cadre de projets de développement économique. De plus, le cours DROI3120 Droits linguistiques aborde la question des droits linguistiques des peuples autochtones, alors que le cours DROI2321 Histoire du droit traite des enjeux liés à la colonisation et à la réception du droit au Canada dans le contexte du droit des peuples autochtones. Par ailleurs, le cours DROI3533 Droit de l'environnement examine la reconnaissance des droits issus de traités et des droits ancestraux de chasse et de pêche en droit canadien, alors que des éléments du droit des peuples autochtones sont également étudiés dans les cours DROI2231 Procédure pénale, DROI1224 Droit international public, DROI2322 Philosophie et sociologie du droit, DROI3023 Modes de règlements de conflits et DROI3500 Droit maritime. Enfin, notons que des personnes étudiantes de notre programme de J.D. travaillent sur des questions autochtones dans le cadre de leurs mémoires d'études (programme de J.D.), sans oublier la publication de textes liés aux enjeux autochtones par des membres du corps professoral.

3. Centre de traduction et de terminologie juridiques (CTTJ) et Bibliothèque de droit Michel-Bastarache

Outre les nombreuses décisions juridiques qu'il traduit, le CTTJ fournit des services d'expert en jurilinguistique et de traduction, notamment pour le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique et le ministère des Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada eu égard aux accords d'autonomie gouvernementale conclus avec des peuples autochtones au pays.

Par ailleurs, depuis le dépôt du Rapport de la Commission de vérité et de réconciliation, la Bibliothèque de droit Michel-Bastarache enrichit davantage sa collection en matière de droit autochtone / droit des peuples autochtones. Elle développe la collection en la matière de manière plus large qu'auparavant (qui était de maintenir une collection appuyant les cours offerts par la Faculté de droit sur le sujet). La Bibliothèque suit de près les travaux du Comité des questions autochtones de la Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (FCAB), notamment ses travaux relatifs à la mise en œuvre de la 5^e recommandation du Rapport et recommandations du Comité de vérité et réconciliation de la FCAB.

4. Initiatives récentes

Du financement a été obtenu pour un projet de perfectionnement pédagogique facultaire portant sur le développement des connaissances et des compétences professorales pour répondre à l'appel à l'action 28 de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada selon lequel, entre autres, les facultés de droit du pays doivent « offrir une formation axée sur les compétences pour ce qui est de l'aptitude interculturelle, du règlement de différends, des droits de la personne et de la lutte contre le racisme. » Dans le cadre de ce projet, des interventions d'experts et de personnes autochtones ont pu avoir lieu dans différents cours de la Faculté, sans oublier que les membres du corps professoral ont eu accès à la formation *Le Parcours : votre voyage au sein du Canada autochtone* de l'Association du barreau canadien (ABC).

D'ailleurs, s'agissant de cette formation *Le Parcours*, une trentaine d'étudiantes et d'étudiants y ont également eu accès, et ce, dans le cadre d'un deuxième projet financé celui-ci par le fonds de la Faculté provenant de la Fondation pour l'avancement du droit du Nouveau-Brunswick. Pour reprendre le vocabulaire de l'ABC, *Le Parcours* cherche « à accroître la sensibilisation au legs du système des pensionnats indiens », à appuyer « la formation visant à lutter contre le racisme et les préjugés » et à approfondir « les compétences en ce qu'elles ont trait à la communauté autochtone ». « Les enseignements proposés dans ce programme répondent aux appels à l'action de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation qui exhortaient les Canadiens et les Canadiennes à recevoir une formation dans le domaine de la « sensibilisation culturelle. » »

Enfin, signalons qu'un nouveau PRIX DE L'ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU (DIVISION DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK) de 4 000 \$ a été créé et sera offert en alternance entre l'Université de Moncton (pendant les années universitaires commençant par un numéro impair) et l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick (pendant les années universitaires commençant par un numéro pair) dans le cas où il y aurait des candidats appropriés dans les deux établissements.

Indigenous & Reconciliation Initiatives Update for CCLD – September 13, 2022

Osgoode Hall Law School of York University remains committed to taking specific actions to advance the larger Canadian imperative of Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples envisioned by the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

As set out in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the Law School has committed to Advancing Reconciliation and Justice as one of its 6 Key Focus Areas. Osgoode aims to take a leadership role in this endeavour through the establishment of various programs, including the development of an Elder-in residence program. These initiatives build on others the Law School has accomplished over the past few years, including¹

- Establishment of Osgoode's Office of Indigenous and Reconciliation Initiatives in October 2018 led by the Program Manager & Special Advisor, Indigenous & Reconciliation Initiatives which includes a full-time staff person.
- Development of the Indigenous and Aboriginal Law Requirement (IALR), which, as of fall 2019, requires all graduating students to have taken one of a number of courses, offered in all three years of law school, which significantly expose students to Indigenous perspectives on law.
- Establishment in August 2020, of the Kendaasowin Gchi-Naakinigewin (which means “the Art of Learning Law”), an Indigenous Student Success Program.
- Recognizing graduating Indigenous students with a separate and additional honour ceremony on the same day as Convocation.
- Establishment of the Intensive Program in Indigenous Lands, Resources, and Governance in 1994.
- Renovation of the space used by members of Osgoode’s Indigenous Students Association in the Osgoode building to facilitate smudging ceremonies.
- Annual Anishinaabe Law Camp held over 4 days each September (since 2014) at Neyaashiniigmiing (Cape Croker) in collaboration with the Chippewas of Nawash, ProJohn Borrows, and Lindsey Borrows
- A second 3-day Indigenous camp established in 2018 in collaboration with the Rama First Nation, and Professor Jeffery Hewitt.
- Debwewin Summer Internship program in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.
- JD scholarships specifically reserved for Indigenous students
- Ensuring there is Indigenous representation in the leadership of the law school by appointing Professor Karen Drake as Associate Dean, Students.
- Supporting and highlighting the work of the current Indigenous faculty, Karen Drake, Jeffery Hewitt, and Deb McGregor (a CRC shared with York’s Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change).
- Facilitating Professor MacGregor’s Inaugural Directorship of York’s Centre for Indigenous Languages and Knowledges (CIKL)
- Augmenting available funding sources for Osgoode Indigenous faculty, including the CRC in Indigenous Environmental Justice, as well as Osgoode's Indigenous Students Association (OISA) for community projects and events, and proactive outreach for the recruitment of Indigenous faculty, staff and students.
- Programming in Skennen’kó:wa Gamig (formerly Hart House) as a stand-alone centre for Indigenous community life at York University and other pan-University collaborations.
- Annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event, commemorated with an interview with retired Justice LaForme, and group discussions with attendees.

Osgoode's commitment to Reconciliation builds upon our past initiatives and reflects our shared goal for the Law School to play a leadership role among Canadian law schools in engaging with Indigenous communities, students and scholars and ensuring that our curriculum reflects Indigenous legal traditions and Indigenous justice issues.

¹ Note that due to the Pandemic, some activities did not occur this year. They will resume once permitted and deemed safe.

Historique

La Faculté de droit, Section de droit civil de l'Université d'Ottawa est une pionnière dans l'enseignement du droit autochtone au Canada. En effet, depuis 2006, nous offrons une école d'été en territoire innu dans le cadre de laquelle une moyenne de 50 étudiants par année sont initiés à l'ordre juridique innu. De plus, de 1990 au début des années 2010, nous offrons un programme d'admission pré-droit de sept semaines en français pour les candidats autochtones. Sur le plan de la recherche, nous comptons plusieurs anciens et actuels professeurs spécialistes du droit canadien applicable aux autochtones et du droit autochtone dont une Chaire de recherche du Canada de niveau 1.

CVR

Pour répondre aux appels à l'action, nous avons mis en place les mesures suivantes :

- Création d'un comité permanent sur la vérité et la réconciliation composé de professeurs et étudiants chargé de développer un plan d'action et des mesures. Ce comité a notamment recommandé la création d'un cours obligatoire en droit autochtone qui sera inclus au curriculum à compter de septembre 2024;
- Création du 1^{er} [programme de certificat en droit autochtone en français](#) au Canada qui permet d'accueillir plus respectueusement les apprenants autochtones en passant par la porte de leurs ordres juridiques. Nous avons accueilli la première cohorte de 17 étudiants autochtones en août 2022; ils étaient tous financés. Nous avons aussi un poste de coordonnateur pour ce programme.
- Création d'un poste d'ainé en résidence (Gilbert Whiteduck) qui participe aux cérémonies officielles, à l'offre de cours et au mentorat de nos étudiants autochtones, y compris dans le cadre du certificat en droit autochtone.
- Création d'un [Laboratoire visuel sur les ordres juridiques autochtones](#) pour appuyer le programme de certificat en droit autochtone créé en août 2022 et financé par Justice Canada.
- Embauche d'une professeure atikamekw nehirowisiwen janvier 2020 et nouvel affichage en cours avec entrée en fonction prévue en juillet 2023
- Cours intensif obligatoire d'initiation au pluralisme juridique et aux ordres juridiques autochtones de 12 heures offert à tous les étudiants de première année en droit au début janvier depuis 2018 qui sera transformé en cours de 36h à compter de 2024-25;
- Embauche d'une mentor.e pour les étudiants autochtones;
- Participation de la Faculté dans le concours de médiation Kawaskimhon;
- Offre de cours optionnels en droit autochtone : traditions juridiques atikamekw, traditions juridiques anishnaabe (en commonlaw); Droit autochtone;
- Projet communautaire de murale autochtone dans le pavillon Fauteux en collaboration avec la Section de commonlaw (janvier 2023).

