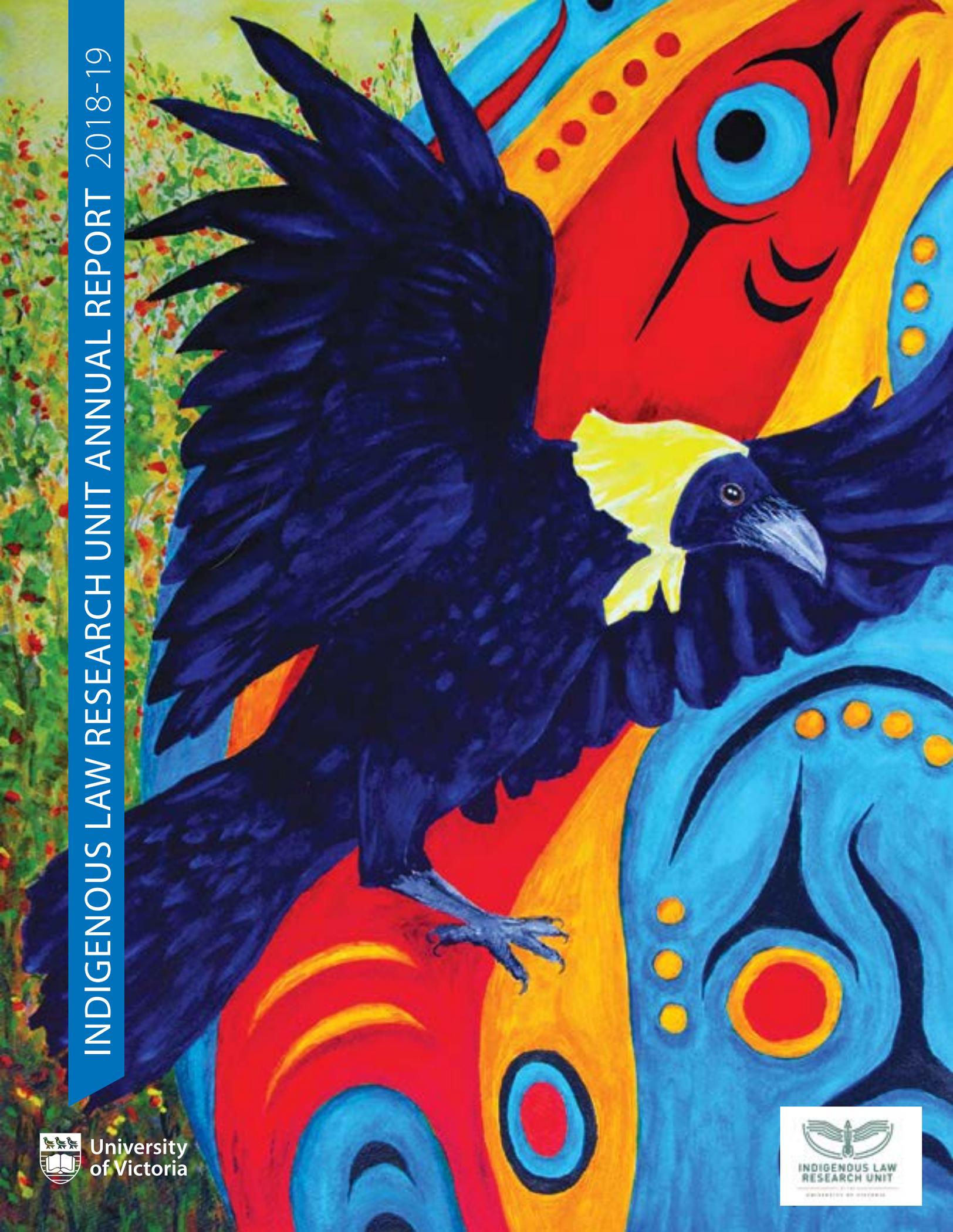


INDIGENOUS LAW RESEARCH UNIT ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



University of Victoria



INDIGENOUS LAW RESEARCH UNIT

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

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We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Cover image from Kokum Raven Series – Val Napoleon, Artist

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Since the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) emerged in 2012, our unit has grown in response to the ever-increasing demand for Indigenous law resources around the world. Our partnerships span a breadth of legal questions across legal traditions, and our methodologies and approaches to engaging with Indigenous law have expanded as we have learned alongside our partners and collaborators. The core of our work remains focused on building strong relationships with our community partners, and finding new ways for Indigenous law to take up space in the world. The past year reflects this period of growth and expansion, as we have nurtured both new and existing relationships with our Indigenous partners and increased our support for the learning of and engagement with Indigenous law in academic, professional and public settings.

