

INDIGENOUS BAR ASSOCIATION 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vancouver, British Columbia

October 18 – 20, 2001

IBA Annual Conference Student Day

University of British Columbia

First Nations House of Learning

October 18, 2001

IBA Student Day Report

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A: Thanking the Sponsors

I would initially like to take a moment to sincerely thank the sponsors without whom the student day may not have been as successful. The Law Society of Upper Canada, and British Columbia, Aboriginal Business Canada, Aboriginal Judges, Centre for International Indigenous Legal Studies, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and the Department of Justice together helped to create an atmosphere providing welcome food for us students: literal food and refreshment as well as food for thought in the form of generously provided information and encouragement.

B: Thanking the 'unofficial' Sponsors

Without the organizational help of Germaine Langan and the whole of the IBA Planning Committee, the first ever whole day Student IBA event would not have succeeded. Thank you Germaine and the IBA Planning Committee for your suggestions and help in the organization of the day's schedule. As well, we would like to thank the UBC House of Learning Longhouse Staff for their patience and willingness to help make this a special day. Finally, thanks to all the students at U.B.C. and other universities who helped to provide input and organizational help before, during and at the end of the day's activities.

C: Thanking the Speakers

For taking the time and effort to provide us with their presence and their inspirational words and deeds, we would like to give a big thanks to the following: Elder Bob George, Elder Paul Laliberte, Larry Doupe, Mark Stevenson, Lee Francoeur, Kuan Foo, Margaret Froh, Leslie Small, Jean Taillet, Anna Fung, Bill Wilson, Sharon McNeill, Madeleine MacIvor, Vicki McCaffrey, Tuma Young, Anna Hudson, Jodi-Lynn Waddilove, Lorena Fontaine, Jim Bissell, John Borrows, Wendy Lynn, and Elder Louis Schmidt.

D: Participation

The IBA Student Day was well attended by indigenous law students from across Canada and Australia, as well as students studying in the U.S. As well, Indigenous students not in law attended, as did non-Indigenous law students studying at U.B.C., notably from Australia. In total there were over 50 participants involved in the day activities and over 75 who attended the Banquet Dinner.

E: Agenda

The day began at 5am for those participating in the sunrise sweat ceremonies behind the Longhouse. For others, it began at 8:45 with breakfast refreshments, sponsored by the IBA Judges, and mingling inside the Longhouse hall. At approximately 9:30 we opened the day with a prayer by Elder Bob George and followed with a Sharing Circle conducted by Elder Paul Laliberte.

At 10:30 we began the morning workshop named: "What are You Going to Do with Your Law Degree?" In this workshop, professional lawyers, and legal administrators were able to provide information and advice to students regarding the following: Bar Admissions courses and articling procedures in B.C. and Ontario, the pros and cons of starting your own law practice, articling and mentoring suggestions, and Masters program information. The idea of working on a mentoring program through the IBA and an Indigenous Law Student Web Site and List Serve were also discussed.

At approximately 12:30, we broke for lunch, sponsored by the Law Society, of sushi and pita pockets with healthy drinks and delicious desserts to follow. Students were given the opportunity to mingle and to ask questions of the speakers who remained to enjoy the lunch.

At 2:00, the Afternoon Workshop, on Governance, commenced, sponsored by the Centre for International Indigenous Legal Studies, (CIILS) UBC Faculty of Law, with HEMAS KLA-LEE-LEE-KLA (Bill Wilson), of the Summit providing a provocative presentation on self-government and governance alternatives. Questions and debate followed a refreshment break, also sponsored by CIILS.

From 3:30 to 5:00, an interaction break occurred with many out of town students touring the UBC campus.

At 5:00 a reception, sponsored by the Department of Justice, began with appetizers and soap berry juice. It was well attended with students, lawyers, and other Banquet guests mingling in the beautiful Longhouse hall.

At 6:00, the Banquet commenced with Tuma Young acting as Master of Ceremony, and a prayer offered by Elder Louis Schmidt, of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association, and my father. Madeleine MacIvor welcomed us to the Longhouse, and Vicki McCaffrey introduced Jim Bissell, Assistant Deputy Attorney General who gave opening remarks. A wonderful dinner of salmon followed, sponsored by the Dept. of Justice, which was enjoyed by all. Lorena Fontaine then introduced our guest speaker, John Borrows, who gave an engaging and thought provoking presentation. A short break followed the dinner and finally Wendy Lynn, a 3rd Year Indigenous UBC law student provided original musical entertainment to close the evening.

