



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
British Columbia

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FORUM

Spring 2020
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CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum

Executive Update

By Isabel Jackson, ALF Chair

COVID-19

At the time of this issue we are in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Words cannot convey the unprecedented significance of this global situation. The ALF sends love and encouragement to all. Let us each do our part to isolate and distance ourselves in order to starve out the virus and flatten the curve. I am looking forward to the biggest group hug ever when we come out on the other side of this. Until then, take care everyone.



As I indicated in this column a year ago, I have big feet but I have still found it hard to fill the shoes of Past Chair Tina Dion, now the Honourable Judge Dion of the Provincial Court of BC! When she was appointed to the bench she had to forego her role as Past Chair of the ALF, a role which I was relying on as the new chair. While I am proud that her appointment is in furtherance of the ALF's mandate I have to admit that I also felt quite abandoned! Nonetheless the ALF is proud of this most recent appointment of an Indigenous judge. Furthermore, Judge Dion went on to receive the ALF's 2019 Special Contribution Award. Read more and see photos of her celebratory achievement in this issue.

Happy 10th Anniversary ALF!

This year will be an anniversary milestone for the CBABC ALF. In December 2020 it will be 10 years since the ALF became a CBABC forum. The CBABC Provincial Council passed a unanimous resolution in December 2010 for the ALF to become a forum of the CBABC. We hope to celebrate this milestone anniversary at our 2020 Holiday Banquet on **Friday, November 27, 2020. Save that date!**

I am grateful to be working with my fellow ALF Executive members this year: George Hungerford - Co-Chair of the CBABC TRC Committee; Michelle Casavant - Chair of the ALF's next Retreat – *Indigenous Thriving* – date TBA; Randy Robinson - Northern Representative and BarTalk Editorial Committee; Robyn Gervais - Legislative Liaison; Nicole Iaci - Student Liaison; Karenn Williams - Member at Large; Katelyn Crabtree - Member at Large; and Vice Chair Kennedy Bear Robe.

This past year the ALF held all of its ever-popular events which you can read about in this issue: our 10th Annual Holiday Banquet at which the ALF's 2019 awards were presented; our 2019 Retreat on *Promises, Prosperity and Justice*; and our 2019 National Indigenous Peoples Day Online Auction & Reception.

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This year we also revived our speed mentoring event and we look forward to planning another of those events sooner than later.

We are always looking for help! Consider volunteering to help plan events that provide rare opportunities for Indigenous legal practitioners to come together in celebration and support of one another. We also invite your interest in contributing to the *Indigenous Matters* column of the CBABC BarTalk. See the article in this issue for upcoming BarTalk themes and who to contact.

Many hands ... !

Vancouver – City of Reconciliation

By Katelyn Crabtree, ALF Executive Member

As an urban Indigenous person living in Vancouver my family's Nlaka'pamux cultural identity and practices, as well as my European identity are inextricably linked to all facets of my life. It has driven my passion to work with and support First Nations and Indigenous people in pursuit of an equitable, prosperous, and discriminatory free future.

I've been fortunate to work with First Nations and other Indigenous peoples across Canada in a number of different capacities and on unique projects. During my time in law school, I worked with the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry for over a year followed by a semester working with Toronto's Native Child and Family Services. Upon completion of law school, I practiced general litigation and then moved to focus on Aboriginal law.

These and other work experiences have been invaluable to gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the vast, unique, and complex issues that First Nations and other Indigenous peoples across Canada are faced with both in governance and in their daily lives.

A year ago a unique opportunity, to work with the City of Vancouver as the Manager of Indigenous Relations arose. This role is intended to advance the City's fairly recent commitment to be a City of Reconciliation. Vancouver is the first City to be designated a City of Reconciliation and this commitment touches on almost all aspects of the City's work. There is an immense opportunity to embed reconciliation principles in the City's government to government relations, development partnerships, arts and culture, services and area plans to actively work to address the many impacts of colonialism.

A foundational piece to advancing reconciliation throughout the work of the City is cultural awareness and competency. Staff level cultural awareness and competency is necessary in addition to providing cultural educational opportunities to all Vancouver citizens with public-facing City work. Part of this is through working with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to support centering their visibility and voice in Vancouver, as well as supporting the cultural space and needs of urban Indigenous people. It's critical that we all take on the responsibility of learning more about the rich living history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and, in particular for citizens in Vancouver, the rich living history of local Indigenous peoples. There is no shortage of material to self-learn about the many forms of colonialism that were forced upon Indigenous peoples that don't require further extraction from Indigenous people and communities. Being aware of the past harms inflicted on Canada's Indigenous people is required to reconcile the truth of our shared history and to move forward.