This year we were fortunate to be invited to engage with Indigenous laws across many territories—from Coast Salish territories on Vancouver Island, to Nlaka'pamux, Syilx, Secwépemc and Tsilhqot'in territories in the interior, east to Anishinaabeg territory, north to the legal traditions in Treaty 8 and Gitksan territories, towards the north coast to the Sm'algyax-Speaking communities of Kitsumkalum, Kitselas, Gitxaala, and Gitga'at and even further north into the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Across these diverse territories and legal traditions, we have been asked to collaborate on a broad range of legal questions, including ones focusing on gender and human rights, land, water, dispute resolution, citizenship, child safety and governance.

This year we also saw a dramatic increase in demand for public, judicial and legal education. We facilitated workshops in places as far away as Norway and Australia, spoke in law classrooms and at conferences across the country and world, presented to professional bodies, held seminars, conferences and learning circles on critical topics in Indigenous law, and focused on the development of accessible toolkits and materials to assist people to more deeply engage with Indigenous law. This is truly the most exciting work on the planet.

We welcomed new faces to the ILRU team this year—our new coordinator, Brooke Edmonds (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui), core researchers Lindsay Borrows (Chippewas of Nawash Nation) and Tara Williamson (Opaskwayak Cree Nation), and researcher Sarah Jackson (settler from Lheidli T'enneh Territory)—and employed over 20 students in 2018-2019, including co-op students, JD and JD/JID students, and graduate students. Of course, our work would not be possible without the generous donations and support from our partners and donors. To our community of supporters—partners, collaborators, students, donors, affiliates—your continued support allows us to continue this important, community-led work—and we thank you!

Sincerely,

Val Napoleon (left), Director and  
Rebecca Johnson (right), Associate Director



## Íwséltkten and Secwépemc-kt: Membership and belonging in Secwepemcúl'ecw



A c7istkten (Secwépemc traditional winter home) from the Secwépemc Museum & Heritage Park in Kamloops. (Photo: Jessica Asch)

Our top priority remains our community-led partnerships with Indigenous communities seeking to revitalize and restate their laws. This year, ILRU has been working in partnership with the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) and the Secwépemc Elders Council to explore Secwépemc laws of citizenship, belonging and governance. Having collaborated previously with SNTC to articulate Secwépemc lands and resources law, Íwséltkten and Secwépemc-kt is a second-generation project for ILRU. Unlike previous ILRU projects, the core legal concepts grounding this research are taken from Secwépemctsin rather than English, to shift focus away from the *Indian Act's* definitions of citizenship and belonging and to understandings informed by Secwépemc law. Another shift in our typical research process has been to attend more cultural activities in the community, including the seasonal Secwépemc Gatherings that occur throughout the year across the territory. The experience has been powerful for our own learning about Indigenous legal structures, processes of community-building and relationship-building. It has also grounded the

work in a better appreciation of the importance of land-based learning, and the work of building and maintaining spaces to facilitate inter-generational learning. The final report will include a synthesis, casebook, glossary and practice materials to help people engage with the synthesis.

In a context where there is a need to push back from state law models of citizenship and create conditions to enable people to return and remain connected to Secwépemc territory, the work on Íwséltkten and Secwépemc-kt law will be an important resource for families, visitors, teachers and law makers to draw upon in their journey to revitalize and understand Secwépemc law.

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### Julianna Alexander, Community Partner

“Working with our stories, we see pathways to the wisdom of our older ways. We are strengthening our relationships to land and water and air, in ways that help us to walk gently and take care of each other. In holistic ways, we are building webs of connection.”

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## Say't-Kilm-Goot



The ILRU team headed to Hartley Bay via float plane to visit our Gitga'at community partners. (Photo: Diana Borges)

ILRU has been engaged in collaborative community-based research with north coast Indigenous communities since 2015. One major research project that has been in full swing over the past year is Say't-Kilm-Goot ("Of One Heart"): Inter-Nation Co-operation and Dispute Resolution in the Sm'algyax-Speaking Legal Traditions. Currently in its final draft stages, this legal analysis integrates knowledge from 25 narratives and over 70 community members to articulate how the legal traditions of four participating nations (Kitsumkalum, Kitselas, Gitxaala, and Gitga'at) govern issues of inter-nation concern. This includes how the legal orders of these related societies uphold house (walp)-based jurisdiction over territories, help maintain or restore sustainable resource relationships, and inform principled responses to conflicts and common challenges.