November 23, 2022:

From: Kristen Boon, Dean
To : Canadian Council of Law Deans
**Re: The University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section
– Responses to the TRC Calls to Action**

The TRC provisions related to Justice are a starting point for the development of a new/renewed reciprocal and respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples and their territories. The University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, Common Law Section is committed to going further than the TRC Calls to Action, to develop the most meaningful vision of, approach to, and ethical understanding of the importance of Indigenous laws, legal orders and traditions.

The Common Law Section's current and future planning and implementation of the TRC recommendations is within the mandate of the Indigenous Legal Traditions Committee (ILT). This committee has recently developed indigenous modules for both the Programme de Common Law en Français (PCLF) and the English Common Law Program. Students from both programs will engage in learning about Indigenous peoples and the law, the history of Crown-Indigenous relations in Canada and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In addition, they will receive skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and antiracism. These modules are a response to the TRC's call to action 28. We anticipate these will be integrated into the core curriculum within the next two years.

In addition to the ILT, the Faculty of Law established in 2020 an Indigenous Law Students Governance, which is a self-governing body. This student governance has become an important institution for Indigenous students. We also have an Indigenous Learner Programming Coordinator, who supports the indigenous community within the Common Law Section and who has various responsibilities including acting as a resource to professors and staff on matters related to the Indigenous Learner Experience and the Indigenousization of the law school.

In recent years, the Faculty has undertaken a variety of learning activities related to Indigenous laws and legal orders in the context of its Orientation for first-year students. In 2020 and 2021, all students completed an "Atelier sur la décolonisation et la réconciliation" (Workshop on decolonization and reconciliation), presented by Professors Aimée Craft and Anne Levesque. In addition, the French Common Law cohort takes part in a January-intensive training session (?) for all first year students in the Droit Civil Section.

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Further, the addition of Associate Professor Signa Daum Shanks in 2021, and Assistant Professor Frankie Young in 2022, has increased the faculty's competencies and subject-matter expertise, as well as providing us the opportunity to expand our course offerings, in the areas of Indigenous Peoples and the Law.

In 2023, we will be starting a major mural project at the faculty of law. The mural project represents a commitment to Indigenous legal orders at the law school, and is in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 28. The project will be a collaboration between students, faculty, staff, community members, and Indigenous artists. The teaching, learning, and relationship building that will take place throughout the preparation and painting stages of the project are as meaningful as the enduring mural, which will have an accompanying curriculum. The mural will challenge Indigenous-settler relations by focusing on Indigenous experiences and knowledge as the primary sources of exploration, rather than focusing on Indigenous experiences of colonialism. Exploring Indigenous law as a subject in itself, rather than simply the object of colonial harm, recognizes Indigenous law and Indigenous knowledge as existing apart from and alongside common law and civil law. The project is sponsored within the Faculty of Law by Professor Aimée Craft.

We are very proud that Claudette Commanda, Common Law alum and former Elder in Residence for the Common Law Section, has been appointed the new Chancellor of the University of Ottawa.

23 novembre 2022

Expéditrice : Kristen Boon, doyenne

Destinataire : Conseil des doyens et des doyennes des facultés de droit du Canada

Objet : Faculté de droit, Section de common law de l'Université d'Ottawa – Réponses aux appels à l'action de la CVR

Les mesures prescrites par la Commission de vérité et réconciliation (CVR) en matière de justice constituent un point de départ pour l'établissement d'une relation réciproque et respectueuse, nouvelle ou renouvelée, avec les peuples autochtones et leurs territoires. La Faculté de droit, Section de common law de l'Université d'Ottawa s'engage à aller plus loin que les appels à l'action de la CVR, pour se montrer la plus constructive possible dans sa vision et son approche des lois, ordres juridiques et traditions autochtones, et dans sa conception éthique de leur importance.

Les activités que mène et prévoit la Section pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations de la CVR s'inscrivent dans le mandat du Comité sur les traditions juridiques autochtones. Ce comité a récemment créé des modules autochtones destinés au Programme de common law en français (PCLF) comme à celui en anglais. Les étudiantes et étudiants des deux programmes feront des apprentissages sur les peuples autochtones et le droit, l'histoire des relations entre la Couronne et les Autochtones au Canada, et la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones (DNUDPA). Elles et ils recevront aussi une formation axée sur les compétences pour ce qui est de l'aptitude interculturelle, du règlement de différends, des droits de la personne et de la lutte contre le racisme. Ces modules donnent suite à l'appel à l'action 28 de la CVR. Nous prévoyons qu'ils seront intégrés au tronc commun dans les deux prochaines années.

Outre le Comité sur les traditions juridiques autochtones, la Faculté de droit a mis sur pied en 2020 l'Indigenous Law Students Governance (Gouvernance des étudiantes et étudiants autochtones en droit), un organe autogéré qui est devenu important pour la population étudiante autochtone. Nous avons aussi une coordonnatrice de la programmation des apprenants autochtones, qui soutient la communauté autochtone de la Section de common law et qui s'acquitte de diverses responsabilités, notamment celle d'agir comme personne-ressource auprès du corps professoral et du personnel relativement à l'expérience étudiante autochtone et à l'autochtonisations de notre faculté.

Dans les dernières années, la Faculté a entrepris un éventail d'activités d'apprentissage liées aux lois et ordres juridiques autochtones dans le cadre

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de son orientation pour la population étudiante de première année. En 2020 et 2021, l'ensemble des étudiantes et étudiants ont suivi un atelier sur la décolonisation et la réconciliation présenté par les professeures Aimée Craft et Anne Levesque. De plus, la cohorte du Programme de common law en français participe en janvier à une séance de formation intensive qui est offerte aux premières années de la Section de droit civil.

Par ailleurs, grâce à l'arrivée de la professeure agrégée Signa Daum Shanks en 2021 et de la professeure adjointe Frankie Young en 2022, la Faculté a renforcé ses compétences et son expertise en matière de droit relatif aux peuples autochtones. Elle a également eu l'occasion d'élargir son offre de cours dans le domaine.

En 2023, nous amorcerons un grand projet de murale à la Faculté de droit. Ce projet représente un engagement envers les ordres juridiques autochtones, et cadre avec l'appel à l'action 28 de la CVR. Il s'agira d'une collaboration entre la population étudiante, le corps professoral, le personnel, les membres de la collectivité, et des artistes autochtones. L'enseignement, l'apprentissage et le renforcement des relations qui se feront tout au long de la préparation et de l'exécution du projet seront aussi cruciaux que l'œuvre elle-même, vouée à être un important outil pédagogique assorti d'un programme de formation. La murale remettra en question les relations entre peuples autochtones et colonisateurs en mettant l'accent sur le vécu et le savoir autochtones, plutôt que sur l'expérience autochtone du colonialisme. En explorant le droit autochtone en lui-même plutôt que sous l'angle des préjudices causés par le colonialisme, on reconnaît la nature distincte des lois et du savoir autochtones par rapport à la common law et au droit civil. Ce projet est parrainé à la Faculté de droit par la professeure Aimée Craft.

Enfin, nous sommes très fiers que Claudette Commanda, diplômée en common law et ancienne Aînée en résidence de la Section de common law, ait été nommée à la chancellerie de l'Université d'Ottawa.

Queen's Law is committed to advancing the vital work of reconciliation. To achieve this, we foster a community that welcomes, respects and supports Indigenous students and celebrates Indigenous legal perspectives.

Modelling a safe, equitable, and welcoming academic environment:

- In June 2021, created a new, full-time position of Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- The Faculty of Law continues to build on the success of its Indigenous Peoples Category that supports the recruitment, admission, and advancement of law students from First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities. The incoming 1L class includes seven (7) students accepted through this admissions category, as well as 12 students who enrolled through the newly established [Black Student Applicant Category](#), designed to increase Black representation in the legal profession, and advance the inclusion and reconciliation objectives enshrined in the Faculty's Strategic Framework.
- The office of the Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion has introduced a series of new recruitment practices to support the applicant categories and broaden participation from equity deserving communities, including targeted marketing collateral, mentorship opportunities, and community engagement. Among other initiatives, we have established a summer internship for a law student to work with First Nations in Northwestern Ontario through the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services clinic. Financial support for this internship was provided by the Faculty.
- The Indigenous Law Students' Alliance in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, raised funds for the Orange Shirt Society through sales of Every Child Matters hoodies while also participating in a student led Instagram takeover on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th.
- To support the growth and lifelong learning of students, staff and faculty, we organized a series of KAIROS blanket sessions in the 2022 Winter Term however, COVID restrictions prevented proceeding with these sessions. Another series of KAIROS blanket sessions are planned for the 2022-23 academic year.
- The Douglas Cardinal Bursary and Indigenous Law Student Awards provides needs-based and merit-based financial support to Indigenous students in the J.D. program.
- The Queen's Law Indigenous Peoples Admission Award was passed by Faculty Board in 2022, and is scheduled to launch later this year with an aim of introducing eligibility for the 2023 recruitment cycle.
- In 2021-22, Queen's Law recruited an Indigenous legal scholar Professor Lindsay Keegitah Borrows who began a tenure-track appointment on July 1, 2022. Prof. Borrows, an Anishinaabe lawyer, researcher, teacher, and PhD candidate, focuses her work on revitalizing Indigenous legal traditions for use in contemporary settings.
- [Queen's Law EDII](#) webpage launched in November 2021. Anecdotally, it has been cited as a deciding factor in prospective students selecting Queen's Law. The site receives about 500 views per year.