Ultimately reconciliation takes more than words of commitment to repair the damage done to Indigenous peoples' communities. Highlighted here are some of the foundational pieces required for this work. For more information on the specific projects that are actioning these commitments please refer to the adopted Reconciliation framework and Annual Reconciliation reports.¹



¹ <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/city-of-reconciliation.aspx>

2019 Special Contribution Award Recipient

The Honourable Judge Tina Dion

The Aboriginal Lawyers Forum (ALF) Special Contribution Award is given to a law firm or individual that has shown a special and consistent dedication to Aboriginal people in the field of law. This award recognizes a firm or individual's contribution to the ALF which strives to enhance the stature and influence of Aboriginal people in the legal profession. The recipient will have helped the ALF to address the various issues facing Aboriginal law students and lawyers.

The ALF was pleased and honoured to present its 2019 Special Contribution Award to the Honourable Judge Tina Dion.

Judge Dion, of Cree heritage, received her law degree from UBC Law School. In her 3rd and final year she was in the top 10% of her class. She was called to the BC Bar in 1999 after articling with Orris Burns. In January 2000 she joined the First Nations Law Group at Blake, Cassels & Graydon, LLP where she practiced civil litigation. In 2006 she commenced work as in-house counsel for the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) where she was an integral part of a team devoted to implementing the TFN's history-making first modern treaty in BC. She was instrumental in the development of laws and regulations for the TFN and she worked with the Office of the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court to merge the TFN Office of the Prosecutor into the BC provincial court system. She assisted the TFN government in the appointment of the TFN Judicial Council, an administrative decision-making body under TFN Laws. While working full-time for the TFN she completed a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. She remained with the TFN until May 2012 when she joined White Raven Law as managing lawyer. In the spring of 2013, she focused on the development of her law practice, with an emphasis on Aboriginal Administrative Law. She was appointed Queens Counsel in 2016.



*Isabel Jackson with The Hon. Judge Tina Dion
at the ALF Holiday Banquet*

Judge Dion has been a tireless volunteer within the profession. She has been a regular contributor and speaker at legal conferences and she regularly chaired the CLEBC Aboriginal Administrative Law conference. She was also a contributing writer to the CLEBC Administrative Law Practice Manual. She was featured in the May 2014 issue of the CLEBC's In the Spotlight. She was an adjunct professor at UBC law for more than 12 years and was a regular judge for first year law moots. She was appointed by the Province to the Boards of the College of Psychiatric Nurses of BC, and the Justice Institute of BC.

Judge Dion has been committed and passionate advocate for Indigenous people and their participation in the legal profession. While at UBC Law, she was invited by then retired Provincial Court Judge, Alfred Scow, to assist him with addressing misinformation in the media regarding Indigenous peoples. Along with Judge Scow, she and a dedicated team of volunteers incorporated the Scow Institute in the mid-2000's. First as Vice-President and then as President, she lead the team to the development of numerous legal papers touching on many issues involving Indigenous peoples.

Judge Dion has been a loyal member of the CBABC since she began practicing law. She was the elected member to Provincial Council for Westminster County, and the Equity and Diversity representative to the CBABC Executive Committee.

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She has supported the CBABC ALF since its inception in 2010 as the first and still the only CBA forum of its kind in Canada. She was the ALF chair from 2016 to 2018. Her leadership was pivotal at a time when the ALF's profile was being raised and the ALF was being sought for leadership on issues related to the representation of Indigenous people in the profession.

Following her appointment to the Provincial Court of BC in May 2019 she was formally welcomed to the Court at a ceremony on January 24, 2020 where President Ken Armstrong and ALF Chair Isabel Jackson spoke on behalf of the CBABC. She regularly presides in Port Coquitlam Provincial Court.

The ALF is proud of all recipients of its Special Contribution Award. Their stellar careers are an inspiration to the entire legal profession.

2018 – Dr. Bruce McIvor, First Peoples Law;
2017 – The Honourable Judge Steven Point, OBC;
2016 – (Now) The Honourable Justice Len Marchand;
2015 – Christina Cook, Founding ALF Member;
2014 – (Now) The Honourable Judge Linda Thomas;
2013 – Callison & Hanna – Inaugural Recipients

Welcome to The Honourable Judge Tina Dion

A former ALF Chair, the Honourable Judge Tina Dion was appointed to the Provincial Court of BC in May 2019. She was formally welcomed to the Court at a ceremony on January 24, 2020. Attorney General David Eby QC spoke on behalf of BC; ALF member Leslie Leclair spoke on behalf of the Attorney General of Canada; Past CBABC President and Law Society Bencher Michael Welsh QC spoke on behalf of the Law Society of BC; Adele Letwin spoke on behalf of the North Fraser Bar Association and President Ken Armstrong and present ALF Chair Isabel Jackson spoke on behalf of the CBABC.