As with all our partnerships, community-based coordination is essential to this project's success. Based in Prince Rupert, the North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society is providing support for funding and logistics, while each participating nation has one or more dedicated individuals whose work—in ways both big and small—helps ensure research engagements that are relevant and responsive to their nation's experiences and expertise. Coordinators were also central to the organization of a very

successful three-day methodology workshop, held January 20-22, 2018 in Kitsumkalum, which included over 35 members from all four nations.

In a context of changing ecological conditions and continued development pressures, the work of Say't-Kilm-Goot should be of enduring importance, both to the nations living these laws as well as others who seek to responsibly understand and engage with them.

Over the past year, ILRU has begun or continued work on 10 major reports across a breadth of legal questions (water, dispute resolution, citizenship, water governance, human rights, land and resources) in multiple legal traditions, including Tsimshian, Secwépemc, Gitksan, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Cowichan, Tsilhqot'in, Syilx, Nlaka'pamux, Cree, Anishinaabeg and Dene law.

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### **Aaron McMillan, Community Partner & Coordinator**

"Researching our history and discovering different aspects of our laws was a very rewarding experience for me. I am thankful for all the hard work and dedication the ILRU team has shown. They helped me to recognize our traditional laws throughout our oral and written history. It was a real eye opener. I would highly recommend working with ILRU. They are a wonderful group of people."

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## Outreach in the community



The ILRU team and participants from the Home in the City workshop pose for a group photo. (Photo: Jessica Asch)

This year ILRU continued to support the engagement of Indigenous law in the broader community through our outreach programming. One of our more meaningful collaborations was with the Home in the City Project. Home in the City is a project begun by former ILRU Coordinator, Renée Beausoleil, on governance in housing and support services involving people with current and previous experiences of homelessness and people facing diverse issues related to housing. In December 2018, we facilitated a discussion on the role of Indigenous law in governance through the use of the ILRU resource and graphic novel, Mikomosis and the Wetiko. To make the graphic novel more accessible for that discussion, volunteer JD and JD/JID students from UVic Law worked together to create a film of the graphic novel. In January 2019, we led a two-day workshop with the coalition again, this time to introduce ILRU's work and provide some hands-on training in our methods and methodologies.

In addition to the Home in the City Project, ILRU supported numerous workshops and presentations to support Indigenous law research initiatives and learning throughout Canada, and in Norway and Australia. We supported, hosted or

spoke at over 65 presentations and conferences, and presented to a broad range of government and professional organizations throughout 2018-2019, including the National Justice Institute, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the Ombudsperson's Office, and the Canadian Bar Association (Provincial Council).

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### Renee Beausoleil, ILRU Affiliate

"ILRU brought to Home in the City a way of thinking about law and governance that involves everyone. The workshops helped us to think about responding to inequity and other community issues collaboratively."

### Janine Theobald, Community Partner

"The ILRU team came to the Home in the City workshop sincerely listening, and with an open-hearted acceptance of those in the room. There was receptivity, equity and reciprocity present that made the sessions a truly collaborative experience. The concepts demonstrated during the two-day workshop were done so in an organic, paced and adaptive manner that left this participant feeling like a partner in the process. It was humbling, rewarding and deeply appreciated."

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## Training and education with students and the public

Supporting education and training on Indigenous laws is one of ILRU's priorities. Among our public legal education projects this year, ILRU co-developed a resource on Coast Salish child and caregiver safety and nurturance laws with Nl̓ TU,O Child and Family Services Society, an organization delegated by the province to support children and youth in care, their families, and their guardians. We researched and worked alongside a Nl̓ TU,O researcher with oral narratives from the seven South Island First Nations served by Nl̓ TU,O to develop a hands-on toolkit that can be used by social workers, teachers and families. This public legal education resource includes lessons and facilitation notes focused around oral narratives from WSÁNEĆ, Lekwungen-speaking and T'Sou-ke communities. The research for the Child and Caregiver Safety and Nurturance Toolkit will be used at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law to support curricular development for the JD and JD/JID streams of study.

