

INDIGENOUS LAW RESEARCH UNIT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



University
of Victoria



INDIGENOUS LAW
RESEARCH UNIT
A RESEARCH UNIT OF THE 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 W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day

Cover image: “Pair Walking,” painting by Val Napoleon



While much of the ILRU's learning starts with paper (such as published stories, academic articles, background research), the heart of our research is the work we do with—and within —communities. By early March, we had already travelled to attend workshops, focus groups, or planning meetings with Anishinaabek, Dene/Cree/Kaska, Dunne-za/Saulteau, Gitksan, syilx, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, Tsilhqot'in, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in partners, and had a full calendar of travel plans for a busy summer. As no one needs to be told, of course, in the middle of that month, these plans made a quick exit out the nearest window. However, the hard work of revitalizing and re-articulating

Indigenous law—for ILRU and for all the partners we work with—could not and has not stopped.

Although undeniably challenging, 2020 has been a generative time for us at ILRU, opening up space for us to think creatively about how it is that we do our work. When the pandemic started, we met with all of our community partners to re-imagine work plans and goals and to talk more generally about how to proceed without in-community visits. Some partners were keen to pivot and develop more accessible and online spaces for people to engage with their laws. Others expressed interest in developing interactive exercises or videos about our collaborative projects. All expressed a keenness to carry on, and adapt and innovate as necessary to continue our research together.

Our amazing team responded to all of these conversations with flexibility and creativity, as they led focus groups, as well as community engagement, validation and training sessions online, from their bedrooms, dining rooms and even broom closets. We cannot say enough about the dedicated team at ILRU who worked together to not just lift up the work of revitalizing Indigenous law, but also each other during this remarkable time.

Prior to the pandemic, we were already shifting some of the directions our work is taking ILRU. We were starting to pull on more methods of engagement for our analytical work, and develop new frameworks for engagement. In response to requests from some of our ongoing community partners, we had begun re-imagining our role and responsibility in the ongoing implementation of Indigenous laws research. We had begun bringing more community partners in as researchers on our projects. In response to the unprecedented level of demand for research support and training locally and internationally—from federal ministries, to judiciary, community organizations, student groups, professional associations and firms, and academic groups, we had started developing ideas around more expansive training sessions, including online versions. Although we anticipate continuing to move in these directions, the lessons of 2020, in particular, have undoubtedly influenced us to also consider creating more interactive and creative entry points for all people to engage with Indigenous law no matter where they are today.

Of course, our work would not be possible without the staff, contractors and students who worked on our 14 projects from this year, or the support of our tremendous community partners, our donors and affiliates, and the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

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

October 2020

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Gitxsan Human Rights



Tombstone Mountain Ranges, Yukon (Photo: Brooke Edmonds)

Collaborative Indigenous law revitalization research continues to be the centre of ILRU's focus. One exciting project from 2019-2020 is the multi-year "Articulating Indigenous Human Rights Law" project, funded by the McConnell Foundation. The goal of this project is to support community efforts to apply human rights laws from their own legal traditions to their governance structures and the challenges of today. Our project partners are a group of Gitxsan matriarchs and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in a self-governing First Nation in the Yukon.

One of the exciting aspects of ILRU's work is seeing how a single topic, such as human rights law, can take shape in two legal traditions. For the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in project, in-person dialogues with community on the topic of human rights shifted towards conversations about the land, and how the loss of land and a lessened ability to use it in traditional and contemporary ways impacts self-determination. This led us to research how land rights are human rights within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in legal traditions. Conversations in Gitxsan territory, by contrast, directed us towards the question of how women and girls participate in ayook (Gitxsan law) to promote an understanding of Na Niin (who we are) in Gitxsan Matrilineal society.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, ILRU researchers travelled to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in twice and Gitxsan territory once for community engagement and focus group sessions. The ILRU Team had multiple in-community visits planned for 2020, which had to be canceled. The team pivoted and continued to hold virtual focus group conversations with community members and elders for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in project. In response to a request to create more accessible materials for the broader Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community, the ILRU team is developing a learning toolkit to accompany the law report, which includes artwork by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in artist and citizen Darcy McDiarmid.

