



THE CANADIAN
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FORUM

DRUM

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"Aboriginal Lawyers Forum"

CBABC Aboriginal Lawyers Forum

ALF Executive Update

by *Christina J. Cook, CBABC ALF Chair*

Well we had a busy year at the ALF. I would like to thank the ALF Executive for all their hard work and all the ALF members for coming out to the events and supporting the group. As you know the ALF was started three years ago and every year we just keep getting bigger and better. We hosted our first Lunch & Learn in the fall, it was wildly successful and all thanks to Rosalind Campbell. We hosted our second annual Holiday Banquet with key note speaker Judith Sayers. We were pleased to have secured funding for student tickets and were even more pleased to have students from UBC and TRU attend.



I would also like to personally thank the staff at the Chateau Granville; they really took good care of us and made the evening appear flawless.

In February we hosted our second annual Speed Mentoring Event. This fun and fast paced event could not be possible without the generous sponsorship of Bull, Housser & Tupper LLP (thank you Merle Alexander) and the organization of Hannah McDonald. In May we hosted our first Spa & Golf Retreat, and we're already planning the next one! In June, the ALF was so pleased to partner with the Department of Justice and Isabel Jackson on the 5th Annual National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction and Reception. Isabel has worked tirelessly to raise over \$24,000 for the CBABC Aboriginal Law Student Scholarship Trust. As is our tradition, the ALF is taking the summer off and will be back in September with more events, initiatives, newsletters and programs. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to register as an official ALF member with the CBABC to ensure you get all the benefits of the ALF.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and participation in the ALF. Migwetch!

Check out our photos
from the 5th Annual
National Aboriginal
Day On-Line Auction
Reception on pages
6 and 7!



2011 / 2012
ALF Executive

Chair

Christina J. Cook
cjcook@bilkey.ca

Vice Chair

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

Members At Large

George Hungerford

Rosalind Campbell

Karen Whonnock

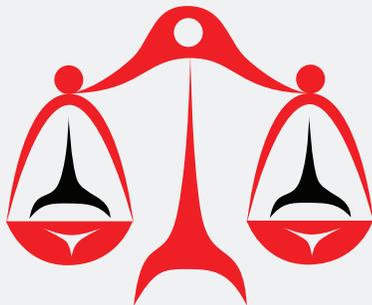
Hannah McDonald

Vancouver Island Representative

Colleen Spier

ALSST Donations

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



Working Hard at the First Annual ALF Spa & Golf Retreat

by ALF Executive

On May 4 – 6, 2012 the ALF hosted its first Spa & Golf Retreat at Quaaout Lodge on the Little Shuswap Indian Band. As the name describes, it was a very studious and serious affair. Actually, it was a fun social weekend shared by Aboriginal lawyers and law students and an Aboriginal judge. We kicked off the weekend with a salmon and bannock reception in where all the participants had a chance to meet.



On Saturday morning, we started the program early with a delicious breakfast and a presentation by Michelle Good of Sage Law. Michelle works with residential school survivors and spoke about the legacy of the residential school system. Next to present was Kelly Russ on the topic of Indian Band Governance and Human Rights. Kelly explained the application of the (*Canadian Human Rights Act*) to Indian Bands, Band Councils and the Federal Government and how new legislation is going to change how governance is conducted within Indian Bands and the Federal Government. Rosalie Wilson, Mentorship Program Developer for the Law Society of BC presented on her work developing the Law Society's Aboriginal Mentorship Program. Rosalie was followed by a lively presentation by CBIA representative Dustin Serviss. (I'm not kidding, we kept Dustin on his toes!) Our lunchtime presenter was Grant Christoff of the Department of Justice speaking on the hot topics in Aboriginal rights and title. It was then time to break for spa sessions and tee times. The rest of the afternoon was spent either being pampered at the Le7Ke Spa or playing the majestic and challenging Talking Rock Golf Course. (Some attendees also managed to stumble across a Fields closing out sale where everything was 90% off – it was pretty great to find every day items at \$0.30 or \$1.05!)