As part of our collaboration, Nl̓ TU,O and ILRU supported the University of Victoria Faculty of Law's pilot field course, CELÁNENEŁ: A Field Course in the Re-emergence of WSÁNEĆ law, co-supervising two students for their community placements. The students developed and delivered three community engagement processes in WSÁNEĆ communities centred on the oral narratives ŁEL, TOS and SIATEN and SESIATEN, and developed lesson plans for engaging with these stories for children, youth and adults.

ILRU continues to develop academic and public education materials, with partnerships to build a toolkit on watershed governance and dispute resolution for communities in Treaty 8, a graphic novel on Cowichan Water Law and curricular materials for the Law Society of British Columbia's Professional Legal Training Course.

ILRU supervised and worked with over 20 graduate, JD and JD/JID students in the 2018-19 year.



John-Bradley Williams, ethnobotanist and storyteller from the Tsawout First Nation, leads a class at TIXEN (Cordova Spit) as part of a UVic law field course in the re-emergence of WSÁNEĆ law. (Photo: Mike Morash)

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### Leslie-Ann Paige, Community Partner & Coordinator

"Our partnership with ILRU has been fundamental to our agency's work in developing a framework to fundamentally change our practice to be both culturally specific, and culturally safe by integrating the laws and stories of our communities into our daily work. Without the leadership of ILRU in this area of research, we would not have the tools or resources to articulate these Child Safety Laws within Coast Salish legal traditions."

### Veronica Martisius, WSÁNEĆ Field Course Student

"I was profoundly impacted by my experience as a participant in CELÁNENEŁ. I was given the wonderful opportunity to reunite with the Indigenous Law Research Unit to work in partnership with Nl̓ TU,O, Child and Family Services Society. I feel forever indebted for the gifts I received from this important work and will carry what I've learned as I move with life."

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Water Guardians Workshop at Riverside Park with Kenthen, Terry and Rebecca. (Photo: Dan Klassen)

At the invitation of Secwépemc community member and JD/JID candidate Carolyn Belleau, Dr. Rebecca Johnson participated in the Water Guardians Workshop: Secwépemc Knowledge, Language & Laws to listen to stories and speak to youth about ILRU methods of finding law in stories in August 2019.

In June 2019, Minister Carolyn Bennett formally announced the federal government's \$9.1 million contribution towards the building of a national centre for Indigenous law, where ILRU will be housed in future.

ILRU worked with Cowichan Tribes and our sibling unit, the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge (WLGL), on our first ILRU-WLGL collaboration during a workshop in Cowichan in May 2019 and May 2018.

Val Napoleon and Rebecca Johnson taught the summer intensive course Indigenous Law: Research, Method and Practice to new ILRU staff, students and community researchers on ILRU projects in May 2019.

ILRU participated in the SSHRC National Dialogue on Indigenous Research and Reconciliation in Ottawa in March 2019.

Val Napoleon spoke alongside affiliates Sarah Morales and Lana Lowe at this year's sold-out event, Indigenous Law, Women and Human Rights as part of UVic's IdeaFest.

ILRU co-hosted a research-a-thon on Indigenous and colonial water laws in the Nicola Watershed in February 2019.

ILRU hosted and facilitated Rebuilding Indigenous Law: Governance and Human Rights—a conversation with community partners, scholars and ILRU researchers in October 2018.

ILRU co-hosted and facilitated the Modern Treaty Implementation and Indigenous Law workshop in September 2018.

ILRU teams travelled to Norway and Australia to facilitate Indigenous law and methodology workshops in July 2018.

ILRU hosted and attended, as part of our partnership with West Coast Environmental Law, regular Learning Circles during which we discuss and workshop critical issues in Indigenous law.

## Projects

- ▶ Articulating Indigenous Human Rights (2019-2022)
- ▶ GroundWork: Revitalizing Indigenous Land Laws in Treaty 8 Territory (2019-2022)
- ▶ Indigenous Law in the BC Professional Legal Training Course (2019)
- ▶ Nkła'pamux and Syilx Laws of Water and Watershed Governance (2019-2021)
- ▶ Nl̓TU,O Community Engagement on Coast Salish Child Safety Law (2018-2019)
- ▶ Say't-Kilim-Goot ("Of One Heart"): Cooperation and Conflict Resolution between Communities in the Tsimshian Sm'álgayax-Speaking Legal Traditions (2017-2019)
- ▶ Secwépemc-kt ell k'weselktnéws-kt ("we are all Secwépemc and we are all interrelated"): Secwépemc Citizenship Law (2017-2019)
- ▶ Water Laws: Lessons from Indigenous and Colonial Stewardship (2016-2019)
- ▶ Indigenous Governance and Citizenship: Developing a Collaborative ILRU Methodology (2017-2019)
- ▶ Tracking Change—The Role of Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance (ongoing)
- ▶ Revitalizing Law for Land, Air and Water Project (2016-2018)
- ▶ Learning Circle Project with West Coast Environmental Law (ongoing)