Phyllis Vittrewka, Community Partner

"I'm glad I signed [up to learn more about] what Indigenous law is because, I didn't know what it was. Now I know. I'm on a path to trying to get into my past, so this is a place where I want to be. So thank you for coming out. Thank you very much for coming into my life. I really appreciate it. Mahsi Cho."

syilx and Nlaka’pamux law in and for the Nicola Watershed



Nicola Lake, British Columbia. (Photo: Eva Tom)

This research partnership—now in its second of three years—is part of the Nicola Watershed Governance Project. This larger project is a ground-breaking collaboration between five Nicola nations (Upper Nicola, Lower Nicola, Coldwater, Nooaitch, and Shackan) and the Province of British Columbia to build a new approach to water stewardship throughout the Nicola Watershed that is informed by both Indigenous and state law. This project is grounded in a shared commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The ILRU has partnered with the five Nicola nations as part of this larger co-governance initiative. Working with the Scw’emx Tribal Council and community knowledge holders, ILRU researchers are helping to articulate how Nlaka’pamux and syilx legal traditions inform how individuals, communities, and societies manage challenges, resolve conflicts, and sustain healthy relationships with water in a changing climate.

As part of this collaboration, ILRU has had the privilege of working alongside two community-based researchers, Eva Tom and Crystal McMaster. Eva and Crystal attended ILRU’s intensive Indigenous laws methodology course in summer 2019, and have acted as in-community project leads since that time. They have enriched the

project and strengthened our relationships with community in immeasurable ways.

Eva and Crystal’s in-community presence proved critical to the continuity of the project when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. They took on greater logistical and facilitation responsibilities, which enabled ILRU to facilitate online focus groups with community members and language speakers over the summer.

Despite this year’s challenges, we remain on track towards a developing a rich analysis of syilx and Nlaka’pamux law regarding water and watershed governance in the Nicola Watershed.

Eva Tom, Indigenous Laws Research Liason

“I have held many jobs. I, however, find myself returning to working with our Knowledge Keepers because these are the most rewarding experiences. My training is in mapping how we live on the land and working with our stories is a new experience. The stories are our teachings and our history, and we have had them since time immemorial. How do we bring these teaching into what we are doing today for our water? Collaborating with the ILRU team is one of the ways we are doing this. These were great experiences, and we learned a new way of articulating our stories to inform our work for a healthy watershed. Our experience with everyone from the ILRU team has been incredible.”

The Witness Blanket



Artist Carey Newman, Rebecca Johnson and witnesses at the ceremony at Kumugwe. (Photo: Lindsay Borrows)

In the fall of 2019, the ILRU team had the privilege of being present at a historic ceremony marking the agreement between the artist Carey Newman (Hayalthkin'geme) and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) regarding the stewardship of Hayalthkin'geme's creation, the Witness Blanket. As described on the Witness Blanket website, the Witness Blanket is "a large-scale art installation, made out of hundreds of items reclaimed from Residential Schools, churches, government buildings and traditional and cultural structures including Friendship Centres, band offices, treatment centres and universities, from across Canada. The Witness Blanket stands as a national monument to recognise the atrocities of the Indian Residential School era, honour the children, and symbolise ongoing reconciliation."

The agreement for the stewardship of the Witness Blanket is on the cutting edge of trans-systemic law. It draws both Canadian Common law and Kwakwak'wakw traditional legal orders into engagement, to respond to a shared desire to formally share responsibility for the

physical and spiritual care of the Witness Blanket, as a living entity that honours the stories and survivors of residential schools. The agreement is both a written document and joint participation in ceremony observed, understood and remembered by witnesses.

Those of us who were present take forward the responsibilities we hold by being present to witness this historic agreement.