We met up again at 7pm for a delicious dinner and presentation by the Honourable Judge Marion Buller-Bennett. Judge Buller-Bennett inspired and energized us with her words. There were door prizes, delicious food, interesting conversations, and wine generously sponsored by Callison & Hanna. The rest of Saturday evening was spent socializing, having fun, and at certain points running into a very happy and intoxicated wedding party that coincidentally was celebrating



(Continued on Page 3)





a wedding over the same weekend. (The bride looked beautiful, but there were times that we thought our legal services – either family, divorce, mediation, or criminal – might be required).

On Sunday morning we all enjoyed the famous Quaaout Lodge Sunday Brunch. The bannock was delicious, the omelette bar was delicious; there was even pasta and roast beef. After brunch we attended a traditional talking circle. We sat in the sunshine, looked out at the calm Shuswap lake and shared our thoughts as the everyday stress melted away.

It was a great weekend and we had fun. We learned a lot (heck we got 6 hours of CPD), we shared a lot (not just at the talking circle but after a glass or two of wine some people became quite chatty) and it was a great chance to enjoy the company of other Aboriginal lawyers and law students.

We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our sponsors: Callison & Hanna, Mandell Pinder LLP, UBC Law, ZSA, Okanagan Reporting, TRU Law, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, TD, and Secwepemc Heritage Museum.

So – save the date for next year's retreat May 3 – 5, 2013. And don't forget your bathing suit!

CBABC ALF Newsletter Summer 2012

Editor: Christina J. Cook
Contributors: Isabel Jackson,
Hannah McDonald, Christina J. Cook,
Anthony Oliver, and Debra Febril.

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.

Keeping up to Speed with the ALF

By Hannah McDonald, ALF Executive



On March 15, 2012, the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum (“ALF”) held their second “Speed Mentoring” event – again, with great success. Mr. Merle Alexander, Partner and Aboriginal lawyer at Bull, Houser & Tupper, LLP, generously hosted the evening. The boardroom at BHT’s offices offered a magnificent view of Vancouver’s downtown business district and was a well-suited setting for the event.

Students and young lawyers from across B.C. signed up to receive the helpful and personalized advice from our team of mentors – lawyers who either were Aboriginal themselves or practice Aboriginal law. The wide diversity of backgrounds and experiences from our mentors (and mentees) made for a valuable and interesting opportunity for everyone involved.

The ALF has received great feedback from the speed-mentoring participants. In particular, we would like to thank our team of mentors for generously donating their time and wisdom to helping students and young lawyers advance in the field of Aboriginal law.

This year’s mentors were: Merle Alexander (Bullhouser & Tupper, LLP), Daryn R. Leas (Boughton Law Corporation), Corrine McKay, Alixe Cormick (Venture Law Corporation), Shawn Bobb (Trial Lawyers Advocacy Group), Lee Robin Schmidt (Peter Grant & Associates) and Angela Cousins (Mandell Pinder).



UBC Indigenous Law Students Association Update

By Anthony Oliver, ILSA President

We, the students in the Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA) at UBC Law, a facet of the Law Students' Society (LSS), recognize that great strength lies in embracing the diversity that exists within the collective of brilliant individuals who comprise the legal profession we aspire to join.



ILSA thanks the CBABC and its ALF Executive whose thoughtful and well-organized social and educational initiatives foster respect for plurality and inclusion of all members. ILSA believes that if law students, regardless of race or creed, can work collaboratively with one another and achieve shared success, when we graduate and begin assisting our clients, whether private or public, reconciliation will ensue.

How does ILSA transform the status quo at UBC Law? Its team of approximately 60 students work together, each utilizing a unique skill set, to organize and participate in forums that bring together those interested in gaining knowledge about practical and theoretical Aboriginal legal issues in a manner that builds trusting relationships. In early 2012, Faculty, in collaboration with the LSS and ILSA, voted in favor of introducing a specialized module on Aboriginal and treaty rights for first year constitutional law, to be taught by the school's Indigenous legal scholars (http://www.law.ubc.ca/faculty/faculty_research.html). This initiative exceeds the new standards set by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and

supports our claim that UBC Law, which provided the first Aboriginal law course in Canada, leads the nation with respect to the breadth and depth of its course offerings in this vital area of the law.