## Workshops

### Methodology I Workshops (workshops designed to introduce and teach our research methodologies)

- ▶ Coast Salish Child Safety and Nurturance Laws and Practices (in partnership with Nl̓TU,O Child and Family Services Society) – Tsawout (WSÁNEĆ Territory), Nov and Dec 2018, Mar 2019
- ▶ Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in – Dawson City, Feb 2019
- ▶ *Home in the City: Principles and Processes in Urban Housing Governance* – Victoria, Jan 2019



The ILRU-WLGL team at our first workshop collaboration with Cowichan Tribes. (L-R: Tara Williamson, Hadley Friedland, Sarah Morales, Jessica Asch, Brooke Edmonds) (Photo: Tara Williamson)

- ▶ Training for new ILRU Researchers – Victoria, Jan 2018 and 2019
- ▶ Treaty 8 Tribal Association – Fort St. John, Oct 2018
- ▶ University of Sydney – Sydney, Australia, Jul 2018
- ▶ Centre for Advanced Study – Oslo, Norway, Jul 2018
- ▶ Kistumkalum, Kitselas, Gitxaala and Gitga'at Nations, Kistumkalum – Jan 2018
- ▶ Lower Similkameen Indian Band – Syilx Territory, Jan 2018
- ▶ Training for new ILRU Researchers – Victoria, Jan 2018

### Other Indigenous Law Workshops and Gatherings

- ▶ *Working With Indigenous Law Today: Cowichan Tribes' Indigenous Child & Family Wellness Justice Project* – Cowichan, May 2019
- ▶ *Secwépemc Citizenship* – Skwlax (Secwepemcul'ecw), Apr 2019
- ▶ *Home in the City: Principles and Processes in Urban Housing Governance* – Victoria, Dec 2018 and Mar 2019
- ▶ *Nlaka'pamux and Syilx Law Research-a-thon* (with Environmental Law Centre) – Feb 2019
- ▶ *Rebuilding Indigenous Law: Governance and Human Rights – A conversation* – Victoria, Oct 2018

- ▶ *Modern Treaty Implementation and Indigenous Law* – Victoria, Sept 2018
- ▶ *Reframing Justice* – Victoria, Mar 2018

## **Public and Community Presentations on Indigenous Legal Traditions and ILRU**

- ▶ Urban Systems – Victoria BC, Jun 2019
- ▶ *Exploring Indigenous Justice Systems in Canada and around the World* – Ottawa ON, May 2019
- ▶ Department of Justice Northern Region 2018-2019 Staff Learning Event – Yellowknife NWT, Feb 2019
- ▶ *Re-imagining Negotiations* – Victoria BC, Dec 2018
- ▶ Secwépemc Seasonal Gatherings – Secwepemcul'ecw, Dec and Aug 2018
- ▶ World Indigenous Law Conference – Windsor ON, Nov 2018
- ▶ *Indigenous Solutions for Environmental Challenges* – Banff AB, Nov 2018
- ▶ *Raising the Bar: Indigenous Women's Impact on the Law-scape* – Oct 2018
- ▶ Office of the Ombudsperson – Victoria BC, Oct 2018
- ▶ Canadian Bar Association (BC Provincial Council) – Vancouver BC, Sept 2018
- ▶ Family Law and Justice Group (Canada) – Victoria BC, Sept 2018
- ▶ Oak Bay United Church – Victoria BC, Jul 2018
- ▶ Pacific Business Institute – Vancouver BC, Jun 2018
- ▶ Canadian Law and Society Conference – Toronto ON, Jun 2018
- ▶ Polis Watersheds Summit – Vancouver BC, Jun 2018
- ▶ Canadian Water Resources Association (Keynote) – Vancouver BC, May 2018
- ▶ BC Justice Council – Vancouver BC, May 2018
- ▶ Recognition of Indigenous Laws Conference for the Legitimus Project (Keynote) – Capetown, South Africa, May 2018
- ▶ Together Against Poverty Society – Victoria BC, May 2018