Innovative approaches to teaching and learning about Indigenous law and supporting engagement with Indigenous knowledge and legal traditions:

- After a first phase of curricular reform in response to the TRC, Aboriginal legal issues are taught as components of the mandatory first-year program to all students. The Faculty is preparing to launch a second phase of curricular reform that will focus more squarely on Indigenous law and Indigenous perspectives. This includes the exploration of innovative approaches to teaching and learning about Indigenous law, including 'on the land' teaching and learning classes in Indigenous communities.
- The Faculty currently offers upper-year electives in Aboriginal Law, Aboriginal Child Welfare, and First Nations Negotiations. We have added two new courses in the 2022-23 academic year: Indigenous Law in Practice and Indigenous Governance and Environmental Law.
- Since 2016, Queen's Law has participated in the Debwewin Internship, co-funded by the Aboriginal Justice Division of Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General, providing student placements in Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Initiatives and Responses to the TRC Report: Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University

In keeping with our commitment to diversity, inclusion and justice, the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) has made it a priority to build relationships with and serve Indigenous communities and has embedded this commitment as a core value in our Academic Plan. To that end, we have undertaken significant steps in the 2021–22 academic year to meet the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and contribute to the important work of reconciliation.

Organizational

To guide us in our efforts to Indigenize our curriculum, programming and institutional decision-making, we have established a committee dedicated to Indigenous legal education and the implementation of the TRC's Calls to Action 27, 28 and 50. The Indigenous Legal Education Committee (ILEC) has a broad mandate to coordinate the implementation of Indigenous legal education, research and service, and to advise the law school's Faculty Council on these matters. We are currently searching for a Manager of Indigenous Legal Education and Reconciliation who will work with the ILEC to support the development of programming and policies in consultation with Indigenous communities and service organizations. Until this position is filled, we will employ one or two students each term as Indigenization Support Assistants.

Law school correspondence includes a territorial land acknowledgement, based on consultation with TMU's Indigenous community, and we continue to participate in the Indigenous subspace working committee to Indigenize our current and future law school space. This year, this included installing a poem by Chief LaForme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation in one of our student study areas.

Admissions and Recruitment

As part of our Indigenous recruitment and outreach activities in 2021–22, we were on the planning committee for "Opportunities in the Legal Profession: Indigenous Perspectives and Reflections," an Indigenous lawyer panel and law school information session hosted by the National Advocates for Indigenous Law Students (NAILS) at Western University.

Five Indigenous students were admitted to our class of 2023, and six to our class of 2024. For the class of 2025, we made offers to ten Indigenous applicants, three of whom have accepted to date. An Indigenous staff member reviews all applications from Indigenous candidates, who are also eligible for the Kathleen Wilson Award, an entrance award for Indigenous students based on academic standing and financial need.

Clinical and Experiential Programs

Last year, two students were placed with the Indigenous Youth-centred Justice Project, a new, cross-disciplinary project spearheaded by TMU's Faculty of Community Services that addresses gaps in services for Indigenous youth who are dually involved in the child welfare and youth justice systems.

In March 2022, six students participated in the Kawaskimhon Moot in Montreal, a consensus-based, non-adversarial moot competition that incorporates Indigenous legal orders alongside Canadian and international law. This year, our students were coached by lawyers practicing at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP, a leading Indigenous rights law firm. We also created a distinct, culturally sound process for selecting students to participate in the Kawaskimhon Moot moving forward. In the summer of 2022, Kimberly Murray - Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools - created an opportunity for Lincoln Alexander School of Law students to further their work around Truth and Reconciliation through professional placements within her new office. As part of these placements, law students conduct legal research related to the investigation, identification, protection and preservation of unmarked burial sites of children who died while being forced to attend Indian Residential Schools. Thanks to support from an existing donor, we were able to fund positions for two students this academic year and plan to support an additional 8 student placements in the next academic year.

Community Engagement

In 2022, the Lincoln Alexander School of Law welcomed Chief LaForme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to speak at our first-year orientation. All incoming students were given an opportunity to participate in an Indigenous walking tour of downtown Toronto, which included the TMU Indigenous medicine garden and other locations of present or historical significance to Indigenous communities in the city.

To commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Lincoln Alexander Law hosted a “fireside chat” with the support of the Indigenous Law Students’ Association, which invited Indigenous students and faculty to share their reflections on reconciliation and what it means to them. Other events included a smudging ceremony led by Scott Franks, an assistant professor at Lincoln Alexander Law who specializes in Indigenous and Aboriginal law. Professor Franks also offers mentorship and assistance to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who are interested in Indigenous law and legal issues. And we have created mentorship opportunities for students to learn from Indigenous lawyers and legal professionals.

Curriculum

Lincoln Alexander Law continues to require all first-year students to complete a mandatory course in Aboriginal and Indigenous law and a lecture in their first-year intensive on Indigenous law. We also offer seminars on Indigenous legal theory and practice, Indigenous persons and the criminal law, and Indigenous dispute resolution.

In addition to these dedicated courses, Professor Franks leads an initiative to integrate Indigenous issues, perspectives and law into the broader curriculum. To date, he has assisted faculty with the integration of Indigenous legal education into the following courses: administrative law; constitutional law; family law; criminal law; tort law; contract law; wills and estates; data, code and social innovation; legal research and writing; foundations of legal theory; property law; and ethics and professionalism. The law school also continues to offer placements in our integrated practice curriculum with Indigenous organizations and communities in Ontario, including through the Ministry of the Attorney General’s Debwevin Law Program.

Research

Two of our faculty members focus their research on Indigenous and Aboriginal law. Professor Scott Franks specializes in Aboriginal law, Indigenous legal orders, Indigenous legal thought and Indigenous legal education, including the implementation of the TRC’s Calls to Action in law schools, and has received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for research related to defence counsel’s rhetorical strategies in criminal jury trials involving Indigenous victims. Associate Dean Sari Graben has published extensively in the field of Aboriginal law and resource governance, and most recently co-authored a paper examining the impact that wage-based income, business income and compensatory income has on women in Indigenous economies. Dr. Graben currently serves on the Interdisciplinary Working Group on Polar Bears for the Tornat Wildlife, Plants & Fisheries Secretariat, Nunatsiavut.

Student Support

Co-curricular activities: Our student services team has created a mentorship program for Indigenous students, and the recently formed Indigenous Law Students’ Association is committed to providing a strong social support network for Indigenous students and to bringing awareness to legal issues affecting Indigenous communities through events, visiting speakers and other forms of knowledge sharing.

Awards and scholarships: The Tors LLP Scholarship is a \$60,000 entrance scholarship for Indigenous students entering their first year (offered in partnership with Indspire). The Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP Scholarships for Indigenous Law Students are renewable scholarships awarded to Indigenous students in their second year, worth \$5,000 per student. Other awards, such as the Dr. Anver Saloojee Anti-Discrimination Award, the Kathleen Wilson Award for Indigenous Law Students, and the Santan and Omega De Mello Community Leadership Award are distributed with a special preference for Indigenous students.

Future Initiatives

Several initiatives are underway at Lincoln Alexander Law. The Indigenous Legal Education Committee will meet for the first term in the fall of 2022 to develop programming priorities for the next year. Discussion items will include Indigenous cultural competency training for staff, faculty and students; the development of Indigenous and Aboriginal law specializations; the recruitment of Indigenous faculty, staff and students; the development of relationships with Indigenous communities and service providers; and the creation of land-based learning opportunities.

Our future plans include fundraising for student development and support (intensive courses, land-based learning, peer support and mentorship); co-curricular programming (lectures in access to justice and Indigenous law, and opportunities for increasing awareness of Indigenous legal traditions). We also plan to participate in the Enbridge Law Mentorship Program, which will provide mentorship exclusively to first-year Black and Indigenous students in Ontario. Students who join the program will participate in workshops covering topics such as mindset, finances and networking.