Judge Dion and Family



L-R: Kenneth Armstrong, CBABC President 2019/20, the Hon. Tina Dion, Isabel Jackson

One Magic Evening

The ALF's 2019 10th Anniversary Holiday Banquet

The ALF's 2019 10th Anniversary Holiday Banquet was another huge success with a record 160 registrations!

This year's Holiday Banquet featured keynote speaker Judge Marion Buller (Retired). We were privileged and honoured to hear of Judge Buller's recent experience as the Chief Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and their recent report – [Reclaiming Power and Place](#) including the Calls for Justice.

Judge Buller's message paired well with a sculpture installation that made a spectacular display at the banquet. The sculpture by artist Jocelyne Robinson, a member of the Timiskaming First Nation in Quebec, was called *Ad/Dressing the Calls To Action* and was inspired by the ongoing process of Reconciliation.

The ALF was pleased to support Indigenous children in need especially at this time of year. Many banquet attendees brought wrapped toys in response to our toy drive in support of the Vancouver Child and Family Services Society. Banquet attendees also enjoyed the silent auction the proceeds of which went to support the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society.



"Ad/Dressing the Calls To Action"
By Jocelyne Robinson



The Honourable Judge Marion Buller (Retired)



ALF awards awaiting their recipients.

A huge thank you
to our sponsors!

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Please watch the ALF Facebook page, and CBABC notices for details on upcoming events!

If you have any questions, please email:
ALF Chair, Isabel Jackson
isabel.jackson@justice.gc.ca.

Contact Us

Contribute? Comments?

Feedback?

Email us at ALF@cbabc.org.

Lisa Helps Indeed!

A huge shout-out to Lisa Helps of Helps Law. Lisa organized a social media campaign in support of our toy drive. She attracted the help of numerous other law firms and individuals, including many Crown Counsel. Helps Law matched every toy that was donated and altogether they contributed 140 toys to our toy drive! That's like another entire banquet where every attendee participated in the toy drive! Lisa wants a shout-out to go to Lauren, Bernardo and everyone at Toys'R'Us Canada on Broadway for their generous discount that enabled them to buy even more toys! Lisa Helps indeed – thank you Lisa!



The donated toys waiting to be wrapped.

The donations are wrapped and ready for delivery!



The banquet photos tell the story of an event that was enjoyed by all who attended. All photos are posted on the [ALF's Facebook page](#). The ALF looks forward to hosting our annual Holiday Banquet again in 2020. It will be another extra-special event when we celebrate the ALF's 10th Anniversary. **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, November 27, 2020.**

2020 National Indigenous Peoples Day Online Auction

2020 will be our best year ever if we just carry on!

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis there is still a way we can carry on as normal. Our annual National Indigenous Peoples Day Auction is an on-line event that allows us to continue to support the work of the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum (ALF) even in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. No matter how much we raise, 2020 will be the auction's best year ever if we just carry on. **WE'VE GOT THIS!**

Put your money where our mandate is!

As a forum of the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch, the ALF is still the first and only forum of its kind in Canada. Our 2020 event this year will be the ALF's 13th annual online auction in support of the ALF's mandate which aims to increase the stature and influence of Indigenous people in the legal profession – a cultural imperative. With your help money will follow our mandate!

The success of our annual auction has built over the years. Even in the face of COVID-19 let's continue to build on that established success.

Last year in 2019, owing to the success of the auction, we increased our three Student Appreciation Awards from \$500 to \$1,000 each for Indigenous law students at UBC, UVic and TRU! Our 2019 winners were Amanda Richards (UBC), Katelyn Beale (UVic) and Jana Chouinard (TRU). (See the winners' profiles in this issue.)

We also held an extra-special event last year to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our annual Holiday Banquet at which the Student Appreciation Awards were presented as well as the ALF's annual Special Contribution Award presented to Judge Tina Dion. (See the article on our 10th Anniversary Holiday Banquet in this issue.)

