



An Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice



"Quiet Eagle" Robert Davidson

A Campaign in Support of An Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

One of the most pressing challenges facing British Columbia and Canada is the need to achieve reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. Legal institutions and the legal profession can play a key role in promoting this reconciliation, and in developing just and sustaining social and economic relationships.

With this in mind, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law has established an *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice*. The goal for this endowment is \$1 million dollars. The endowment will fund the first Professorship of Aboriginal Justice and Governance in Canada.

The endowment and its associated professorship will generate increased educational opportunities for Aboriginal students and communities, provide research and resources to the legal profession and the judiciary, and support capacity building in areas of Aboriginal justice and governance.

Education is the most effective tool at our disposal for promoting positive and enduring change. By supporting the *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice*, you can make a real contribution to fostering reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, and to forging a brighter future for us all.



Bryan Williams, Q.C.
Campaign Chair



Andrew Petter, Q.C.
Dean of Law

Education and Social Progress

The current state of relations with Aboriginal peoples is one of the leading human rights, social justice and economic issues facing British Columbia and Canada.

The relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, though currently fractured and unstable, holds untapped promise. Through reconciliation, this relationship could become a tremendous source of mutual strength and benefit. Education, particularly legal education, can be fundamental to unlocking this potential.

It begins with students. Legal education is excellent preparation for a variety of careers – not only law but in governance, administration and business. But the benefits do not stop there. Legal research, knowledge and skills can assist communities in setting new directions and generating new opportunities.

The ability to appreciate more fully each other's perspectives, rights, and obligations can also help Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to develop common strategies to overcome challenges. Increased knowledge and understanding will produce stronger partnerships and generate practices and principles that result in more effective solutions.

In this way, education can lead to greater justice for Aboriginal peoples and greater social and economic stability for all.

The University of Victoria Faculty of Law has created the *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice* to help make these changes a reality.

"Law school has been a means to continue working for what I care about – achieving positive social change for aboriginal nations, communities, and families. Law can be a useful tool for community development, restorative justice, self-determination, and ultimately for the restoration of our humanity and political consciousness."

Val Napoleon
LL.B. (UVic) 2001

The Faculty of Law's
Ongoing Commitment
to Aboriginal Students:

*Special admissions
category for Aboriginal
students*

*Academic & cultural
support program to
provide academic
counselling and
assistance*

*Supporting the Native
Law Students
Association*

*Supporting the Annual
Aboriginal Cultural
Awareness Camp*

*Participation in the
Aboriginal Moot
Program*

A Commitment to Constructive Change

The complex legal issues that currently divide us can be addressed through confrontation or reconciliation. Using education as an instrument to overcome and accommodate differences will help ensure that our province and our country benefits from the latter approach.

The *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice* and the Professorship in Aboriginal Justice and Governance, will:

- **Enhance legal education for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.**
The Faculty of Law will admit more Aboriginal students. Aboriginal educational and cultural support programs will be expanded. And there will be new course offerings in Aboriginal law and issues relating to Aboriginal peoples.
- **Provide new resources to the legal profession.**
The Professor of Aboriginal Justice and Governance will collaborate with the Continuing Legal Education Society, the Law Society, the judiciary and others to enhance professional understanding of Aboriginal issues. Courses and materials will be developed on emerging issues.
- **Support law reform initiatives.**
The Aboriginal Justice and Governance Program will produce innovative and practical research. The results will be made public to assist the legal profession, businesses, Aboriginal communities and others on matters that require resolution, such as treaty negotiations, resource conflicts and economic development.

A Good Beginning

It has been just over a year since the *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice* was first proposed, yet much has already been achieved. The Law Foundation of British Columbia has committed \$500,000 in support of this initiative and fundraising for the remainder is actively underway.