University of Saskatchewan College of Law: Responses to the TRC Calls to Action

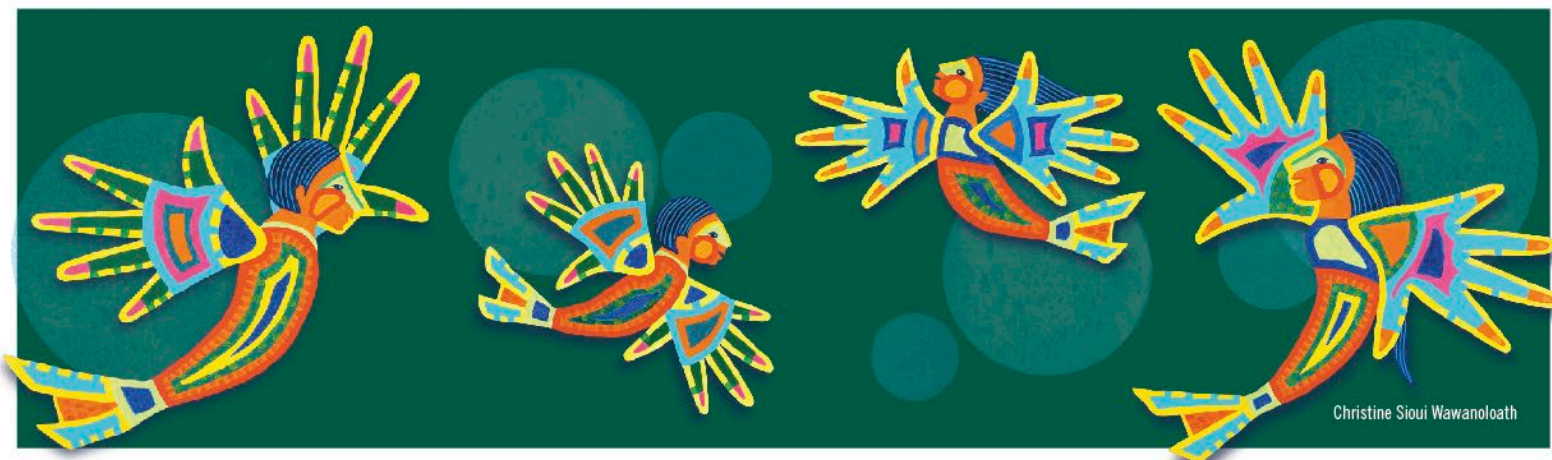
The College of Law has a long history of supporting Indigenous legal education. For almost 50 years the Native Law Centre (now the Indigenous Law Centre) ran the Program of Legal Studies for Native People (PLSNP) which had over 1000 graduates, and over 75% of all practicing Indigenous lawyers in Canada began their legal education in this Program. The College retired the Program in 2019 and after a long delay due to the pandemic the College is developing a new certificate program with the aim of making programming on Indigenous and aboriginal law available to a wider range of students than just those accepted to law school. The College is also exploring the development of TRC related education programming for existing legal professionals. Pending the launch of this Certificate since 2021 the College of Law has offered 8 credits of instruction in Property Law and Kwayeskastasowin (our TRC related course) to Indigenous law students accepted into Canadian law schools. These courses will run again in the summer of 2023.

The College continues to welcome a significant number of indigenous students into its J.D. Program. The College has a stated goal of having at least 15% of our J.D. students self-identify as indigenous and we routinely exceed that figure. We also continue to support indigenous students in our LL.M Program and have on-going support from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan to fully fund indigenous LL.M students. At present 40% of the students in our LL.M Program self-identify as indigenous.

The College has responded to the TRC calls to action in many ways:

1. The College has employed a Cultural Advisor since September 2015. The position was first held by Maria Campbell a highly respected Metis author and playwright. In August 2022 Joseph Naytowhow, a Cree musician and storyteller, was appointed to the position. Joseph leads a weekly smudge for the College community and provides ceremonial greetings before every event in the College. As part of 1L orientation Joseph led a smudge and Tipi-raising and he also provides advice to Faculty on how to incorporate Indigenous laws into their curricula. He is also a frequent guest presenter in many classes. In the Fall of 2022 Joseph organised a sweat for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and the College is looking at developing land-based learning opportunities for our students.
2. In September 2018 the College introduced the first major change to its first-year curriculum in decades with the introduction of a compulsory 3 credit unit course called 'Kwayeskastasowin' ['setting things right' in the Cree language] which is our formal response to Call to Action Number 28. This course is now in its 5th iteration.
3. In addition, all students in the College must take a 3 credit unit upper year course chosen from a basket of offerings that provide perspectives on Indigenous law and Indigenous perspectives on the law. (Currently 7 upper year courses are offered). All students attending the College from the fall of 2018 onwards must complete these 6 credit units to receive our J.D. degree. In the Fall of 2021 a session on Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Anti-Discrimination education was added to the Orientation Program for 1L's and this has now become a permanent fixture in 1L Orientation. A class on Race and the Law has also been added to our Upper Year offerings. In addition, the College provides funding to Indigenous students to attend the IBA Conference every year.

4. In 2021, the College of Law successfully completed the Nunavut Law Program in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and the Government of Nunavut. 25 students started the Program in 2017 and 21 students based in Iqaluit received a University of Saskatchewan J.D. degree in June 2021. A significant majority of the graduating class are Inuit and speak Inuktitut. An additional Nunavut Law Program student graduated in 2022. The College has remained actively engaged with the students and has worked with our partners to secure articles for many of the students. The College sought an extension to its contract enabling us to provide financial and other supports to the students until they complete their articles. All of the students intend to stay and practice law in the North and this cohort will fundamentally change the legal profession in Nunavut. The College viewed it as an enormous privilege to run this program and view its success as a key part of our Reconciliation initiatives. In recognition of its work, the Program was awarded an Arctic Inspiration Prize in 2020.
5. As part of our Lecture Series Program, the College is committed to ensuring that a number of our speaker presentations each year are either delivered by Indigenous scholars and lawyers or are on topics related to Indigenous and Aboriginal Law. For example, in 2021 the College presented a 3 part speakers series on The Long & Winding Road to UNDRIP featuring Indigenous speakers such as Brenda Gunn and Romeo Saganash. Another series of lectures on Re-Envisioning Policing in Canada included an Indigenous perspective on the issue provided by Harold Johnson. Finally, the College is home to the annual Wanusweh Lecture which is funded by Indigenous judges and lawyers and was established by Judge Gerald Morin, the founding judge of the Cree Court in Saskatchewan. Wanusweh lecturers have included Cindy Blackstock, Aimee Craft, Marilyn Poitras, Derek Nepinak and Jean Teillet. All College of Law lectures are open to the public, live-streamed and posted on our YouTube channel.



1. Depuis 2011, la Faculté de droit a introduit un cours de droit autochtone (optionnel) en 3^e année.
2. Un coordonnateur académique est dédié à favoriser la réussite académique des personnes étudiantes recrutées. Un comité professoral a été créé afin de se pencher sur l'inclusion des perspectives autochtones dans le cheminement des études en droit.
3. La Faculté de droit a adopté une politique visant à favoriser l'accès aux personnes candidates autochtones au baccalauréat en droit et au moins 2 bourses d'études (1 500 \$) sont octroyées spécifiquement aux personnes étudiantes autochtones. Plusieurs autres bourses sont offertes à toutes les personnes étudiantes autochtones de l'Université de Sherbrooke. La Faculté invite des personnes autochtones dans le cadre du cours de droit autochtone.
4. La Faculté a développé l'initiative Mini école de droit destinée à sensibiliser des étudiants du secondaire vivant sur communauté autochtone, aux enjeux légaux en matière de droit autochtone, de logement, de la protection de la jeunesse, etc. Ainsi, une personne étudiante autochtone et allochtone en droit participe à cette initiative dans plusieurs communautés.
5. La Faculté de droit regroupe, au besoin, un comité consultatif afin d'être conseillée sur les enjeux autochtones, principalement en lien avec la persévérance et la réussite des personnes étudiantes autochtones.
6. Un espace est réservé pour les personnes étudiantes autochtones. Ce lieu est culturellement adapté.
7. Des personnes enseignantes font de la recherche, publient et invitent des personnes conférencières expertes en droit autochtone. Voici certaines initiatives de l'année 2022 :
 - a. Conférence de la Pre Évelyne Jean-Bouchard : « La culture institutionnelle et les droits sociaux : une critique féministe du nouveau management public en contexte autochtone ».
 - b. Conférence organisée par Véronique Fortin : « Miromatisiwin : vers le bien-être à Manawan, en contexte de gouvernance coloniale par la psychiatrie. » Par : Emmanuelle Bernheim, professeure titulaire, section de droit civil, Université d'Ottawa, Chaire de recherche du Canada en santé mentale et accès à la justice et Eva Ottawa, professeure adjointe, section de droit civil, Université d'Ottawa.
 - c. Conférence d'Alexis Wawanoloath et Aude Maltais Landry: « Réconciliation? Vivre ensemble, décolonisation et éclatement des récits. ».
 - d. Enseignement d'un cours sur les approches décoloniales dans le cours du baccalauréat en droit sur les approches critiques du droit par le Pr Finn Makela et la Pre Véronique Fortin.
 - e. Élaboration d'un outil de plaidoyer sur le rôle et la place des femmes dans les instances de gouvernance autochtone au Québec, en partenariat avec l'Association des femmes autochtones du Québec (FAQ) par la Pre Évelyne Jean-Bouchard.