Members of the ILRU team consulted on the development of this historic agreement, and made a brief statement at the ceremony at Kumugwe, the K'ómoks First Nation Bighouse on Vancouver Island. It was an inspiration and education on what might be possible in the work of law, as we think about next steps forward in legal education and practice. In January 2020, the agreement was used as part of Legal Process (a mandatory class for first-year students) at the University of Victoria. This type of agreement will have ripple effects through the legal practice and museum worlds as they begin to consider how Indigenous and Canadian legal traditions can be woven together.

Teaching Online

This summer, for the first time, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law contracted the ILRU to deliver the LAW 388A Indigenous Law: Research, Method and Practice intensive course—a cornerstone of UVic’s Indigenous law programming. The intensive in-person delivery of this course has traditionally been an important way to create community in a classroom as a way to emphasize the importance of experiential learning in the work of Indigenous law. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the course had to be re-organized and re-imagined for online delivery.

Research Director Jessica Asch and Senior Researcher Tara Williamson led the re-development of Law 388A in a way that combined pre-recorded lectures and activities, virtual classroom time and discussions, and online workshops. The success of the course was heavily reliant on the whole ILRU team. Notably, Simon Owen and Lindsay Borrows created and delivered content for select sessions and facilitated small group work. Rebecca Johnson and Val Napoleon also offered invaluable guidance from their own experience and provided guest lectures for the class.

The challenge of online delivery also opened up creative space, providing many opportunities for new engagements. Various scholars and knowledge holders were generous with their time, and students were able to learn from Darcy Lindberg, Sarah Morales, John Borrows, Dave Belleau, Leanne Simpson, Myrna McCallum, Val Napoleon and Rebecca Johnson. Furthermore, without an in-person attendance requirement,



Dave Belleau and Carolyn Belleau recording a class with the ILRU team from Dave’s backyard in Esket.

we were able to welcome into the class a wide array of law and graduate students from various institutions as well as community partners who otherwise may not have been able to enrol. Another positive outcome from online delivery was the creation of various resources (i.e. videos, activities, written materials) for ILRU’s toolbox that are already proving helpful for other projects and broader community engagement.

The team has received excellent feedback regarding the delivery of Law 388A from both students and faculty alike and this model of course delivery has been looked to as a model for future course development in the Faculty of Law.

DeAnne Lythall, Community Coordinator

“I see law in everything now, around us everywhere. I look at the stories I’ve been told all my life and I see laws in them around our obligations to be kind to others, to look after animals the same way they look after us. These are the laws I’ve lived all my life.”



Associate Director, Rebecca Johnson, discussing stories with community at the Secwépemc Winter Gathering in Splatsin. (Photo: Candace Camille Photography)

ILRU has launched a new website where information about ILRU, our partners, and links to resources can be found. See ilru.ca.

In November 2019, Associate Director Rebecca Johnson visited with Megan Davis, Eddie Synot and Gabrielle Appleby in Australia to talk about the amazing work they have been doing on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The group also got a chance to talk more about working in, with, and for community.

Lindsay Keegitah Borrows, Christina Gray, Rebecca Johnson, and Tara Williamson spent time in January 2020 in the shadow of the mountains in Gitxsan territory, talking about Ayook (law) and learning from powerful women.

The ILRU team of Jessica Asch, Carolyn Belleau, Brooke Edmonds, and Rebecca Johnson attended and participated in the Secwépemc Winter Gathering hosted in Splatsin in January 2020. The ILRU team facilitated a full-day workshop on

the Secwépemc-kt ell k'weselktnéws-kt project and its implementation alongside partners Bonnie Leonard and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. The gathering had over 500 attendees, with around 50 active participants in the ILRU workshop. See [video](#).