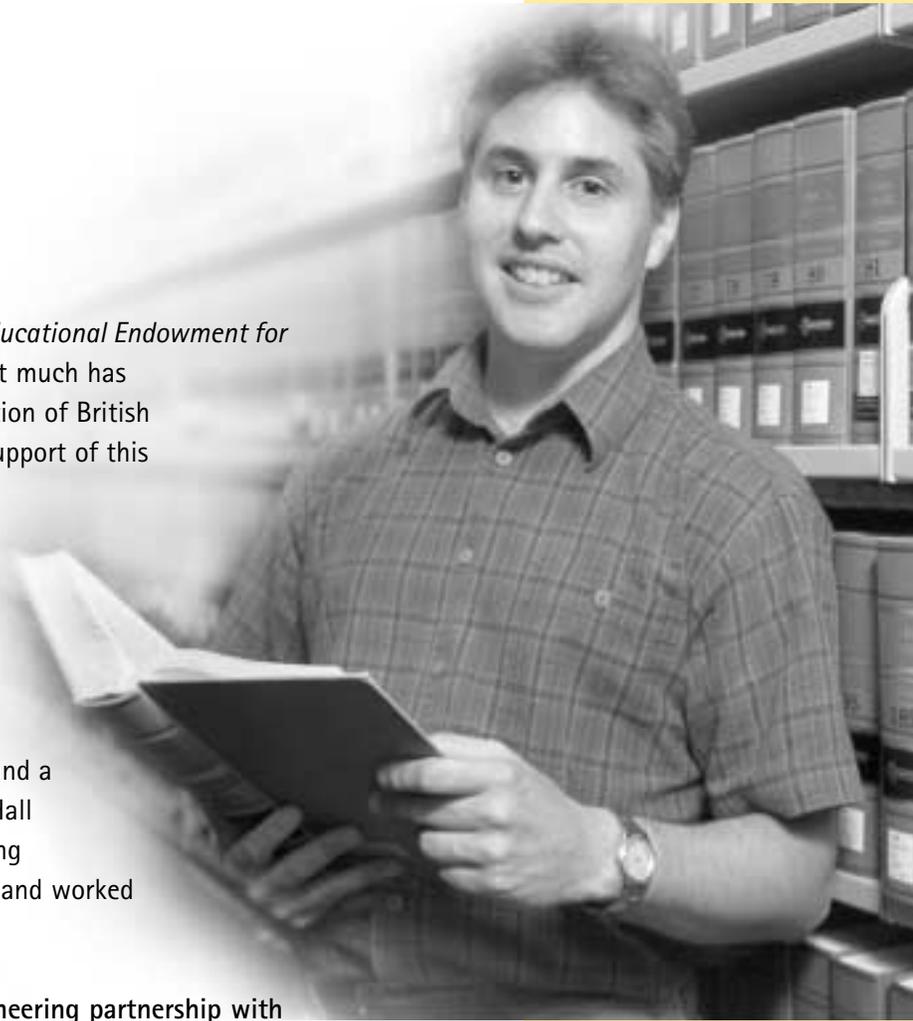
1 The University of Victoria has hired John Borrows as the Professor in Aboriginal Justice and Governance. Professor Borrows is a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nations and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Osgoode Hall Law School. He is one of Canada's leading Aboriginal law scholars, and has taught and worked across North America.

2 The Faculty of Law has launched a pioneering partnership with the Akitsiraq Law Society in Nunavut. This program enables qualified Inuit students to earn a UVic law degree in the north. Currently 14 students are working their way through the first year of this innovative law program being delivered by UVic on site in Iqaluit.

3 Students at UVic can now earn a concurrent LL.B. and a Master of Arts Degree in Indigenous Governance. Collaboration between the Faculty of Law and the Indigenous Governance Program now enables qualified students to undertake a four-year academic program leading to both degrees.

These achievements are examples of UVic Law's ability to develop an innovative and effective program in Aboriginal Justice and Governance.

Yet this is just the beginning. With your support, much more remains to be accomplished.



Professor John Borrows

"I am grateful that I studied at UVic. During my years there, the faculty members had a genuine commitment to their students and the study of law. Their enthusiasm was infectious and remains with me."

Judge Marion R. Buller Bennett LL.B.
(UVic) 1987

A Unique Faculty A Unique Opportunity

The University of Victoria Faculty of Law is uniquely qualified to undertake this initiative. It has been consistently ranked as one of Canada's top law schools. The Faculty was founded with a focus on law as a social process, and has sought to instill in its students abiding concerns for social, legal and economic justice.

The *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice* is only the latest step in the Faculty's long tradition of promoting inclusion of Aboriginal peoples. UVic offers a number of courses in Aboriginal law. These are supplemented by inviting distinguished Aboriginal law practitioners to lecture at the University.

Furthermore, the Faculty of Law has established a special admissions category for Aboriginal students with the long-term goal of contributing to proportional Aboriginal representation of legal professionals.

It is because of this tradition and its leadership that the UVic Faculty of Law is an ideal place to base this endowment and professorship.

The University of Victoria is the Right Place

The University of Victoria believes that it has a responsibility to educate and support Aboriginal students. It has designed many programs to achieve this goal.

The University will steward this endowment through its University of Victoria Foundation. This foundation is responsible for managing approximately 750 endowment funds, with a net worth of over \$90 million dollars. It follows management policies that seek to produce the greatest yield each year, while protecting the principle against inflation.

What You Can Do

The goal for the *Educational Endowment for Aboriginal Justice* is \$1 million dollars. Half this amount has already been committed from the Law Foundation of British Columbia. Your contribution will help us reach this goal.

Your donation to the endowment will support Canada's first Professorship in Aboriginal Justice and Governance.

And it will do much more.

- It will open doors to legal education for Aboriginal students and communities.
- It will create new courses, materials and professional training opportunities on the law relating to Aboriginal peoples.
- It will generate new research and innovative strategies to address Aboriginal issues that require resolution.

More fundamentally, it will support the use of education as a tool for achieving reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples, and a more secure social and economic future for us all.

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The Honourable Bryan Williams Q.C.

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