In response to the inclusion of Aboriginal and treaty rights in first year curriculum, on February 27, 2012, ILSA presented Faculty with the 1st Annual Courage in Law Award. The award was presented to Associate Dean David G. Duff and to incoming Associate Dean, Benjamin J. Goold, both of whom worked hard to bring this initiative to fruition. LSS President Roni Jones and Andrea Hilland, from the First Nations Legal Students Program, also received awards on behalf of their respective groups.



Following the award presentation, ILSA invited students and Faculty to participate in 2012 Aboriginal Awareness Week activities. Events included an opening ceremony with drumming and dancing, the annual ILSA/Fasken Martineau spring BBQ, a lecture from Grand Chief Ed John - North American Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, eagle feather beading, a film screening of Cry Rock and a lecture from Professor Gordon Christie on liberal understandings of Aboriginal rights.

With all this momentum, the LSS saw need to strengthen the role of its Director of Aboriginal and Academic Issues, a position which Christina Cook and her peers created in 2009. At the Spring AGM, the general body of law students voted in favour of constitutional amendments that enabled a new position on the LSS Executive to be created – the Executive Director of Indigenous Perspectives and Student Development (EDIPSD). Going forward, the EDIPSD will inter alia provide an Indigenous voice and perspective within the LSS and Faculty committees, while working with fellow LSS Executive members to develop initiatives that foster non-Indigenous students' recognition and respect for indigeneity at UBC Law, which we see benefiting the profession as a whole.

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This past academic year was a tremendous success for ILSA and its partners. We thank the CBA, ALF and everyone who contributed to our achievements.

Kinana'skomitina'wa'w ("I thank you people").

Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law – Indigenous Law Students Association Update

By Debra Febril, ILSA President

It was a busy year for the indigenous law students at Thompson Rivers University. On Sept. 6, 2011 Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Law welcomed 75 new students to an academic program. The TRU Law Program has a particular focus on First Nation and Aboriginal legal issues. On Oct. 25, 2012 the Indigenous Law Students' Association ("ILSA") was born. Our mission is to "facilitate opportunities unique to Indigenous law students". Our objectives are to encourage and promote the development of a community of academic, professional and social support among Aboriginal students in the TRU Faculty of Law; Represent and support the academic and professional interests of Aboriginal students at the TRU Faculty of Law; and promote accessible legal education for Aboriginal people in a culturally-sensitive learning environment.



In November the ILSA was pleased to welcome Ruth Thompson, Director of the Native Law Centre in Saskatchewan to TRU for a special presentation and dinner with the students. During November & December the ILSA also worked to draft its constitution, attend and volunteer at the National Restorative Justice Symposium, host culture events including a sweat with a Secwepemc Elder, attend an ALF hosted lunch at with local Aboriginal lawyers, and advocate for an Aboriginal Representative to be appointed to the Student Law Society Executive.

In the New Year, the ILSA participated in various events including a field trip to the Secwepemc Museum & Heritage Park, TRU's Foundation Gala, 1st Annual Sweatlodge with Chief Felix Arnouse of Little Shuswap Indian Band, Kawaskimhon 2012 National Aboriginal Rights Moot in Saskatoon, and the Honouring Our Tiny Tots Pow Wow at TRU gymnasium. The ILSA also held a pre-exam smudge for students at the Gathering Place officiated by Elder Estella Patrick Moller. After completing exams local Aboriginal lawyer Linda Thomas hosted a celebration dinner at her home for all ILSA students. The ALF also hosted a celebration lunch. In May two ILSA students attended the ALF Spa & Golf Retreat at Quaaout Lodge and enjoyed the opportunity to meet Aboriginal lawyers from across B.C. The ILSA continues to be active and is already preparing for the 2012/2013 academic year.

For more information please contact me at debra24@live.ca



ALF Member Profile: Kelly Harvey Russ

For the past 17 years Kelly Harvey Russ has restricted his practice to family law and child protection matters. Early on Kelly recognized that litigation is not always the best solution to family law issues and as such he took steps to qualify as a Family Law Mediator and Child Protection Mediator in British Columbia. Aside from family law, Kelly has a keen interest in human rights and sat as a Human Rights Commissioner for 9 years with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.



Kelly Russ provides family law services in Metro Vancouver, Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, the North Shore, Surrey, Richmond, New Westminster and Haida Gwaii.

