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

Nov 26, 2019
Courtney Gibbons, JD Candidate 2020
Amanda Richards, JD Candidate 2020
ILS at Allard Law – A Brief Overview

• 5-10% Indigenous students
• JD Curriculum Options
• Often strong community between students
• ILS Lounge
Strengths

• Support from Associate Director, Lee Schmidt
• Indigenous Orientation
• Academic Leadership Series
• Tutoring
• Upper-year curriculum options
• Indigenous Community Legal Clinic
• Collaboration with ILSA
Challenges

- Lack of funding and financial aid
- Unmet demand for cultural support
- Community Inclusion
- Heavy focus on academic programming
- Lower retention of Indigenous students
- Heavy reliance on ILSA for student advocacy
Recommendations

• Increased student financial aid
• Increased program funding
• Solutions for Indigenous student advocacy
• Increased focus on physical (health & financial), spiritual, cultural, emotional wellness
Goals

- Alumni with strong cultural ties
- Law students with strong physical, emotional, and spiritual health
- An ILS program that has the resources to be responsive to student need
- A decolonized law school environment