



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
British Columbia Branch

# FORUM DRUM

Fall 2011  
Issue 2, Volume 1

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June 2012



Find us on Facebook

Go to [www.facebook.com/  
groups/102669659795622](http://www.facebook.com/groups/102669659795622)

or go to Facebook and search:  
"Aboriginal Lawyers Forum"

## CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum

### ALF Executive Update

by Christina J. Cook, CBABC ALF Chair

Well this year is getting well underway and the ALF has big plans. Please mark your calendars for all the upcoming ALF events including, 2nd Annual Holiday Banquet, ALF Golf & Spa Retreat, ALF Lunch & Learns, and the DOJ National Aboriginal Day On-line Auction & Reception (see page 5 for full details). In addition to all the events we are planning to branch out into the Interior and the Vancouver Island. The ALF would like to establish a presence and support for Aboriginal law students at University of Victoria and Thompson Rivers University. If you are a lawyer in the Interior or Vancouver Island and are interested in helping us establish ourselves in your area please email [ALF@bccba.org](mailto:ALF@bccba.org).

In addition to hosting events and drafting newsletters, the ALF sits on the CBABC Provincial Council. The CBABC Provincial Council is the executive body of the CBABC and holds a quarterly meeting attended by all CBABC executive, Section and Forum chairs and elected representatives from each county. The ALF representative attended the September 17, 2011 meeting. At this meeting the CBABC Provincial Council passed a resolution to extend the Rural Education and Access to Lawyers Initiative (REAL). The REAL initiative provides a great opportunity for all lawyers, but especially for Aboriginal lawyers as one of its mandates is to provide funding for rural lawyers to hire articling students. As many of our Aboriginal lawyers in BC practice in rural areas and many of our Aboriginal law students would like to practice in rural areas, the ALF highly encourages its members to look into this initiative. More information on the REAL program is found in page 4.

For more information on the CBABC ALF or any of our upcoming events, please email [ALF@bccba.org](mailto:ALF@bccba.org).

Mark your calendars for an exciting Holiday Banquet



Make sure to save...

Friday, December 2, 2011

## Executive Committee

### Chair

Christina J. Cook  
cjcook@bilkey.ca

### Vice Chair

Isabel F. Jackson  
isabel.jackson@justice.gc.ca

### Members At Large

George Hungerford  
ghungerford@bcsc.bc.ca

Katrina Harry  
katrinaharry@shaw.ca

Rosalind Campbell  
rozcampbell@shaw.ca

Karen Whonnock  
karen.whonnock@lss.bc.ca

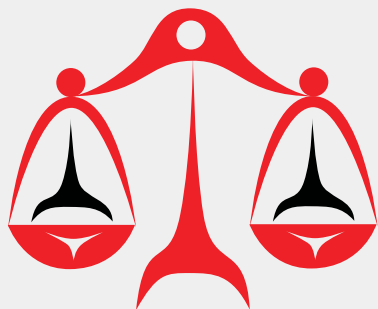
Hannah McDonald  
hmcDonald@boughton.ca

### Vancouver Island Representative

Colleen Spier  
colleen@spierlaw.ca

## ALSST Donations

To make a donation to the CBABC Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust please call the CBABC office at 1-877-669-9601.



## MORE THAN \$24,500 FOR ABORIGINAL LAW STUDENTS!

*by Isabel Jackson, CBABC ALF Vice Chair*

This year the ALF began yet another new initiative – joining in partnership with the Department of Justice and the law firm of McDonald and Company to help organize the 4th Annual 2011 National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction & Reception. This annual fundraiser began with the inception of the CBABC's Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust and continues to raise funds toward endowing the Trust.



*2011 Reception Attendees*

This year's 2011 event once again improved on the previous year's success by raising more than \$10,000! In the four years that this fundraiser has been held it has now raised more than \$24,500 to assist Aboriginal law students!



*2011 Reception Attendees*

Not only is this a successful fundraiser the reception provides a fun time for supporters to come together to recognize and celebrate National Aboriginal Day. This year's reception event took place at the beautiful Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art where registrants enjoyed the performance of up-and-coming singer/songwriter Matthew Gong (Nooksak/Squamish). We are already looking forward to planning next year's 5th annual event.