The Water Project team of ILRU staff Jessica Asch, Simon Owen and Alex McArdle, and Professors Deb Curran and Alan Hanna from UVic's Faculty of Law co-facilitated an implementation workshop on the Tsilhqot'in Water Laws in February 2020. It was a privilege to bring the Tsilhqot'in Water Laws Report back to Tsilhqot'in territory alongside our partner, the Tsilhqot'in National Government, after two years of engagement and conversation with community members. The report was one of the background resources used in the development of the ?ELHDAQOX DECHEN TS'EDILHTAN (ʔEsdilagh Sturgeon River Law), endorsed by the Esdilagh and the Tsilhqot'in National Government in May 2020.

ILRU Researchers Simon Owen and Sarah Jackson, along with the GroundWork Project's community coordinators DeAnne Lythall, Verena Hofmann (Treaty 8 Tribal Association) and Lana Lowe (Fort Nelson First Nation) took part in the Living Laws Workshop that Fort Nelson First Nation put on from March 7-9, 2020. Over 20 participants, including elders from across the region, Fort Nelson First Nation lands guardians, Band Council representatives and students from Chalo High School gathered in a toasty tent beside the frozen Snake River to draw on how knowledge held in Dene and Cree stories, life histories, and the land itself gives life to strong laws of territorial governance. A single moose (nose and all!) fed all. See [video](#).

In summer 2020, Researcher Sarah Jackson created three blogging platforms for our community participants, researchers, and coordinators to share and discuss resources and stories with ILRU researchers. See [Ndinawe Stories](#) for our Kipimoojikewin ("the things we carry with us"): How Anishinaabe Law Upholds Community Governance Project, [Learning and Connecting through Stories](#) for our GroundWork: Revitalizing Indigenous Land Laws in Treaty 8 Territory Project, and [Nicola Water Governance](#) for our Nhe?képmx and Syilx Laws of Water and Watershed Governance Project.

This summer, ILRU students Brendan Noyes and Tania Talebzadeh-Takiyeh, along with researchers Lindsay Borrows, Sarah Jackson, Simon Owen and Tara Williamson recorded a [Reading Theatre](#). Students and researchers gave a modified telling of the Anishinaabe story of Opichi (Robin), and followed this with discussion questions for further thinking. The recording was backed by the song "I Love You" by [Jordan Mowat](#).

In September 2020, the Province of BC announced a \$13 million contribution to support the building of a National Centre for Indigenous Laws (NCIL) at the University of Victoria where ILRU will be housed in future. This funding is in addition to \$5 million from the Law Foundation of British Columbia, announced the same day, and \$9.1 million from the federal government, committed in 2019.



Left to Right: DeAnne Lythall, Sarah Jackson, Lana Lowe and Simon Owen at the Living Laws Workshop. (Photo: DeAnne Lythall)

Director Val Napoleon, along with colleagues Deborah Curran and Sarah Morales have almost completed a new graphic novel "Nuts'umaat: Cowichan Water Warriors" as part of the Water Laws: Lessons from Indigenous and Colonial Laws project. The novel takes inspirations from the purpose of ILRU to revitalize Indigenous laws and the Environmental Law Centre's collaborative approach to legal responsibilities for the environment. It is funded by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Stay tuned for the launch.

Marilyn Baptiste, Community Partner

"I was honored to be able to attend the ILRU Tsilhqot'in Water Laws Report Implementation gathering at the Old School in the Tsilhqot'in in February 2020. It was a great reflection of our people's voices, which come from the lands, waters, wildlife, and wild plants, and our way of life from our stories, legends for the continued protections of who we are, our lands, waters, wildlife and wild plants for future generations. To be reminded of all the inspiring words, strength and honor of our ancestors is to help us continue in our way. Helping us to continue to walk with respect and care for and protect the waters—our Mother's/Earth's life blood, the waters that run through the mountains, streams, rivers and lakes."