- f. Développement d'une plateforme web d'autoformation sur la gouvernance pour l'Association des Femmes Autochtones du Québec (FAQ) par la Pre Évelyne Jean-Bouchard.
- 8.
- a. Organisation d'un tutorat spécialisé permettant de jumeler une personne étudiante autochtone à une personne étudiante de 2e ou 3e année afin de fournir un support académique.
 - b. Programme de mentorat avec des juristes autochtones.
 - c. Opportunités aux personnes étudiantes autochtones de participer à des projets de recherches à titre de personne assistante ou auxiliaire.
 - d. Présentation d'opportunités de carrière spécifiquement aux personnes étudiantes autochtones.
9. L'initiative Mini école de droit s'est déroulée dans plusieurs communautés autochtones (Wemotaci, Mashteuiatsh, Uashat mak Mani-utenam) en partenariat avec Pro Bono Canada. Lors de la semaine Vérité et Réconciliation, des personnes étudiantes du comité de droit autochtone sensibilisent leurs pairs et font la distribution de feutrine orange.
- 10.
- a. L'exposition Voies Parallèles visant la sensibilisation de la communauté facultaire sera présentée à la Faculté.
 - b. Une œuvre d'art d'une artiste Kanien'kehá:ka sera présentée dans l'espace temporaire de la bibliothèque de la Faculté de droit.
 - c. Un souper table tournante permettra à des personnes étudiantes de rencontrer des juristes œuvrant dans le domaine du droit autochtone.
 - d. Un projet vise la participation des personnes étudiantes à une équipe de notaire qui se rendront au Nunavik pour offrir des services en droit notarial.
 - e. La Faculté de droit travaille sur une Politique d'accès aux études en droit conjointe avec les autres facultés de droit du Québec.



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES OFFICE

Brief Summary of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law's Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action

August 2022

Since Fall 2015, the Faculty has had a standing committee charged with providing advice to the Dean on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action, and Indigenous Initiatives at the Faculty more generally. The committee is comprised of students (including two members of the Indigenous Law Students' Association), staff (including the Faculty's Manager, Indigenous Initiatives) and faculty. The committee is co-chaired by former Dean Mayo Moran and Professor Douglas Sanderson, Decanal Advisor on Indigenous Issues. What follows is a non-exhaustive list of the Faculty's approaches to curricular and co-curricular programming:

Curricular Responses

From 2015-2022 the Faculty's approach to Call to Action (CTA) 28 was a fulsome integration of Indigenous topics, perspectives, and laws, as well as Aboriginal law cases, across the curriculum. The administration has provided all teaching staff with research assistance to support with these improvements. Starting in September 2022, all first-year students will be required to take a mandatory three-credit course, Indigenous Peoples and the Law, addressing a set of basic questions in the area. First-year students will also take a one-credit pass-fail course, Introduction to Indigenous Peoples and the Law, addressing some more prefatory matters including some cultural competency elements.

On July 1st, 2022, Professor John Borrows joined the Faculty of Law and will be the inaugural chairholder of the newly established Loveland Chair in Indigenous Law at the Faculty. As Canada's foremost scholar working in the area of Indigenous and Aboriginal Law, John has received numerous accolades for his work, including several book awards, honorary degrees (including one at U of T in 2019), an appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada (2020), the Killam Prize (2017), the Molson Prize (2019), and most recently the Canadian Bar Association's President's Medal (2021), in recognition of his trailblazing working in the field of Indigenous Law. We are also working toward expanding our upper year course offerings with Indigenous content. The following is a list of courses offered in 2021-22 that had *primarily* Aboriginal or Indigenous law content. There are a number of courses offered by the Faculty that include significant Indigenous topics, perspectives, and laws but are not included below.

- Externship: Aboriginal Legal Services – Christa Big Canoe and Jonathan Rudin
- Issues in Aboriginal Law and Policy – Bryce Edwards & David Walders
- Indigenous Law Journal – Douglas Sanderson
- Kawaskimhon Moot – Bryce Edwards, Sara Faherty & David Walders
- Indigenous Legal Traditions and the Imperial Response – Douglas Sanderson
- Canadian Legal History: Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Law – Jim Phillips
- Indigenous Peoples and Economic Development – Kerry Wilkins & Elizabeth Jordan
- Indigenous Peoples and the Constitution of Canada – Kerry Wilkins
- Journal: Indigenous Law – Douglas Sanderson
- Intensive Course: Indigenous Law and Aboriginal Rights: Comparative Perspectives – John Borrows
- Discerning Law in the Fur Trade – Douglas Sanderson
- Students have the option of earning a Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies. In 2021-2022 five (5) students completed the certificate program.

Co-curricular Activities

Since September 2010, U of T Law has housed an Indigenous Initiatives Office (IIO) currently overseen by Julie Ann Shepard, Manager. This full-time staff position recruits and supports Indigenous students and assists in the Faculty's response to CTA 28. The following are just a few examples of the IIO's activities and impact at U of T Law during the 2021-22 academic year:

- **Elder-in-Residence Program**

Launched in July 2021, the Elder-in-Residence program embeds Indigenous practices and ways of knowing into the law school community. The Elder-in-Residence offers support to students and interacts with the Faculty of Law community in multiple capacities, including Teachings on the Bundle and Reading Circles.

- **Sacred Medicine Garden**

Created and consecrated in September 2021, the U of T Law Medicine Garden offers a tranquil space for all community members, as well as a teaching space for Faculty and the IIO. It provides opportunities for outdoor teachings on Sacred Medicines, Indigenous worldviews, and the importance of connection to the land.

- **Reconciliation Reading Circles**

First-year students were provided with a reading list of 13 contemporary texts dealing with a range of Indigenous and settler relations. Each student was asked to select and read one text and over the fall semester, the IIO hosted circles to create opportunities for reflection, shared learning, and deeper understanding.

- **Land Based Teachings**

These outdoor events include traditional teachings, time in collective reflection, connection with the land, celebration, and are followed by an offering of food. They are deemed culturally essential for Indigenous students to maintain connection to traditional knowledge and practice. Settler students also participated and gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for Indigenous worldviews.

- **Teachings on the Bundle for Students and Staff**

The Elder-in-Residence led teachings in a traditional circle, preparing participants to engage with Indigenous communities in meaningful ways by understanding how the circle relates to traditional legal proceedings and resolution processes. These teachings are deemed essential for all students and staff seeking a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture and protocols.

- **Fellowships & Internships**

The June Callwood Fellowships in Aboriginal Law support two distinct initiatives: [Indigenous Community Fellowships for JD students](#) and [Graduate Fellowships and SJD Scholarships](#). Named in honour of the Canadian journalist, author and social activist, the fellowship supports the Faculty's commitment to increasing the Indigenous presence at the law school. The [Debwewin First Nation Jury Review Implementation Committee](#), in collaboration with the Indigenous Justice Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General and U of T, offer internship placements for first or second-year law students. These internships support students interested in community education and provide legal support to Indigenous communities and community organizations.

**THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LAW
TRC INITIATIVES**

1. Pre TRC initiatives

Ever since the inception of the law school in 2011, the first years visited the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

2. Organizational TRC responses

The Coyote Project is a pan-institutional program to accelerate indigenization, but its impacts and legacies are meant to be long-lasting. The Secwépemc people of the BC Interior tell a story about Coyote, who is known for being a powerful transformer. The story, called Coyote Brings Food from the Upper World, forms the basis of The Coyote Project at TRU. At the Faculty, the Indigenous Initiatives Committee's mandate is to address Indigenous issues, including systemic challenges, inequities and discrimination faced by Indigenous students. The Committee will: 1) make relevant policy recommendations to Faculty Council; 2) increase awareness about Indigenous issues through education, research and public legal education and curriculum development; 3) foster a dialogue about Indigenous issues; including by reaching out to other committees, bodies and organizations in the university and community to work together on equity related issues; and organize events.

3. Recruitment

a. Indigenous students

To support Indigenous recruitment, TRU Law has partnered with the Aboriginal Education Department to participate in Transition Days. On specific days throughout the school year, Indigenous high school students from the interior will visit TRU so they can learn about the opportunities that await them with a university education, and we can encourage them to pursue a future career in the legal profession.

Through a Law School Admission Council grant, we also support recruitment by offering free tutoring services for LSAT prep to Indigenous students for the duration of the grant.

We have also created a professional document that highlights the supports that Indigenous students receive at our law school, on campus, and within the community so that incoming students know about all the supports and services available to them.

Plus, we have a growing amount of funds specifically for Indigenous students in the form of scholarships, awards, course prizes, bursaries, and emergency funding.