The following are steps we can take to address the COVID-19 crisis while carrying on with the auction:

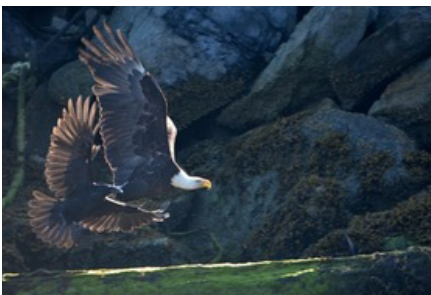
- Donors can postpone the physical delivery of their donations to us. Instead they can send photos and descriptions for us to post on the auction website.
- Similarly, after the auction we will postpone delivery of items to the winning bidders.
- We will receive the donations and distribute them to the winners later when it becomes feasible to do so.

You can support our on-line auction by donating auction items, soliciting auction items to be donated, bidding on auction items and sharing the link to the auction with all your contacts.

Donations are now being accepted for our 2020 National Indigenous Peoples Day On-line Auction which will run June 19-27, 2020. Please contact isabel.jackson@justice.gc.ca to donate or if you would like more information.

Again, no matter how much we raise this year, 2020 will be the auction's best year ever only because we carried on. We hope you will join our effort – THANK YOU!

Examples of items sold at the 2019 ALF Online Auction:



In Memory of Abraham Nahani Wardman

A generous student award donation in memory of Abraham Nahani Wardman was made at the ALF's 2018 Holiday Banquet. The donation was organized and made by mom Candalence Wardman's colleagues at the Vancouver and Surrey Citizenship, Immigration and Settlement offices. The ALF was pleased and honoured to accept their generous sponsorship of the ALF's Student Appreciation Awards in memory of Abraham.

Abraham Nahani Wardman, (Black Thunder – his Saukteaux name) from Mistawasis First Nation, graduated from the Peter A. Allard School of Law in 2016. Abraham had a passion for law since the age of 6 when he made the decision to pursue this as a career. Abraham believed in mentoring marginalized children and youth by encouraging them to stay in school and pursue positive activities. He was an advocate for Indigenous and women's rights.



Special Recognition for CBABC

At the ALF's 2018 Holiday Banquet, awards of special recognition were presented to Michael Welsh, QC and Bill Veenstra, QC on behalf of the CBABC.

In 2017/2018, Tina Dion QC (now the Honourable Judge Dion) was the first ALF Chair to sit on the CBABC Executive. The 2016/2017 transitional seat and the 2017/2018 permanent seat were set in motion by Michael Welsh QC during his term as President of the CBABC. Past President Bill Veenstra QC then oversaw the amendment to the CBABC by-laws to establish the permanent seat for the ALF.

In addition, along with Ms. Dion, Past President Veenstra co-chaired the CBABC's Truth and Reconciliation Working Group (TRWG). This work required much time and effort on their part. The TRWG Final Report was presented and approved by the CBABC Provincial Council at its September 29, 2018 meeting.

2017-2018 was also the first year for ALF representatives to have dedicated seats on several CBABC committees: Advisory Committee to the Judicial Advisory Council of BC, Government Relations (as it was then constituted) and BarTalk, which includes a regular column *Indigenous Matters*. In addition to these CBABC committees the ALF was also invited to attend Law Society Benchers meetings as regular guests.

The Aboriginal Lawyers Forum commends the CBABC for creating space for the ALF on the CBABC Executive as well as key CBABC standing committees.



L-R: Bill Veenstra, QC, Isabel Jackson and Michael Welsh, QC

Newcomers to Canada and Opportunities for Reconciliation

By Carol-Ann Hart, BA, LL.B, C. Arb., Cert. Con. Res., Citizenship Judge

It is difficult to express how grateful and humbled I am to have been an Adjudicator of the Indian Residential Schools claims in the Alternative Dispute Resolution process and the Independent Assessment Process. Hearing former students speak with great courage about all that they and their families suffered and endured as a result of the residential schools was tremendously sad. Nonetheless, learning about how, despite these tragic events, many of the claimants found the resilience and determination to move forward with their lives in a positive way, was incredibly moving and inspiring.

I worked with wonderful, compassionate individuals in all roles, and it was in that context that I was fortunate to meet Isabel Jackson from the Department of Justice. As the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum Chair, she asked me to write about reconciliation in the context of my current work as a Citizenship Judge.

Also involved in the Independent Assessment Process, as Canada's Representative from the Department of Justice, was Suzanne Carrière. In June of 2018, following a merit-based selection process, she and I were appointed as Citizenship Judges by Governor in Council, together with eight other Citizenship Judges across the country. I am proud to be part of such an outstanding, talented and diverse group. Judge Suzanne Carrière is Canada's first Métis Citizenship Judge. I am privileged to have her as my colleague and friend.