Projects

- ▶ Articulating Indigenous Human Rights Law (2019-2022)
- ▶ GroundWork: Revitalizing Indigenous Land Laws in Treaty 8 Territory (2019-2022)
- ▶ syilx and Nlaka'pamux law in and for the Nicola Watershed (2019-2021)
- ▶ Indigenous Law in the BC Professional Legal Training Course (2019-2020)
- ▶ Kipimoojikewin ("the things we carry with us"): How Anishinaabe Law Upholds Community Governance (2019-2020)
- ▶ NI ŁTU,O Child and Caregiver Safety and Nurturance Toolkit (2018-2020)
- ▶ Tracking Change—the Role of Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance (2018-2020)
- ▶ Say't-Kilim-Goot ("Of One Heart"): Inter-Nation Co-operation and Dispute Resolution in the Tsimshian Legal Traditions (2017-2020)
- ▶ Secwépemc-kt ell k'weselktnéws-kt ("we are all Secwépemc and we are all related"): Secwépemc Citizenship Law (2017-2020)
- ▶ Water Laws: Lessons from Indigenous and Colonial Stewardship (2016-2020)
- ▶ Indigenous Law in the British Columbia (BC) Professional Legal Training Course (2020)
- ▶ Learning Circles with West Coast Environmental Law (ongoing)

Workshops, Teaching and Presentations

- ▶ Dr. Val Napoleon keynote addresses (different topics), panel talk, presentations to faculties and students—Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand, August 2019.
- ▶ Val Napoleon presented with Hadley Friedland to appellate judges across Canada—September 2019
- ▶ Scw'exmx Tribal Council, syilx and Nlaka'pamux law in and for the Nicola Watershed Project—Merritt BC, September 2019
- ▶ Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in—Dawson City YT, November 2019
- ▶ "Impact Benefit Agreements: Advanced Negotiation Issues," teaching Faculty for a two-day program by the Pacific Business and Law Institute, Nov 19-20, 2019. Co-panelist in the session, "Implementing Indigenous Laws with Private Companies"
- ▶ "Coyote, the Cannibal Boy and the Corporation: Exploring the Place of Indigenous Law in the Contemporary Economy," lecture at the University of Sydney Law School—Rebecca Johnson, Sydney, Australia, November 2019
- ▶ "Revitalizing Indigenous Laws in a Settler State?: Field Notes from the Front Line" Rebecca Johnson lecture at The Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney (UTS)—, Sydney, Australia, November, 2019.
- ▶ Coyote Stories Night hosted by Scw'exmx Tribal Council—Coldwater BC, January 2020
- ▶ Nijkiwendidaa Anishnaabekweweg Services Circle, Kipimoojikewin ("the things we carry with us"): How Anishinaabe Law Upholds Community Governance Project—Peterborough ON, January 2020
- ▶ Learning Circles with West Coast Environmental Law—online, February and April 2020
- ▶ Co-instructing in the first year JD/JID enhancement course for Legal Research and Writing, University of Victoria, including the final moot assignment
- ▶ "Indigenous Women Talking," Dr. Val Napoleon keynote for Feminist Legal Studies Queens—Kingston ON, March 2020.
- ▶ Truth Panel, IdeaFest—Dr. Val Napoleon, Victoria BC, March 2020
- ▶ "Expanding our Tools for Teaching Repertoire: Launching the Water Laws Graphic Novel"—online, August 2020
- ▶ Guest lecturing in Environmental Law Clinic, Administrative Law Course, Legal Process (Practices of Citizenship), and Sentencing at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law.
- ▶ Stories that Move Us into a Re-imagined World (Jessica Asch, guest discussant, Trudeau Foundation)
- ▶ Maestría en Etnicidad, Etnodesarrollo y Derecho Indígena lecture for the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala—online, September 2020