In addition, upon recommendation by the TRU Indigenous Law Students Association and with support of the Aboriginal Education Department, the Faculty of Law has proposed a plan to protect Indigenous identity by requiring those applying under the Indigenous applicant category to provide proof of their First Nations Status or Metis Citizenship.

b. Indigenous Faculty and Staff

The Faculty has two Indigenous sessional instructors. Both instructors are well-connected to Tk'emlúps̓teSecwépemc. One of these sessional instructors also acts as an advisor and mentor to Indigenous students and the other works closely with Tk'emlúps̓teSecwépemc to develop and present course content.

4. Curricular innovation

Since September 2021, the curriculum included a mandatory course for all upper year students on Truth and Rebuilding Canadian Indigenous Legal Relations (TRC). The course focuses on the substantive elements of the law-school-specific TRC Call to Action #28, especially Indigenous Laws, Crown-Aboriginal relations, Treaties and Aboriginal Rights. To ground the learning on Indigenous Laws, land-based learning is a central experiential learning element of the course. The course also elaborates on the history and legacy of residential school building and the colonial foundations of the legal system. The course will build on indigenous teachings and include skill-based training in intercultural competence, anti-racism, human rights and conflict resolution. In addition, it will integrate the international element of TRC Call to Action #28. It refers to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the course will further introduce other international legal obligations that Canada is bound by regarding Indigenous Peoples.

5. Governance

As was described in 2 above, the Indigenous Initiatives Committee's mandate is to address Indigenous issues. In addition, the Indigenous Law Students Club is a student club for all TRU Law Students. The students have a lounge for club activities and the faculty actively supports their conference attendance and other activities.

6. Facilities/safe environment

The Gathering Place at TRU is open to all Indigenous students. It is modeled after pit houses and is a space to meet with Elders, study, or gather for ceremonial or social activities. Most recently, the former moot practise room was re-purposed for the exclusive use of the TRU Indigenous Law Students Association. The students designed their own emblem, and this is displayed on the glass window that separates the room from the law library.

7. Research

Professors Schabus and Morse have successfully applied for numerous LFBC Grants in the past and have completed various research projects. Professor Morse's current grant from the Law Foundation of BC is for his research on Indigenous-Local Government Relationships and Professor Schabus' grant was aimed at developing content for learning activities around the Calls to Action and ultimately the new, mandatory course, Truth and Rebuilding Canadian Indigenous Legal Relations. As a cost recovery unit, TRU Law relies almost exclusively on external grants for research projects.

8. Mentorship

Indigenous students have an assigned mentor who works with them on all issues related to law school and the profession. The mentor is an alumna of TRU and a practising lawyer. Student engagement takes place on an on-going basis and the mentor reports back to the Dean on an on-going basis.

9. Community engagement

The faculty hosts a research series and various topics are discussed, including indigenous issues. There is no formal process for inviting Indigenous speakers into classrooms and various instructors use dedicated time in their classes to having stakeholders in Indigenous communities speak to the students. Elders participate in the first-year orientation and various other events over the course of the academic year. The TRU Community Legal Clinic assists various members of the community, including Indigenous members, with legal problems.

10. Future initiatives

The Future Indigenous Lawyers (FIL) program's goal is to break down some of the barriers that indigenous students may experience through the law school experience. TRU Law is committed to increasing the number of Indigenous law students at TRU, providing wrap-around support throughout their three-year degree, and ensuring they successfully transition to professional practice. The initiative draws support for recruitment (high school and undergrad outreach, LSAT preparation and funding, Indigenous recruitment officers and travel fund), on-campus Indigenous orientation, wrap-around support (mentorship, emergency funds, access to cultural supports, academic support, health and wellness programming, bursaries and scholarships and writing support) and bridge to practice (career preparation workshops, interview travel fund and connection to the local bar association). This initiative has raised some funds so far and most funds have been directed to recruitment and entrance awards. A stronger fund will see more of these plans come to fruition.

Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Law, TRC Summary

Our Faculty's approach to implementing Call to Action #28 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is grounded in Secwepemc'ul'ecw (the territory of the Secwepemc Nation that includes Kamloops). The faculty has made efforts to incorporate Secwepemc knowledge and history into our program since our first year of operation in 2011. The Faculty adopted a statement committing ourselves to implementing Call to Action #28 in July 2015. Initial work included surveying existing content across the curriculum and has since focused on specific efforts to address the biggest gaps and to take students out of the classroom to learn about Indigenous history, rights, culture, and law as well as the residential experience from Secwepemc partners.

The annual 1L class visit to the former Kamloops Indian Residential School (KIRS) and Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park has become an important feature of our program. This visit is integrated into the program with introductory and debriefing classes. Learning objectives include knowledge of residential schools as an intergenerational experience, ongoing relevance and impacts of the experience, empathy to practicing law and reconciliation, and the knowledge foundations for anti-racism and cross-cultural skills. The day involves speakers, tours of the building, and a visit to the Secwepemc Museum, which houses artefacts from Secwepemc culture and the residential school. Students have the opportunity to learn from survivors directly and feedback from our past visits has indicated that this has been a unique and eye-opening learning experience for our students.

On 27 April 2021, Faculty Council approved changes to the formal curriculum. These changes include a 2L Mandatory Course on Truth and Rebuilding Canadian-Indigenous Legal Relations. The course focuses on the substantive elements of the law-school specific TRC Call to Action #28, especially Indigenous Laws, Crown-Aboriginal relations, Treaties and Aboriginal Rights. To ground the learning on Indigenous Laws, land-based learning will be a central experiential learning element of the course. The course is designed to focus on current legal issues in Secwepemc'ul'ecw, which will serve as a case study for Crown Indigenous Relations. In addition, the course will be structured around indigenous teachings and will employ innovative teaching and evaluation methods and will make use of applied exercises and peer-to-peer learning elements. The course will elaborate on the element on the history and legacy of residential school building and the colonial foundations of the legal system that formed the basis of the learning experience in first year (the visit to the former Kamloops Indian Residential School). Students will continue to critically examine the colonial foundations of the Canadian Legal systems and will investigate legal strategies to address the resulting injustices. Most importantly, the course will include skill-based training in inter-cultural competence, anti-racism, human rights and conflict resolution. Trauma-informed lawyering focusing on Indigenous Issues will be an important skill set imparted on students. In the final instance, the mandatory course will incorporate the international element of TRC Call to Action #28 as it specifically references the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The learning will also include other international legal obligations that Canada is bound by in regard to Indigenous Peoples.

In the third year, students will have another learning day in the form of a seminar to bind together everything they have learned in their first and second years. This day may involve a field trip or may be in the form of a classroom seminar with guest speakers.

1) Pre TRC initiatives

The Allard School of Law has operated its Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (ICLC) in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for over twenty-five years. The ICLC's purpose is to provide law students with an opportunity to use their substantive understanding of law in a clinical setting and to provide the Indigenous community information, referral and on-site and remote access to legal services. The ICLC aims to provide decolonized legal services to Indigenous clients recognizing that those clients may have a history of trauma including from interactions with the legal system. The law school undertook an external review of the ICLC during 2021/22.

The law school has a dedicated admissions stream for Indigenous students, along with a staff position responsible for academic advising, including providing and coordinating academic and other forms of support for Indigenous students. Indigenous Legal Studies, including the Indigenous admissions stream, is an area within the law school overseen by the Indigenous Legal Studies Academic Director (tenure-stream faculty service role) and the Indigenous Legal Studies Committee (faculty and student representatives). Indigenous Legal Studies (ILS) at the law school hosts a regular speaker series that brings in Indigenous scholars and practitioners to speak on various issues. The law school offers numerous financial awards for upper level and incoming Indigenous students.

Indigenous Legal Studies curricular initiatives:

- In 2012, the Allard School of Law implemented LAW 291 (2) Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, a compulsory first year course in Canadian constitutional law. This course examines the major decisions considering s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the consistency of this case law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The law school offers seven upper-level elective courses in [Aboriginal and/or Indigenous Law topics](#).
- JD students can choose to obtain a Specialization in Aboriginal Law, offered within the JD program.
- As part of its upper year competitive moot program, the law school participates in the annual Kawaskimhon Moot, a specifically Indigenous moot for students across Canadian law schools.

The law school supports the Indigenous Law Students' Association in offering special programming to the law school community during Indigenous Awareness Week.

2) Organizational TRC responses

An ILS Elders in Residence program pilot is currently under discussion; internal funding is available; further consultation is being undertaken.

3) Recruitment

a. Indigenous students (admission policies, financial support, awards and scholarships)

In partnership with the UBC Black Law Students' Association, the law school is offering a free LSAT preparation course for self-identifying Black and Indigenous applicants beginning the summer of 2021.

b. Indigenous Faculty and Staff, faculty and staff with TRC related duties (could also include resources and training for faculty & staff professional development)

The law school has a total of four self-identified Indigenous faculty members (out of 58 tenured or tenure-track faculty members), with plans to hire two Indigenous faculty members over 2022/23. In addition, the school has two Indigenous staff members, and several Indigenous adjunct professors.

4) Curricular innovation (dedicated courses, integrated course content, mandatory, electives, land-based learning/field schools, clinical, moots, competencies, experiential learning)

As of Fall 2020, the mandatory first-year JD curriculum includes LAW 200 – Indigenous Settler Legal Relations, a 3-credit course providing a critical examination of the history and legacy of colonial legal orders in Canada.