The responsibilities of Citizenship judges include: making decisions on some citizenship applications; presiding over citizenship ceremonies; and administering the oath of citizenship to new citizens. Citizenship Judges also play an important role in promoting citizenship.

In citizenship ceremonies and information sessions to promote citizenship, I passionately embrace my opportunity and responsibility to convey to new and prospective citizens a message about the importance of Indigenous peoples in Canada, and working together towards reconciliation. I will continue to encourage Indigenous peoples to participate in ceremonies and promotional activities so that Canadians can learn about and benefit from Indigenous culture.



As the Citizenship Judge for BC/Yukon, I conduct 30 to 35 citizenship ceremonies per month, and at each ceremony there are typically 60 to 80 new citizens with their family members and friends. In every citizenship ceremony I acknowledge the Indigenous territory on which the ceremony is taking place, and deliver these words:

I urge you to learn about and get to know our Indigenous Canadians. Before I became a Citizenship Judge, I had the great honour of serving as an Adjudicator of the Indian Residential schools claims, and the privilege of working closely with, and getting to know, many Indigenous Canadians. Their unique heritage, diverse cultures, resilience, and deep connection to the land, families, and communities are an inspiration to all of us. The outstanding achievements of our First Nations, Métis and Inuit and peoples have greatly contributed to and shaped our nation. I look forward to our country continuing with renewed relationships, respect, and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Canadians, and I hope that each of you will join me in making your own efforts towards reconciliation with Indigenous Canadians.

I have been delighted to receive encouragement and many positive comments from new citizens and their guests about my remarks concerning Indigenous Canadians and reconciliation.

Earlier this month, a kind woman approached me, and told me how pleased she was that I had spoken about Indigenous Canadians during the citizenship ceremony. It brought tears to my eyes when she asked: ***"Judge Hart, please let me know what I can do to help to make things better for Indigenous Canadians."***

**A huge thank you
to our sponsors!**



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Thanks also to our student sponsors
Justice Len Marchand, Judge Tina
Dion and Myrna McCallum.

8TH Annual Aboriginal Lawyers Forum Retreat **ANOTHER SOLD OUT SUCCESS!**

"On every account, the Retreat exceeded expectations. Great, well prepared speakers. Relevant agenda." (Retreat attendee)

The 2019 8th Annual Aboriginal Lawyers Forum Retreat was another sold out success! The theme of *Promises, Prosperity and Justice* called us to consider how the law can impact economic prosperity for Indigenous people. Musqueam Elder Shane Point launched the Retreat by reminding us that the Nations were once abundantly prosperous in their lands and called on us as legal practitioners to help them regain that prosperity. Ellis Ross (Haisla), MLA for Skeena, reminded us also that the practice of law should not be an industry that only benefits the practitioners. Our goal should be to ensure that the law impacts economic prosperity in such a way that the lives of Indigenous people and communities are made better. Mr. Ross made the point that there is still a long way to go. The take-away from the discussion that ensued was the importance of tailoring solutions and agreements that meet the particular needs and circumstances of the Indigenous communities we serve.

Sessions included:

- The Promise of Jericho (property development) – Aaron Bruce (Kelts'-tkinem), Ratcliffe & Company; Brennan Cook, MST Development Corp.; Greg Franklin, Department of Justice Canada;
- Perspectives on Resource Development – Skeena MLA Ellis Ross (Haisla) and Malcolm Macpherson (Métis), Clark Wilson;
- The Promise of Consultation – Paul Seaman (Métis), Gowlings;
- The Promise of Financial Management – Shayla Point (Musqueam), First Nations Financial Management Board;
- The Certainty of Taxes – Lisa Macdonnell (Algonquin) and Christa Akey (Mohawk), Department of Justice Canada;
- The Promise of Cannabis – Merle Alexander (Xai'xais), Miller Titerle;
- The Promise of Dispute Resolution – Laura Matthews (Cree-Métis), Mediator and Roy Johnson, MA, C.Arb, C.Med;
- The Promise of the Medicine Wheel – Musqueam Elder Shane Point and Dave Robinson (Anishinaabe Algonquin).

Early feedback about the Retreat was entirely positive. We thank each of our presenters, the large majority of which were Indigenous practitioners. As the feedback noted each of our presenters were well-prepared and relevant. In addition, judging from their questions, comments and discussions, our registrants were also well prepared and relevant.



