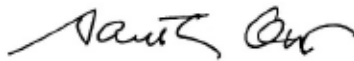


SUBJECT	ACADEMIC PRESENTATION – INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES, ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UBC
MEETING DATE	NOVEMBER 26, 2019

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR
SUBMISSION**



Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

FOR INFORMATION

Report Date	November 8, 2019
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Presented By Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
Dr. Gordon Christie, Professor and Director, Indigenous Legal Studies, Allard School of Law
Dr. Catherine Dauvergne, Dean and Professor, Allard School of Law

Indigenous Legal Studies (ILS) at the Allard School of Law was initiated in 1975 with a specific admissions stream for Indigenous students. ILS now includes a range of curricular options for all JD students, from the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic operating the DTES to a Specialization in Aboriginal Law, which draws on a range of upper level courses in ILS. In addition, the law school has implemented two mandatory first-year courses in the JD program which address Indigenous legal issues, and ILS faculty and staff continue to build out a range of co-curricular programming for the Allard community to engage with Indigenous issues, such as the very successful Indigenous Cultural Competency Certificate for Allard Law students, staff and faculty.

ILS has a number of notable strengths, including an active student body and a core of five tenure-track Indigenous faculty across all ranks and 1 staff FTE, as well as a supportive and involved wider faculty community. There are significant opportunities in continuing to build on a still-early trajectory of enhanced academic support for Indigenous students, and there are opportunities as well to include more developed curriculum on Indigenous laws, particularly in partnership with Indigenous communities. However, funding for such expansion remains challenging. A lack of long-term, stable funding threatens the progress recently made on better student academic support. Finally, UBC does not currently have any policies for providing greater targeted benefit to Indigenous JD students through bursary allocation, and Indigenous students are subjected to the same limitations of the ongoing and significant JD bursary budget shortfall as all other students.



Indigenous Legal Studies (ILS) Peter A. Allard School of Law

November 26, 2019

**Dr. Gordon Christie, Professor and Director, ILS
Dr. Catherine Dauvergne, Dean and Professor**



ILS at Allard Law - A Brief Overview



- admissions stream for Indigenous students; currently ~20/cohort (~10% JD population)
- curriculum across the JD program
- Indigenous academic, cultural, career support
- opportunities for Allard community to engage with Indigenous legal issues

Allard Law Indigenous Alumni



- 220 Indigenous alumni
- leadership roles across society, e.g.,
 - § Indigenous, federal, provincial government
 - § judiciary
 - § private practice
 - § academic

Strengths – Student Support Highlight



ILS Academic Leadership Certificate

- pilot funded
- academic skills sessions (1L students)
- leadership development (all years)
- 1:1 and small group coaching

Strengths – Curriculum Highlights I



- mandatory for all JD students:
 - ü Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (first-year)
 - ü *NEW*: Indigenous and Settler Legal Relations (first-year)
- JD Specialization in Aboriginal Law
- Kawaskimhon Moot (most Cdn law schools)

Strengths – Curriculum Highlights II



Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (DTES)

- access to justice for Indigenous community
- 15 credit, full-term experiential learning
- ~10 students per term; incl. summer term
- Law Foundation funding
- 3 faculty + articling student positions

Strengths – Co-curricular Enrichment



Indigenous Cultural Competency Certificate

- piloted in 2017/18; 8-month, non-credit program for Allard students, faculty and staff
- goal: better understand colonial assumptions, beliefs, biases in Cdn legal system
- waitlists; interest across campus and beyond

Weaknesses – Overview



- academic support trajectory new, incomplete
- 1 staff FTE à strategic priorities and focus
- demands on Indigenous faculty in supporting faculty growth in ILS
- lack of curriculum in Indigenous laws

Opportunities – Overview



- plans for enhanced student recruitment
 - ü educate re Indigenous admissions process
 - ü pipeline recruitment (secondary, college)
- Indigenous Laws Research Externship
 - ü pilot proposal, partnership with Gitanyow
- TRC recommendations; JD curriculum review

Challenges – Overview



- lack of funding for community partnerships
- lack of long-term, stable funding for Indigenous student and academic support
- increasing competition from other Cdn law schools
- student financial aid for Indigenous students

Challenges – Student Financial Support



- targeted merit-based scholarship/award funding = \$98,550 (only 13% of total)
- bursary budget shortfall impact:
 - ü (assessed student need) – (“deductible”)
= (bursary amount received)
 - ü current deductible = \$2850/term