In cooperation with the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, the Allard School of Law piloted a land-based experiential learning full-term course in Indigenous laws on Vancouver Island in Fall 2021.

An ILS Summer Intensive program offers an orientation program for incoming Indigenous students to build community and provide in-depth academic programming and student support prior to the regular start of the first-year program. In 2021, this program expanded considerably from the two-week pilot in 2020, and provided students in summer 2022 with full credit for their first year Torts course.

All Indigenous students can participate in the non-mandatory ILS Academic Leadership Certificate. The aim of the certificate is to provide academic and leadership skill development and community building within the Indigenous student cohort, including academic skills coaching, mentoring, and guest lectures.

5) Governance (Indigenous advisory bodies, mandates of standing committees, support for student clubs and associations representing students)

The law school has funded a dedicated Indigenous Strategic Plan development process that has been delayed due to COVID).

6) Facilities/Safe Environment (inclusive student spaces, cultural and/or ceremonial spaces & uses)

7) Research (Incentives, legal publications, awards, support, recognition of student achievement, library collection strategies, student support for accessing Indigenous Law resources)

8) Mentorship/Internship (mentorship programs during law school, assistance with student placement & articles, partnering with law providers in the community)

A full time Indigenous Legal Studies Associate Director serves as a student advisor for prospective and current Indigenous students as well as coordinates the Specialization in Aboriginal Law.

9) Community engagement (professional development courses, CPD offered to the Bar, special series, lecture and events, partnering with stakeholders in Indigenous communities and organizations, pro bono services)

10) Future Initiatives

The law school secured funding to develop a partnership agreement with a BC First Nation (the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs), with the goal of developing an experiential learning and research program in Indigenous laws for JD students that would also help to revitalize traditional Indigenous legal orders within communities (as mandated within UNDRIP).

Update on UNB Law's Responses to the TRC Calls to Action

Curriculum

The subject matter of Call to Action #28 is embedded in UNB Law's **compulsory curriculum** in various ways. The Faculty provides **anti-racism, human rights, and intercultural competency**, for all incoming students as part of its orientation program. These are mandatory sessions and attendance is taken to ensure participation of all students.

As part of our Foundations of Law course, students are given an introduction to Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations, including the **legacy of residential schools, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Indigenous legal traditions**. This introduction provides the historical and social context that students will need when they learn about legal issues affecting Indigenous Peoples, including section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, the duty to consult, treaties, Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal title, and sentencing principles pertaining to Indigenous offenders. This material is covered primarily in Constitutional Law, Property Law, and Criminal Law – all mandatory first-year courses.

As part of the Legal Research and Advocacy course, first-year students are introduced to **principles of conflict resolution**. Students learn more about **inter-cultural competency** when they take Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility in third year.

The Faculty also has **several elective courses on Aboriginal law**. These courses are offered consistently and count toward the Compulsory Areas of Study, which are categories of upper-year elective courses that students must have exposure to. Specifically, we offer a course called **Indigenous non-Indigenous Relations**, which looks at the various ways that Indigenous Peoples have asserted their rights, e.g. direct political action, constitutional negotiation, and litigation. We also offer a course called **Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements**, which covers the presentation, negotiation, and adjudication of specific and comprehensive land claims agreements, including the recognition of Aboriginal self-government. This course is **co-taught by two Indigenous lawyers**.

In 2021, the Hon. Graydon Nicholas joined our Faculty as Wihkwatacamit (the person who lives to tell stories) to help us further decolonize and Indigenize the curriculum. The Wihkwatacamit is involved in all aspects of our program, serving as a mentor and advisor to students, faculty, and staff, as well as offering guest lectures in various courses.

Leadership & Engagement

UNB Law's TRC implementation is guided by a **committee of Faculty Council chaired by the Dean**. The committee includes representation from Indigenous students and it **consults with the Faculty's Elder and an Advisory Circle** composed of local Indigenous leaders. The Faculty acknowledges that it is still working toward the Advisory Circle's recommendations, including

the appointment of full-time, permanent Indigenous faculty and the establishment of a course in Indigenous legal traditions.

Student Services

Indigenous students are supported through networking and mentorship programming administrated by the Faculty. Specifically, incoming Indigenous students are connected with the **Indigenous Law Students' Society** right away, and given an **alumni mentor**. Beginning this fall, Indigenous students will also be able to consult with the **Faculty's Elder**, who will have an office in the law building. The Faculty also has a close relationship with the **Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre**, which is the University's primary resource for Indigenous students.

Recruitment & Admissions

The Faculty of Law has an **Indigenous Admissions Category**, which gives Indigenous applicants special recognition as part of the admissions process. The Faculty's Dean and Manager of Admissions and Scholarships regularly host and attend recruitment events for Indigenous students, particularly in Atlantic Canada. The Faculty also has an **entrance scholarship for Indigenous students**.

Mise en application des recommandations de la Commission Vérité Réconciliation;

Initiative du département des sciences juridiques de l'UQAM

Projet d'accueil d'étudiant.e.s des premières nations et de formation du corps professoral.

Ce projet s'inscrit dans les efforts entrepris à différents niveaux afin de donner suite aux recommandations de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada.

Le projet-pilote était composé de deux volets soit l'accueil des étudiants et étudiantes autochtones recrutés sur le fondement de cette base d'admission et l'organisation d'activités de formation dédiées au corps professoral.

- 1) Entre mai 2018 et mai 2020, le volet 1 du projet a conduit au recrutement de sept étudiant.e.s sur la base des expériences autochtones et à la mise sur pied du programme des homologues. Ce processus de recrutement nous a conduit à bâtir des contacts au sein des communautés autochtones qui se situent sur le territoire du Québec et à effectuer une visite à l'Institut Kiuna, seul cégep autochtone au sein de la province. Le processus de sélection des candidat.es est effectué par un comité de sélection paritaire, composé d'un.e avocat.e autochtone diplômé.e du baccalauréat en droit, d'un.e étudiant.e autochtone et d'un membre du corps professoral. Ce comité fait une évaluation sur dossier et effectue des entrevues avec chacun des candidat.es retenus sur dossier. Ces entrevues se déroulent en personne ou de façon virtuelle en vue de s'adapter au contexte d'éloignement de plusieurs candidat.es. Pour cette étape de la sélection, il a développé un schéma d'entrevue propre à la sélection des candidat.es pour la base d'admission des expériences autochtones et s'assure que l'expérience d'entrevue se déroule dans un contexte positif et culturellement sécurisant. Parmi les sept étudiant.e.s recruté.e.s, six sont actuellement inscrits au baccalauréat en droit et un.e a quitté le programme.

- 2) Le volet formation a donné lieu à trois activités qui ont touché spécifiquement les professeurs du Département. D'autres occasions de formation se sont présentées sur une base volontaire, par exemple, la participation rendue possible à deux reprises à l'exercice des couvertures, une activité organisée à l'hiver 2019 et à l'automne 2019, en collaboration avec l'Association des étudiant.e.s en droit et à laquelle les professeur.es du Département ont été invités. D'autres expériences encore ont permis aux membres professeurs du comité d'accueil des étudiant.e.s autochtones de mieux comprendre les défis du cheminement des étudiant.e.s autochtones au baccalauréat en droit et le cheminement préalable de ces étudiant.es, notamment par le biais de rencontre avec les partenaires autochtones du projet et par le biais d'une visite à l'Institut Kiuna en mars 2020.

Le programme des étudiant.e.s homologues a été conçu afin de favoriser la réussite des étudiant.e.s autochtones admis sur la base des expériences autochtones. À l'époque, il a été important de rendre disponible un accompagnement individualisé pour chaque étudiant.e admis.e au baccalauréat en droit. Cet accompagnement, de nature pédagogique et adapté aux besoins des étudiant.e.s autochtones, voulait optimiser la capacité des étudiant.e.s à cheminer dans le programme et à diplômer.

En vue de la mise en œuvre et de l'évaluation du projet-pilote, un comité d'accueil des étudiantes et des étudiants autochtones du Département des sciences juridiques a été mis sur pied. Ce comité tripartite réunit des étudiant.e.s, des partenaires autochtones externes, les Services à la vie étudiante de l'UQAM et deux professeur.e.s du Département.