The Retreat concluded with a moving performance by the *Butterflies in Spirit* (left) dance troupe honouring Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped make this year's 8th Annual ALF Retreat another sold out success!

See the photo album posted on the [ALF's Facebook page](#).



Shayla Point (Musqueam)



Merle Alexander QC (Xai'xais)

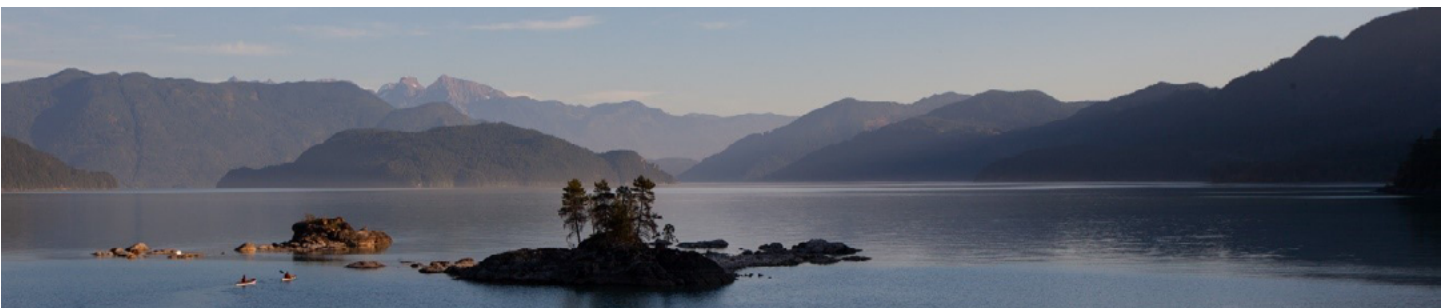


Skeena MLA Ellis Ross (Haisla)

POSTPONED

9th Annual ALF Retreat – *Indigenous Thriving*

The theme of the ALF's 9th Annual Retreat is *Indigenous Thriving*, addressing topics on wellness for legal practitioners. Stay tuned as details will be announced at a later date.



2019 ALF Student Appreciation Award Recipients

These awards are given to law students of Aboriginal ancestry who have shown consistent dedication to Aboriginal people in the field of law. These awards recognize an individual's contribution to the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum (ALF) in working to enhance the stature and influence of Aboriginal people in the legal profession. The recipients will have helped the ALF to address the various issues facing Aboriginal law students. In particular, these issues include the retention of Aboriginal people in law school and within the legal profession.



L-R: Isabel Jackson, Jana Chouinard (TRU), Amanda Richards (UBC), Katelyn Beale (UVic).

Jana Chouinard of Thompson Rivers University

Jana Chouinard is registered with the Onion Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan and grew up in Cook's Ferry of the Nlaka'pamux Nation in Spences Bridge, BC. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in English from Thompson Rivers University ("TRU") and has lived, worked, and played in the Kamloops community for the last 9 years. During this time, she has worked closely with Tkémlups te Secwépemc in various capacities—most recently as a legal researcher for the Day Scholars Class Action.

She has worked with TRU's Indigenous Education Department as the Cultural Coordinator, as well as within the Faculty of Education & Social Work as Coordinator and Editor for the Knowledge Makers Journal. In 2018 Jana was awarded the George Erasmus Indigenous Student Law Bursary in recognition of her significant involvement with Indigenous communities, organizations, and leadership.

Most recently Jana was successful in spearheading amendments to her university's policy regarding band-sponsored students and confirming their enrollment. Jana has been accepted into the TRU Community Legal Clinic as a student practitioner for the Winter 2020 semester. She is passionate about restorative practices, reducing recidivism of Indigenous offenders, and enhancing access to justice for all. Jana's nominator said: "Jana works hard to enhance the stature and influence of Aboriginal people in the community and legal profession". ALF wishes Jana well in her future studies.

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Amanda Richards of the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC

Amanda Richards is from Zagime Anishinabek First Nation in eastern Saskatchewan. She is currently in her third year at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC. Before law school Amanda completed her business degree in Calgary, while also studying First Nation history and culture where she had the opportunity to participate in an Aboriginal field study on Treaty 7 territory. In her final year of undergrad, she worked with Dr. Katharine McGowan on a project dedicated to Aboriginal Business and Social Innovation within Alberta that was presented to staff and students as part of a larger project in assisting in the Indigenizing of the business program.