- ▶ DetermiNATION – Ottawa ON, May 2018
- ▶ Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers – Victoria BC, May 2018
- ▶ St. John the Divine – Victoria BC, Apr 2018
- ▶ BC Union of Indian Chiefs – Vancouver BC, Apr 2018
- ▶ National Justice Institute – Vancouver BC, Apr 2018
- ▶ *Role of the Sacred in Indigenous Law and Reconciliation*, Rethinking the Relationship Between Spirituality and Reconciliation Symposium – Victoria BC, Mar 2018
- ▶ "Reframing Justice" for 5 Days of Action – Victoria BC, Mar 2018
- ▶ NAN East Justice Summit – Timmins ON, Feb 2018
- ▶ NAN West Justice Summit – Thunder Bay ON, Jan 2018
- ▶ Polis Water Sustainability Project Webinar – Victoria BC, Jan 2018

## **Academic and Guest Lecturing**

- ▶ Indigenous Law: Research, Method, and Practice – May 2018 and 2019
- ▶ Legal Research and Writing (UBC) – Feb 2019
- ▶ Administrative Law (UVic Law) – Mar, Jun, and Sept 2018, Apr 2019
- ▶ Equality and Human Rights Law (UVic Law) – Mar 2019
- ▶ Environmental Law Clinic (UVic Law) – Oct and Mar 2018, Mar 2019
- ▶ Visiting business students from ESAN University in Peru (UVic) – Feb 2018, Feb 2019
- ▶ Sentencing (UVic Law) – Jan 2019
- ▶ Legal Research and Writing (UVic Law) – Sept 2018
- ▶ University of Toronto Anishinaabe Law Camp – Neyaashiinigmiing ON, Sept 2018
- ▶ Osgoode Hall Law School Anishinaabe Law Camp – Neyaashiinigmiing ON, Sept 2018
- ▶ Legal Process (UVic Law) – Jan and Sept 2018

## Media

- ▶ UVic receives \$9.1 million for new Indigenous law centre – [CTV News](#)
- ▶ University of Victoria’s Indigenous law degree a world first – [Macleans Magazine](#)
- ▶ Band councils, hereditary chiefs – here’s what to know about Indigenous governance – [Gobal News](#)
- ▶ Human Rights museum to restore Coast Salish artist’s Witness Blanket – [Victoria News](#)
- ▶ University of Victoria to offer world’s first degree program in Indigenous law – [CBC The Sunday Edition](#)
- ▶ University of Victoria to launch first-of-its-kind Indigenous law program – [Globe and Mail](#)
- ▶ World’s first Indigenous Law program debuts at UVic – [Martlet](#)
- ▶ Indigenous legal orders – [Corporate Knights](#)
- ▶ The Role of the Sacred in Indigenous Law and Reconciliation – [Soundcloud](#)
- ▶ Indigenous Law – [APTN Nation to Nation](#) (starts at 10:05)
- ▶ New UVic program combines Indigenous & non-Indigenous law – [BC Local News/Black Press](#)
- ▶ First of its kind: UVic degree combines Indigenous, Canadian Law – [News 1130](#)
- ▶ UVic law students to study Canadian and Indigenous legal systems in new program – [CBC News Online](#)
- ▶ Indigenous scholar Val Napoleon embraces disruption – [Globe and Mail](#)
- ▶ Inquiry into missing and murdered women must not ignore Indigenous law, advocates say – [Toronto Star](#)
- ▶ Val Napoleon talks historic law and nations – [APTN Face to Face](#)
- ▶ UVic proposes joint Indigenous-Canadian common law degree – [Globe and Mail](#)
- ▶ Saulteau scholar recognized for impact on Indigenous law – [Dawson Daily Mirror](#)
- ▶ McGill course teaches law students Indigenous legal traditions – [CBC News Online](#)



Val Napoleon speaks at the 2018 Ideafest event “The Role of the Sacred in Indigenous Law and Reconciliation” with professor John Borrows.