TRC Implementation at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law

Academic Program

- In June 2022, UVic held the inaugural convocation for the world's first joint degree program in Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders, with 24 students earning both a JD (Juris Doctor) and a JID (Juris Indigenarum Doctor) – this program directly responds to the TRC Calls 28 and 50. Call to action # 50 was based on the work of UVIC's Indigenous Law Research Unit (see full written report). See <https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2022+first-jd-jid-graduating-class+media-release>
- UVic Law currently has eight Indigenous faculty members who teach in the JD/JID and the JD programs.
- UVic Law has launched the National Centre for Indigenous Laws (NCIL), virtually with over 2000 participants, in advance of the construction of the physical centre which will be completed in 2024. Construction of the NCIL will begin October 1, 2022. See www.uvic.ca/campaign/national-centre-indigenous-laws.php
- Shortly after the TRC's release, two faculty members created a national blog to share reflections on implementing the Calls: <https://reconciliationsyllabus.wordpress.com>. This blog has received national and international attention as a place to find and share materials for teaching law and continues to be updated with ideas that engage with the Calls to Action and more recently, the Calls for Justice of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Curriculum and Student Support

- On the first day of the program all JD and JD/JID students are welcomed to the territory by local Elders.
- All students complete a compulsory, full-time, two-week introductory Legal Process class includes a half-day introduction to Indigenous legal traditions and Indigenous law exercises. In the Spring Semester, there is an additional daylong Indigenous law session in Legal Process on the Calls to Action.
- All first-year students are invited to participate in a student led Indigenous Perspectives Camp (IPC), that just recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Each year, the IPC partners with a local or regional Indigenous community to host and provide land- and/or water-based learning experiences. Attendance is generally very high with 30 to 50 students attending.
- Substantial Indigenous content, including Indigenous legal traditions, the history and legacy of residential schools, treaty and Indigenous rights and Indigenous-Crown relations is incorporated into compulsory courses in Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Law, Legislation & Policy, Legal Research & Writing, Property, Torts, Administrative

Law, and Legal Ethics & Professionalism, and into elective courses such as Family Law, Intellectual Property, International Human Rights and Dispute Resolution, and Taxation.

- UVic Law offers intensive summer courses in Indigenous Legal Methodologies, and a range of other Indigenous courses such as Indigenous Ecological Governance.
- UVic Law's Academic and Cultural Support Program ("Amicus Program") provides direct support for Indigenous students and over each term, organizes seminars and workshops on matters bearing on intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Research and Community Participation

- The Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) partners with communities in the recovery and renaissance of Indigenous laws. They partner with and support work by Indigenous peoples and communities to ascertain and articulate their own legal principles and processes in order to effectively respond to today's complex challenges. www.ilru.ca
- The Environmental Law Centre works with Indigenous communities researching and advocating for respect and stewardship of traditional lands, including a case for Indigenous Guardian Programs. www.elc.uvic.ca
- The JD/JID Program partners with Indigenous Nations and organizations to offer field schools to third-year and fourth-year students. To date, UVic Law has partnered with the Cowichan Tribes, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, and North Island communities, including Kwakiutl First Nation, Mamalilikulla First Nation, and Ma'amtigila Nation, as well as the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness.
- An additional field school has been offered for several years to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in partnership with the Wsanec community and collaboratively taught with the UBC Faculty of Law.
- A new research position, the President's Chair has been applied for with a focus on *Law and Indigeneity in a Global Context*.

Indigenous Faculty/Staff Hires

New Indigenous Academic Appointments

- Patricia Barkaskas (Métis) – limited term Faculty teaching and Special Advisory to the Dean on the NCIL.
- Dr. Darcy Lindberg (Cree, Samson) – Assistant Professor
- Dr. Tracey Lindberg (Cree, Kelly Lake) – Associate Professor
- Dr. Val Napoleon (Saulteau Cree and adopted member of the Gitanyow House of Luuxhon), new as Acting Dean until July 1, 2023.

Other Indigenous Faculty Teaching in the JD/JID Program and the JD Program

- Dr. John Borrows (Anishinabe/Ojibway, Chippewa of the Nawash) – Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law
- Dr. Alan Hanna (Blackfoot) – Assistant Professor
- Dr. David Milward (Cree, Beardy's&Okemasis) – Associate Professor and Director, JD/JID Program
- Dr. Sarah Morales (Coast Salish, Cowichan Tribes) – Associate Professor

- Dr. Val Napoleon (Saulteau Cree and adopted member of the Gitanyow House of Luuxhon) – Professor and Law Foundation Professor of Aboriginal Justice and Governance

Indigenous Staff

- Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham (Métis), ILRU Researcher
- Charlotte Charlie (Coast Salish), Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives
- Brooke Edmunds (Maori), ILRU Coordinator
- Zubaida Khan (Indigenous from Afghanistan), Indigenous & Cultural Support Liaison
- Jessie Lampreau (Secwepemc, Simpcw), Law Librarian
- Tara Williamson (Cree), ILRU Research Director
- Ruth Young (Cree, Wemindji), Director, Indigenous Initiatives

Our Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty and staff are actively engaged in numerous projects advancing the work of recovering, revitalizing and reinvigorating Indigenous laws and legal practices across the faculty, university, and broader community.





Summary of TRC Implementation to November 2022

Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewakand Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

Western Law formed a Working Group in early 2016 to implement the TRC Calls to Action and other reconciliation projects. The Working Group is comprised of the Dean and 4-5 faculty members. We have adopted the approach that Indigenous content and perspectives should be embedded throughout the curriculum. We want our students to be aware of Indigenous rights and perspectives, regardless of and, perhaps, tailored to the practice areas they plan to pursue.

In addition, beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, every second-year student is required to take the compulsory course in **Indigenous Law** (one term). We have also developed a number of co-curricular activities so that Indigenous law and current issues are highlighted to the student body throughout the academic year. Selected activities are described below.

In November 2022, Western University opened the new [Wampum Learning Lodge](#) as a central gathering place for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our community to learn and share perspectives on truth and reconciliation. The Lodge is available for booking for classes from all Faculties, as well as for drop-ins and special events.

Admissions and Recruitment

Western Law has a special Admissions Category for [Indigenous](#) applicants, and we conduct special law school information sessions held at the Indigenous Student Centre at Western. To assist with the applications process, we offer a free [LSAT-preparation course](#) for Indigenous candidates in the spring of each year. This course attracts candidates from across southern Ontario, and there is no requirement for students to apply to or register at Western Law. (This course is now also open to Black and low-income students.)

We have several named and continuing entrance scholarships for Indigenous candidates, and we provide scholarship funding for incoming Indigenous students to attend the summer courses at the [Indigenous Law Centre](#) at the University of Saskatchewan. Western Law is a member of the National Advocates for Indigenous Law Students (NAILS).

Curriculum

In keeping with our approach to embedding Indigenous and Aboriginal Law throughout our curriculum, we conducted inventory of Indigenous content embedded in existing courses in 2016. Following that survey, we reviewed and amended the official (Senate-approved) course descriptions to make Indigenous content explicit where possible (e.g. Sentencing, International Human Rights, Constitutional Law). We also formally introduced a new first-year Property Law module, Indigenous Conceptions of Property.

Beginning in 2021, all second-year JD students must complete the one-term course in Indigenous Law. We have a longstanding upper-year course in Aboriginal Law, and annually participate in the national Kawaskimhon Talking Circle (moot). In the past, we have offered elective and special topics courses in comparative Indigenous law, including during our January Intensive term.

Over the years, we have offered several group “Reading and Study” courses, where faculty and students come together to discuss relevant books and associated readings. These have included Borrows’s *Canada’s Indigenous Constitution*, McNeil’s *Flawed Precedent: The St. Catherine’s Case and Aboriginal Title*, and Borrows’s *Freedom and Indigenous Constitutionalism*.

People

Professor Jeff Warnock was appointed as a tenure track Assistant Professor in July 2022. Professor Warnock is a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario and researches in the implementation of UNDRIP, the notion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and the interaction of these principles with Indigenous legal traditions. Professor Warnock currently teaches our compulsory course in Indigenous Law.

We are currently in the process of hiring an Indigenous Programs Coordinator, who will assist with our admissions and recruitment, student mentorship and supports, co-curricular programming, and outreach to local First Nations communities.

In 2016-17, Western Law hosted a Law Foundation of Ontario Community Justice Fellow, Brenda Young from Chippewas of the Thames. Ms. Young organized numerous activities at the Faculty, including a symposium, “Attaining Economic Justice for Indigenous Peoples” (Feb 2017).

Other Student Experiences

As part of the [Western Law Internship Program](#), Western Law supports three Debwewin summer law internships in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General’s Indigenous Justice Division. These summer interns provide legal education and advice in Indigenous communities.

We have held a variety of co-curricular opportunities for students and faculty. We have hosted weekend Indigenous Law “Camps” at local First Nation communities, including Chippewas of the Thames and Walpole Island. Participants include faculty, JD and graduate students, and some graduate students from other Faculties at Western. In collaboration with the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, we have organized joint Indigenous Cultural Education Events focusing on issues of professional service and cultural competence when working with Indigenous patients, clients, and communities.

In terms of student-led initiatives, our students lead the LEVEL Indigenous Youth Outreach Program at Chippewas of the Thames. The Student Legal Society has two associations that focus on Indigenous peoples and initiatives: the Indigenous Students Association and the Students for Truth and Reconciliation. These groups provide peer support and organize events geared at raising awareness about Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Future Initiatives

Western Law released its [Anti-Racism Working Group](#) final report in November 2022, and it includes several recommendations aimed at increasing the number of and supports for Indigenous law students, outreach to local First Nations communities, expanding the elective course options in Indigenous and Aboriginal law and on issues relating to Indigenous peoples, and appointing an Elder in Residence.