Kelly has been an active member and supporter of the ALF since the very beginning. Kelly has attended and presented at various ALF events. The ALF is pleased to welcome Kelly to the Executive as Co-Chair for the 2012-2013 year.

For more information or to contact Kelly, please visit his website www.russfamilylaw.ca

Thank You to the 2011 - 2012 ALF Executive

The entire ALF would like to extend its sincere appreciation and raise their hands to the 2011- 2012 ALF Executive. This hardworking group consisted of:

- Chair: Christina J. Cook;
- Vice Chair: Isabel Jackson;
- Members At Large: Rosalind Campbell, Hannah McDonald, Karen Whonnock, and Geordie Hungerford; and
- Vancouver Island Representative: Colleen Spier.



Rosalind Campbell



Karen Whonnock

All Executive members work tirelessly over the year to facilitate events and bring Aboriginal lawyers and students together.

The ALF Executive is sad to announce that two key Executives, Rosalind Campbell and Karen Whonnock, have decided to step down. Rosalind was integral to the creation of the ALF and has been on the ALF Executive since before the ALF even existed! Karen joined us quite early on and always brought great ideas, and enthusiasm to every meeting. Both Rosalind and Karen will be missed on the Executive but we look forward to seeing their smiling faces at future ALF events. Thank you both for your hard work, the ALF would not be here without you.

Success of the 5th National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction Reception

By ALF Executive

On June 22, 2012 the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum in partnership with the Department of Justice and McDonald & Co. hosted the 5th Annual National Aboriginal Day On-Line Auction Reception at the Bill Reid Gallery. This reception was well attended with our largest turn out yet. A big thank you to our emcee for the evening Kelly Russ. Kelly did an amazing job. Also thank you to our special guest and entertainment for the evening Aboriginal slam poet Zaccheus Jackson. It was really a thrill to hear Zaccheus share his various stories in spoken word infused with rapid-fire delivery, gritty street tales, intricate rhyme patterns and social criticism, this 'East Vancouver poet' was profound and left everyone wanting more. Also, we were





so pleased to have Alex Shorten of the CBABC announce that CBABC and Indspire (formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation) have signed an amending agreement to the original Scholarship Agreement expanding the scholarship to include eligible law students from Thompson Rivers University, in addition to UVIC and UBC.



Thank you to our reception sponsors: Devlin Gailus, Mandell Pinder LLP, Ratcliff & Company LLP, Boughton Law Corporation, McDonald & Company, the Law Society of British Columbia, Janes Freedman Kyle, Department of Justice Canada, Bull, Houser & Tupper LLP, and Weyerhaeuser.

ON-LINE AUCTION INFO:

We apologize for the delay, due to technical difficulties the NAD On-Line Auction was delayed in starting this year. We have a neat new platform for the NAD On-Line Auction this year. Check it out: (<http://www.32auctions.com/organizations/4191/auctions/4637>) View the auction, get excited and share the link with your contacts. You can view the entire auction or pick a category from the list on the left. There will be a “new” category for items added after the bidding starts. On that note, it is not too late to donate an item to be auctioned off! Create an account when you’re ready to bid



Bidding will start Friday, July 6 @ 6 a.m. and will close July 13 @ 8 p.m.

Of particular note this year is a pendant donated by Corrine Hunt, the co-designer of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Medals!



Bid early and bid often, thanks everyone!



Welcome to the 2012-2013 ALF Executive

The ALF is pleased to announce the 2012-2013 ALF Executive:



Kelly Russ
Co-Chair



Christina J. Cook
Co-Chair



Isabel Jackson
Vice Chair



Adam Munnings
Legislative Liaison



Hannah McDonald
Member at Large



Gordie Hungerford
Member at Large



Joshua Nicholas
UBC Student
Representative



Debra Febril
TRU Student
Representative



Miranda Seymour
TRU Student
Representative



Colleen Spier
Vancouver Island
Representative

Secretary: Paul Silvey (No Photo Available)

We look forward to all working together to bring you more events and initiatives in the upcoming year. We are always looking for people to volunteer and help out with the ALF – if you are interested please email: cjcook@bilkey.ca