- ▶ For true reconciliation, First Nations laws must be used: scholar – [Times Colonist](#)
- ▶ Specific claims process to be overhauled again – [APTN Nation to Nation](#) (starts at 12:20)
- ▶ Principles & Commitments: Understanding & Underpinning a Restorative Approach to Justice – [National Restorative Justice Symposium](#)
- ▶ Yes, cultural appropriation can happen within the Indigenous community and yes, we should be debating it – [CBC News](#)
- ▶ Planet Potluck, Episode 3: Lindsay Borrows – [Planet Potluck](#)
- ▶ What lessons have we learned from the Colten Boushie & Tina Fontaine cases – [CHEK News Sunday Spotlight](#)
- ▶ Bannock, a Graphic Novel & Conversation: Re-framing Justice Using the Teachings from “Mikomosis and the Wetiko” – [ReconciliationSyllabus](#)

Our team comes to this work as a community of Indigenous and settler scholars, lawyers, professors and researchers with diverse backgrounds and experience working with and for Indigenous communities and organizations. We are committed to maintaining these relationships and the relationships we develop through our work to support the recovery, revitalization and (re-)articulation of Indigenous laws.

The ILRU team and students visiting Treaty 8 Territory (L-R: Christina Gray, Liam McGuigan, Jessica Asch, Lindsay Borrows) (Photo: Jessica Asch)



#### Director: Val Napoleon

As Director and co-founder of ILRU, Dr. Val Napoleon is responsible for the overall vision and direction of ILRU's research, academic writing and its publications. She also teaches, presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community. Val is also the co-founder of the JD/JID joint degree program, the Law Foundation Chair, since 2012, a professor and the artist responsible for the incredible raven image on this report.

Val is a member of Saulteau First Nation in BC Treaty 8 territory and an adopted member of the Gitanyow (Gitxsan) House of Luuxhon, Ganada (Frog) Clan. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.



#### Associate Director: Rebecca Johnson

As Associate Director of ILRU, Dr. Rebecca Johnson is responsible for the vision and direction of ILRU's research, teaching, academic writing and its publications. Rebecca acts as project lead on ILRU's projects, and teaches, presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community. Rebecca is also a professor at the Faculty of Law.

Rebecca is a settler born in Treaty 7 Territory but spent and continues to spend summers in Secwepemcú'ecw. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.



#### Research Director: Jessica Asch

As Research Director of ILRU, Jessica Asch is responsible for the management of ILRU's day-to-day operations and programming, acts as project lead and researcher on ILRU's projects, and presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community.

Jessica is a settler from Treaty 6 Territory. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.



#### Senior Researcher: Simon Owen

As Senior Researcher of ILRU, Simon acts as project lead and researcher on ILRU's projects, and presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community.

Simon is a settler from Tsleil-Waututh, x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam) and KWIKWETLEM territories. He is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.



### Coordinator: Brooke Edmonds

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As Coordinator, Brooke Edmonds is responsible for overseeing logistics, administration, and communications for ILRU's operations and projects. She is the main point of contact for community and media requests, and manages ILRU's merchandise and sales.

Brooke is a visitor from Otūwhare in Aotearoa (New Zealand). Her iwi is Te Whānau-ā-Apanui and her hapū is Te Whānau-ā-Rutaia. She is grateful to visit on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

**Yvette Sellars** was the ILRU Coordinator between 2016 and 2018. We wish to acknowledge and thank her for her contributions to ILRU.



### Researcher: Lindsay Borrows

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As Researcher, Lindsay Borrows is responsible for conducting research on ILRU's projects, and presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community. She is also author of *Otter's Journey through Indigenous Language and Law* (UBC Press, 2018).

Lindsay is a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.



### Researcher: Tara Williamson

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As Researcher, Tara Williamson is responsible for conducting research on ILRU's projects, and presents and co-facilitates workshops on ILRU's work in the law school and broader community. Tara is also Research Fellow for Yellowhead Institute, and a musician.

Tara is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and was raised in Gaabishkigamaag (Swan Lake, Manitoba). She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

### Researcher: Sarah Jackson

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As Researcher, Sarah is responsible for conducting research on ILRU's research and curriculum-development projects.

Sarah is a settler from Lheidli T'enneh Territory. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

### Researcher: Lori Groft

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As Researcher, Lori is responsible for conducting research on ILRU's research and curriculum-development projects.

Lori is a settler from Treaty 7 Territory. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lkwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

### Financial and Reporting Facilitation Officer: Heather Chestnutt

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As ILRU's Financial and Reporting Officer, Heather is responsible for supporting the financial administration of research and project funds at ILRU, the development and facilitation of research applications, and grant reporting.