Amanda also represented her school at the National Indigenous Innovation Conference in Winnipeg in 2015. Since coming to law school, Amanda has been an executive member of the Indigenous Law Student's Association each of her three years, and this year is proud to be the co-president of the group. In Amanda's first year, ILSA penned a memo to faculty council expressing the need for a new Indigenous course in the first-year curriculum, among other things. As of September 2020, this course will be implemented as a mandatory course for all incoming students. This year ILSA has focused on creating an environment that incorporates wellness practices with the hope to improve mental health among students.

Amanda and co-president Courtney Gibbons were also recently asked to present to the UBC Board of Governors to speak about their experience with the Indigenous Legal Studies at Allard, they presented challenges and opportunities, with a hope to increase student aid and student retention among their peers. In addition to her work with ILSA, she also volunteers with Rise Women's Legal Center and the Lawyers Assistance Program of BC.

According to Amanda's nominator she is "a friend and mentor to all of the other indigenous students at Allard. She is always there to help when you are struggling or having a dark day". ALF wishes Amanda well in her final year.

Katelyn Beale of the University of Victoria Faculty of Law

Katelyn Beale is a second-year law student enrolled in the Juris Doctor/Juris Indigenarum Doctor (JD/JID) program at the University of Victoria. She is a resident of British Columbia, and Cowichan Tribe member.

According to Katelyn's nominator Katelyn "has demonstrated outstanding contributions in the area of Aboriginal people in the law through her mentorship and support of Aboriginal law students. Katelyn is well-known in the JD/JID cohort for her willingness to support, provide guidance and assistance to all students. Katelyn has significant experience and unique expertise due to her long-term work with her community, which has made her a valuable contributor to classroom discussion and an excellent resource for classmates to approach. Katelyn has been somewhat involved in the Indigenous Law Students Association at UVic but is better known for her engagement with Aboriginal students outside that environment through her supportive nature in interpersonal interactions.

Katelyn has expertly balanced her learning obligations with the roles she has in her family and community, and provides a great example of a healthy balanced approach to legal studies. Katelyn has positively contributed to a safe and caring classroom environment and is at the center of a network of Aboriginal students who encourage and hold one another up. Katelyn is a goal-driven, motivated person who will enhance the stature and influence of Aboriginal people in the legal profession wherever she chooses to work. ALF wishes Katelyn well in her continued involvement in the legal profession and work with Aboriginal Peoples.

Thompson Rivers University Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA)

By Raman Khera, ILSA ALF Exec and Theresa John, ILSA Vice President

ILSA is privileged and honored in furthering our studies and ILSA objectives at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Law which is located on the unceded lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc of the Secwépemculuuw. The ILSA is a student-led club composed of an elected executive body. TRU ILSA strives to create a welcoming environment for all students attending TRU Law by assisting in intercultural learning and by liaising with cultural resources both on and off campus. We engage with the Faculty of Law, the greater TRU community and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to promote diversity, equity and Indigenous perspectives within the law by creating and supporting events for ILSA members and the community.



Every year, ILSA collaborates with other groups to host and facilitate a variety of events on campus and in the community to promote Aboriginal culture, awareness and legal education. In Fall 2019, ILSA was able to support 13 students to attend the Indigenous Bar Association Annual Conference, which is our record number to date. Every winter, ILSA coordinates a time for law students to attend Cknúcwentn First Nations Court in Kamloops which is held on the first Friday of every month. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to have this court in our city to help address the rampant overrepresentation of Aboriginal offenders in the criminal justice system. Following the designated court dates, the students are afforded the chance to share a meal with the respective Elders, counsel and judge as a means to make meaningful connections with the legal community in Kamloops. ILSA also maintains important relations with the Lii Michif Otipemisiwak, which is a local Metis family and community service agency. Continuing these important community relationships is essential to promoting cultural competency and inclusivity between TRU law and the greater community.



At TRU, ILSA promotes awareness and education of Indigenous legal issues through collaborating with other student groups, which are both in the faculty of law and part of the greater university. This year we will be collaborating with the Women in Law Club and the Criminal Law Club, inviting Indigenous speakers to share their knowledge and experiences in their respective areas of law. ILSA also collaborates with Cplul'kwe'ten (the "Gathering Place"), the Indigenous student centre to host the TRU annual powwow. This event attracts diverse populations from TRU, Kamloops, and surrounding First Nations communities for a weekend full of music, culture and dance.