If you want to become involved to help this unique fundraising event continue to grow please contact Isabel Jackson (Isabel.jackson@justice.gc.ca), Jennifer Duncan (jduncan@mcdonaldandco.com) or Christina Cook (cjcook@bilkey.ca).

Stay tuned for information on the 5th Annual Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction and Reception scheduled for June 2012.



*Matthew Gong performing at the 4th Annual 2011 National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction & Reception.*

## ALF – PLTC Top Tips & Tricks

*by the ALF Executive*

1. Go see the PLTC Student Co-ordinator, she is there to support and advise students. Use this resource.
2. Manage your time – you may feel like PLTC is easy or manageable in the first two weeks but from week three onward there will be assignments and assessments due almost every week.
3. Prep, plan, and prepare – read the materials before every class. It's not like law school you can't fake it.
4. Pick up the materials BEFORE PLTC starts – you can pick up the materials any time, pick it up weeks or months before PLTC and start reading – it's going to take you much longer to read than you anticipate.
5. Form a study group – all the other students are going to do this and you want to ensure you are in a group.
6. Get indices – get them early.
7. Do NOT blindly depend or follow your indices. Update every index yourself! The materials are constantly changing. Read and review your index, know how to use it.
8. Keep careful track of your materials – if you take materials out to take them to class ensure you replace them (you would hate to find pages 114 – 140 are missing at the exam....)
9. Be nice to your classmates and instructors – it's a small class and you will be locked in a room with these people for a long ten weeks. PLTC is a fresh start; it's a great chance to make friends with people you may not have spoken with at school.
10. Do \*NOT\* collaborate with anyone on any assignments or assessments that prohibit collaboration. The Law Society takes this very serious.
11. Draft an outline for your Chambers assignment – the Judge will appreciate this.

### CBABC ALF Newsletter Fall 2011

Editor: Christina J. Cook

Contributors: Isabel Jackson, Karen L. Whonnock and Christina J. Cook

### Contact Us!

Are you interested in writing an article for the ALF Newsletter or have any comments or feedback? Send your comments and feedback to **ALF@bccba.org**.

Don't forget to sign up as a member of the ALF on your CBABC Section Enrolment forms.

Go to **www.cba.org** for more details.





## Call for an Indigenous Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Women

by Karen L. Whonnock, ALF Executive

On October 11, 2011, the Murdered and Missing Women's Commission will begin its inquiry. However, twenty of the twenty one advocacy groups have withdrawn due to lack of funding. The problem has been that while there are about dozen lawyers appointed to represent various governmental departments and the RCMP there has been a lack of funding for aboriginal women's groups and families of missing and murdered women. This financial inequality has resulted in an unfairness and denial of justice. While the Murdered and Missing Women's Commission held hearings in Northern BC, the Highway of Tears was not, strictly speaking, within the Commission's mandate, but as Commissioner Wally Oppal explained, he felt it was important to hear the northern voices along the Highway of Tears. I attended the northern hearing in Terrace BC on September 13, 2011 and provided feedback for the commission: What is personally frustrating for me is that I have been targeted, as an aboriginal person, for seatbelt checks, drunk driving checks and illegal fishing at various roadblocks in the past five years. While I personally highly value the use of seatbelts, and driving while sober and consider salmon to be sacred to my people, I am still angry at being stopped. While I don't blame the peace officers who stop me, I am angry about the allocation of fiscal resources. When an aboriginal woman goes missing along the Highway of Tears, there is never a roadblock stopping vehicles. Setting up roadblocks to search my vehicle for possible illegal fish upsets me deeply. It sends the message that illegal fish are a higher priority than the life of an aboriginal woman. While Commissioner Oppal stopped and listened to us, I can't help but feel that our voices and concerns are a side note – what weight will they be given in the final report? I also noted that the make up of the commission was predominantly non-aboriginal as well as the creation of the commission itself.