Heather is a settler from Tsleil-Waututh Territory. She is fortunate and grateful to live on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

## ILRU Partners & Community Coordinators

Thank you to all the community members who have participated in ILRU projects this year, and especially to the community-based coordinators on each project:

Tamara Archie, Jody Beaumont, Caroline Butler, Diane Calliou, Helen Copeland, Joanne Dennis, Larry George, Kasey Gottfriedson, Merle Green, Tracy Lawlor, Sunny Lebourdais, Rhea Lewthwaite, Crystal McMaster, Aaron McMillan, Leslie-Ann Paige, Shawnee Pelletier, Simone Reece, Christina Sam-Stanley, Eva Tom, Gail Watkinson, Ardythe Wilson, and Maryann Yarama.

## ILRU students

Thank you to all the students who have provided research and writing assistance on ILRU projects in 2018-19, including:

- ▶ Emily Beggs, JD co-op student
- ▶ Diana Borges, JD co-op student
- ▶ Rachel Flowers, grad student
- ▶ Kim Francisco, JD student
- ▶ David Gill, grad student
- ▶ Christina Gray, grad student
- ▶ Lisbeth Haigh-Turner, JD/JID student
- ▶ Alan Hanna, grad student and affiliate
- ▶ Christina Joynt, JD pro-bono student
- ▶ Joelle Karras, JD student
- ▶ Skeena Lawson, JD pro-bono student
- ▶ Isabelle Lefroy, grad student
- ▶ Erin Linklater, JD student
- ▶ Lana Lowe, grad student and affiliate
- ▶ Veronica Martisius, JD co-op student
- ▶ Sebastian Maturana, JD student
- ▶ Liam McGuigan, JD student
- ▶ Brendan Noyes, JD/JID student
- ▶ Sarah Pringle, JD student
- ▶ Vanessa Udy, grad student
- ▶ Mbaka Wadham, JD co-op student

## ILRU Collaborators & Affiliates

ILRU would like to thank and acknowledge the following affiliates for lending their expertise and support to ILRU:

Merle Alexander, Michael Asch, Hannah Askew, Renée Beausoleil, John Borrows, Susan Breau, Gillian Calder, Robert Clifford, Jessica Clogg, Patricia Cochrane, Deb Curran, Hadley Friedland, Nadia Joe, Eugene Kung, Bonnie Leonard, Darcy Lindberg, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Maxine Matlipi, Sarah Morales, Kelly Mortimer, Matt Murphy, Tamara Napoleon, Richard Overstall, Margherita Paolo Poto, Brenda Parlee, Pooja Parmar, Astrid Pérez Piñán, Kate Plyley, Janna Promislow, Heather Raven, Pierrot Ross-Tremblay, Gavin Smith, Emily Snyder, Eloise Spitzer, Nicole Watson and Jeremy Webber.

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### Diana Borges, Co-op Student

"ILRU provides students with an unparalleled opportunity to think about law and Canada's multi-juridical legal landscape in new ways. I cherished the opportunity to learn about the many different legal traditions ILRU works with and to see the ways in which Indigenous laws are written on the land and continue to be practiced daily within communities. As I return to classes in September, I know that my time with ILRU will stay with me and inform the conversations I have, my studies, and work."

### Sheyenne Spence, Former Co-op Student

"ILRU is a great organization to work with because of their ground-breaking work of assisting Indigenous communities in the revitalization of their own laws. I plan to look for ways I can use what I learned from my time with ILRU, with my employment with the BC Prosecution Service."

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Peace River in Treaty 8 Territory. (Photo: Jessica Asch)

ILRU would like to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to our individual donors, Vancity, the McConnell Foundation and Swift Foundation for their contributions to support the full scope of ILRU's work and operations. Your continued support is critical in our work to develop positive community relationships and materials to teach about Indigenous laws in the law school and beyond.

We want to thank the University of Victoria, and in particular the Faculty of Law and the Diana Priestly Library, for hosting ILRU's offices and for their support of ILRU's work in the law school and university community.

**Programming**

- Vancity
- McConnell Foundation
- Swift Foundation
- Individual donations

**Project sponsors**

- Law Foundation of Ontario
- NI&TU,O
- North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society
- Real Estate Foundation BC
- Scw'exmx Tribal Council
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council
- Vancouver Foundation

**2018-19 in numbers**



**20+**  
communities visited/served



**25+**  
trips taken



**65+**  
workshops, presentations and conferences



**21**  
students hired



**\$100k**  
spent on students in fiscal 2018-19