TRU Law has been strong in their mandate to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action #28, which is teaching law students about Aboriginal people and the law. This is demonstrated by the mandatory attendance of all first-year law students to spend a full day at the Kamloops Indian Residential School and museum situated in Tk'emlúps. ILSA assists in accompanying the students throughout the day and to facilitate a panelist of speakers, tours, and discussion groups. Guest speakers include Residential school survivors, intergenerational survivors, and those directly impacted by the "Sixties Scoop." It is an incredibly powerful experience and important for all students to be educated on the dark history of Canada. ILSA remains closely connected to the law school and greater university in the development and advancement of cultural competency and Aboriginal legal education, which is necessary and benefits all.

University of Victoria Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA)

By Brendan Noyes and Jolene Ashini, Co-Chairs, UVic ILSA

We feel it important that we begin this, as we do in our UVic ILSA meetings and ILSA-led events, by first acknowledging the territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples in which the University of Victoria is located. The peoples of these territories have relationships with this land that reach far back into the past and continue to this day. It is, for many of us, as guests in this territory that we are welcomed to study, build relationships, and cultivate community. We also were welcomed with open arms, support, and love into the UVic ILSA family about which our predecessor Sharae Antley wrote so eloquently last year in this same submission.

Last year we elected a new executive committee, comprised primarily of new students, who sought to find ways to change, grow, and expand our Association. The first semester was dedicated to re-opening conversations and subcommittees around the current ILSA mandate, constitution, and budget. Our goal has been to stay away from top-down decision-making and instead move to embrace a consensus-based approach within our Association. This has been done as we also work to find responsible and positive ways to manage with our new funding (which offers many new possibilities for ways in which the ILSA can be involved in the student body moving forward). The ILSA has assisted students with conference costs and is currently working in conjunction with UVic Law student groups to strengthen community. We now have established a strong set of guidelines that we feel will allow future iterations of our Association to support one another as well as meet challenges they may face.

This year, the ILSA saw an influx of many new and continuing Indigenous voices. Many great suggestions have been made and committees have established to attempt to meet the needs of our growth into 2020 and beyond. We are so excited to see what becomes of our Association as we expand with future cohorts of both JD and JD/JID students.

While the ILSA has seen so much new growth many events and ideals remain the same. We consistently advocate for the needs of the Indigenous student body and advocate for greater consultation and effective communication with the administration. Additionally, as every year, the ILSA is currently planning an ILSA Grad for the outgoing 3Ls and our annual Mentorship night. The Mentorship night focuses on the opportunity to network with the greater Indigenous legal community. This year we plan to expand this event include the greater Indigenous Academic community; a change requested by our membership to better reflect the possible avenues that one may take on their career path. Moving forward we also are planning several events to focus on strengthening and supporting Indigenous voices, along with holding open spaces for Indigenous students and perspectives.

We would like to close by extending our sincere gratitude to the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum for providing us with this opportunity to feature our Association and share some of what we have been up to at the UVic ILSA with the greater Indigenous legal community.

Kindly and in friendship.



CBABC BarTalk – *Indigenous Matters*

In the most recent April 2020 issue of the CBABC BarTalk magazine on the theme of “Beyond Private Practice” Grant Christoff writes for the *Indigenous Matters* column about [being in-counsel for the First Nations Health Authority](#).

BarTalk magazine discusses legal news and issues from across BC. It is published six times per year by the CBABC. The *Indigenous Matters* column is a regular feature in *BarTalk*. It provides an Indigenous perspective on legal news and issues that are particularly relevant to Indigenous practitioners.

If you are interested in contributing an article to *Indigenous Matters* please contact Randy Robinson randyrobinsonubc@gmail.com. Below are upcoming *BarTalk* themes and deadlines. Please note however that the *Indigenous Matters* column is not necessarily limited by the *BarTalk* theme. If there is a particular topic you would like to write about please let us know.

June 2020 — Emerging Law (trends, new/emerging practice areas) — Deadline: May 1, 2020

August 2020 — Dispute Resolution — Deadline: July 3, 2020

October 2020 — Human Sexuality and the Law — Deadline: September 3, 2020

December 2020 — Climate Change — Deadline: November 6, 2020

June 2021 — Practice Management — Deadline: May 7, 2021



The Need for Speed!?

Networking/mentoring meets speed dating! It sounds counter intuitive but networking and mentoring connections can be made in a meaningful, fun and fast-paced way. This Speed Mentoring/Networking event took place on January 13, 2020 at the offices of Fasken LLP. The event was sponsored and organized by UBC Allard Law School, Fasken and the CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum.

There were about 14 mentor lawyers, mostly Indigenous, and about the same number of Indigenous law students. As is clear from the photos posted on the [ALF's Facebook page](#), much fun was had and great connections were made. We look forward to planning our next Speed Mentoring/Networking Event!