Another huge concern is the extremely limited mandate of the commission. Other groups, like the Native Women's Association of Canada, are calling on the Government of Canada and provincial governments to start a national inquiry into murdered and missing women. If so, I would only hope that we indigenous peoples would be involved as true partners to create an indigenous inquiry, with indigenous partnerships and indigenous commissioners. The rationale is simple – when we look at the racial statistics of murdered and missing women across Canada, it is predominantly aboriginal women that have gone missing or been murdered. It is time for an indigenous inquiry.

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## Rural Education and Access to Lawyers (REAL)

The Canadian Bar Association BC Branch (CBABC) has partnered with the Law Society of B.C. to extend the Rural Education and Access to Lawyers Initiative (REAL). REAL is a coordinated set of programs that address the current and projected shortage of lawyers practicing in small communities and rural areas of British Columbia in order to ensure that these communities continue to enjoy access to legal services.



The initiative has a number of key components including:

- Funding for second year summer student placements in rural and small communities throughout British Columbia;
- Financial and promotional support to assist with the marketing of regions to law students and new lawyers;
- Professional support from the CBABC Regional Legal Careers Officer for students who are interested in practicing in rural and small communities; and
- Professional support from the CBABC Regional Legal Careers Officer to assist law firms and practitioners with the recruitment, hiring and retention of students and new lawyers in rural and small communities.

For information on regional job opportunities and to find out how the REAL initiative can benefit you, please contact Michael Litchfield, CBABC Regional Legal Careers Officer at [mlitchfield@bccba.org](mailto:mlitchfield@bccba.org)



## Mark your calendars for all the 2011 - 2012 ALF Events

### ALF - CPD Lunch & Learn

**Date:** November 9, 2011

**Time:** 12 – 1:30pm

**Location:** The Edge Social Grille & Lounge, 1100 Granville St. at Helmcken, Vancouver, BC. V6Z 2B6

**Topic:** Time Management & Avoiding Ethical Atrophy

**Presenter:** Derek LaCroix, Lawyers Assistance Program

*(The presentation is free, but each person is responsible to cover their own lunch cheque)*

*1 hour of CPD Credit (counts as 1 hour of ethics!)*

Space is Limited! - RSVP: [sections@bccba.org](mailto:sections@bccba.org)

### ALF - Holiday Banquet

**Date:** December 2, 2011

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Chateau Granville, 1100 Granville St. at Helmcken, Vancouver, BC. V6Z 2B6

*\*\*With a special key note speaker, silent auction, entertainment, scintillating conversations, sparkling beverages, and satisfying food!\*\**

*Also, the ALF will be inviting the Northwest Indian Bar Association (a group of Indigenous lawyers and judges from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.)*

Early bird tickets available Oct. 29, 2011 from [sections@bccba.org](mailto:sections@bccba.org)

### ALF – Speed Mentoring

**Date:** February 2012

*The ALF will host a second annual Speed Mentoring event. This event was hugely successful last year. At the event senior Aboriginal lawyers are paired with junior lawyers and students for seven minute sessions. All participants are encouraged to exchange contact information to continue the mentorship relationship started at this event. If you are a senior Aboriginal lawyer and are interested in sharing you time at this fun and fast paced event please email [alf@bccba.org](mailto:alf@bccba.org).*

### ALF Golf & Spa

**Date:** May 4 – 6, 2012

*This event will have CPD accredited presentations, an afternoon of either golf or spa treatments, great food and a chance to get away with your fellow Aboriginal colleagues.*

### DOJ- ALF National Aboriginal Day Auction & Reception

**Date:** June 2012

*The 5th Annual 2011 National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction & Reception began with the inception of the CBABC's Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust and continues to raise funds toward endowing the Trust.*



*Mark your calendars for an exciting Holiday Banquet*



Make sure to save...

**Friday, December 2, 2011**

## **CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum Holiday Banquet**

Cocktails at 6pm | Dinner at 7pm  
Special Key Note Speaker  
Silent Auction | Entertainment



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
British Columbia Branch

**Early bird tickets available  
October 29, 2011**