"Motorcycle," Painting by Val Napoleon

- ▶ Christine Sy, Johns Borrows, Rebecca Johnson and Val Napoleon, "The World Begins with Sound" podcast, July 2019
- ▶ Val Napoleon, Indigenous Law (special invite, substantively revised version of Roots to Renaissance article published in 2014 in the *Oxford Handbook of Criminal Law*) 2017 Mouvement (French Journal, France) Martin Lamotte, ed
- ▶ Val Napoleon, Did I Break It? Recording Indigenous (Customary) Law, PER/PELJ 2019 (22) 1
- ▶ Val Napoleon, Legal Pluralism and Reconciliation: Journey or Arrival (Nov. 2019) Maori Law Review
- ▶ Deborah Curran and Val Napoleon, "Environmental Aspects of Indigenous Legal Traditions, Self Determination and Governance," in Nancy Turner, ed. *Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights and the Roles of Ethnoecology and Ethnobotany: Strategies for Canada's Future* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020)
- ▶ Val Napoleon, "Maggie," quarantine: a feminist call for anything (Spring/Summer, 2020), Feminist Intersectional Solidarity Group
- ▶ Cameron, Sari Graben, and Val Napoleon, eds., "**Creating Indigenous Property: Power, Rights and Relationship**" (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020).
- ▶ Lindsay Borrows, "**Blanketed in Hope: A meeting of art, reconciliation, and the law in the K'ómoks Bighouse,**" in Comox Valley Collective Magazine, August 2020
- ▶ Rebecca Johnson and Val Napoleon, **Difficult Conversations**, August 12, 2020
- ▶ Lindsay Borrows, Mino-audjiwaewin: Choosing Respect, Even in Times of Conflict, forthcoming, 2020
- ▶ Val Napoleon, "Gitxsan Legal Personhood," in George Pavlich, ed., *Interrupting the Legal Person* [provisional title]. Special Edition, Studies in Law, Politics, and Society, special issue, forthcoming 2020
- ▶ Val Napoleon, "Gitxsan Democracy: On Its Own Terms," in James Tully et al, eds., *Democracy and Its Struggles*, forthcoming 2020
- ▶ Deborah Curran, Sarah Morales, and Val Napoleon, "Nuts'umaat: Cowichan Water Warriors," forthcoming, 2020
- ▶ Val Napoleon, "Indigenous Women Talking: The Work of Indigenous Feminism in the World" in Emily Snyder, Val Napoleon, and Rebecca, eds., *Indigenous Feminist Studies*, forthcoming 2021
- ▶ Emily Snyder, Val Napoleon, and Rebecca Johnson, eds. *Indigenous Feminist Studies*, forthcoming 2021



Left to Right: UVic President Jamie Cassels, Honourable Minister Melanie Mark, Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance Val Napoleon, and Chief Ronald Sam at the recent funding announcement for the National Centre for Indigenous Law to be housed at the University of Victoria. (Photo: UVic Photo Services)

Media

- ▶ Recognizing Multiple Legal Systems: Decolonizing our Understandings of “The” Law with Val Napoleon – [West Coast Leaf](#), July 17, 2019
- ▶ The World Begins with Sound – CFVU Podcasts, July 2019
- ▶ Indigenous law forces lawyers to consider new standards of legitimacy – [Canadian Lawyer Magazine](#), September 9, 2019
- ▶ Indigenous law: an introduction – [The Great Indoors](#), April 2, 2020
- ▶ Home on Native Land – [RAVENtrust](#), March 11, 2020
- ▶ Val Napoleon & Jessica Asch – From the Indigenous Law Research Unit on Indigenous Law – [Just in Canada: Canada’s Social Change-Makers](#), August 23, 2020
- ▶ Cam Talks Indigenous Law: With Dr. Val Napoleon – [Cam Brewer](#), August 23, 2020
- ▶ UVic Law to build a National Centre for Indigenous Laws – [UVic News](#), September 3, 2020
- ▶ \$27.1 million funding announcement for the National Centre for Indigenous Laws at UVic – [UVic Law](#), September 3, 2020
- ▶ B.C., federal investments help support University of Victoria’s Indigenous Law Centre – [The Lawyer’s Daily](#), September 11, 2020
- ▶ UVIC’s new Indigenous Law Centre – [Breakfast Television & CityNews Vancouver](#), September 15, 2020
- ▶ Indigenous Law & Knowledge Retention – Qwelmínte Secwépemc

Our Team 2019-2020

Director: Val Napoleon

Associate Director: Rebecca Johnson

Research Director: Jessica Asch

Coordinator: Brooke Edmonds

Senior Researcher: Lindsay Borrows

Senior Researcher: Simon Owen

Senior Researcher: Tara Williamson

Researcher: Sarah Jackson

Co-Researcher: Lori Groft

Financial and Reporting Facilitation Officer: Heather Chestnut

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:

Cynthia Barwell, Jody Beaumont, Caroline Butler, Diane Calliou, Joanne Dennis, Larry George, Tracy Lawlor, Rhea Lewthwaite, Lana Lowe, Susie Lulua, DeAnne Lythall, Crystal McMaster, Aaron McMillan, Leslie-Ann Paige, Shawnee Pelletier, Simone Reece, Christina Sam-Stanley, Devan Swaine, Eva Tom, Gail Watkinson, Ardythe Wilson, Maryann Yarama

ILRU students

Thank you to all the students who have provided research and writing assistance on ILRU projects in 2019-2020:

- ▶ Carolyn Belleau, JD/JID Student
- ▶ Diana Borges, JD Student
- ▶ David Gill, grad student
- ▶ Christina Gray, grad student
- ▶ Alex McArdle, Articling student
- ▶ Brendan Noyes, JD/JID Student
- ▶ Tania Talebzadeh-Takiyeh, JD/JID Student
- ▶ Andrea Vogel, JD/JID 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, Renee Beausoleil, John Borrows, Gillian Calder, Jessica Clogg, Patricia Cochrane, Emma Cunliffe, Deborah Curran, Alex Etchell, Hadley Friedland, Christina Gray, La'goot/Spencer Greening, Maegan Hough, Claire Hutton, Shalene Jobin, Kheghaala Ái'átko, Freya Kodar, Eugene Kung, Isabelle Lefroy, Bonnie Leonard, Darcy Lindberg, Tracey Lindberg, Georgia Lloyd-Smith, Maxine Matilpi, Naomi Metallic, Sarah Morales, Kelly Ann Mortimer, Matthew Murphy, Tamara Napoleon, Jeffrey Nicholls, Richard Overstall, Brenda Parlee, Pooja Parmar, Astrid Pérez Piñán, Magherita Paola Poto, Kate Plyley, Janna Promislow, Heather Raven, Annie Rochette, Pierrot Ross-Tremblay, Calvin Sandborn, Emily Snyder, Sheyenne Spence, Eloise Spitzer, Kris Statnyk, Kamala Todd, Jim Tully, Vanessa Udy, Nicole Watson, Jeremy Webber, Anisa White, Estella White, Ruth Young.

Carolyn Belleau, JD/JID Student

"Looking outside the bubble of ILRU, I thought these people who worked there were amazing and to be inside the bubble, my perception of the ILRU team hadn't changed but enhanced the heart I see in this wonderful organization. I have been fortunate to be patiently guided to their buffet of knowledge and experiences and cannot get enough. They have all graciously taken me under their wing and gave me tools so well needed for my community and other Indigenous communities.

It's hard work but good work."



Drum-making workshop at the Secwepemc Winter Gathering in Splantsin. (Photo: Candace Camille Photography)

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, 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 Sponsors

- Vancity
- McConnell Foundation
- Swift Foundation
- Individual donations

Project Sponsors

- Law Foundation of Ontario
- Law Society of British Columbia
- NIŁTU,O Child and Family Services
- North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Scw'exmx Tribal Council
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

2019-20 in Numbers



\$108,360+
spent on students between
Sept 2019-Sept 2020



21
communities worked with



25
workshops, presentations
and lectures



15
new publications

