

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Aboriginal Law Association (ALA)

For Native and non-Native students interested in any and all aspects of Aboriginal law. The ALA seeks to promote awareness on issues of criminal justice, self-government initiatives, Aboriginal title cases, human rights and more on and off the McGill campus. In 2005-2006, the ALA observed a hearing before the Supreme Court of Canada, held a talking circle with Aboriginal law practitioners, and hosted a visit by acclaimed film director Alanis Obamsawin. The ALA actively collaborates with the Undergraduate Law Admissions Office.

### Indigenous Bar Association (IBA)

A non-profit professional organization for First Nation, Inuit and Métis persons trained in the field of law. Its membership consists of Indigenous lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students. The IBA holds an annual Conference and Student Day for its members and other interested participants. McGill students have attended the conference in the past, with funding from the ALA. Aboriginal law students can also get involved in the IBA as representatives or by sitting on an IBA committee. [www.indigenousbar.ca](http://www.indigenousbar.ca)

## Bursaries & Scholarships

Aboriginal persons of registered status are entitled to federal financial assistance for three years of law study at McGill. McGill University also has a Student Aid program ([www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/)). Other sources of funding include:

### Legal Studies for Aboriginal Peoples Program

For Métis and Non-Status Indian students who wish to pursue studies in law. [www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/pb/prog/legal\\_sap.html](http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/pb/prog/legal_sap.html)

### AFN Heroes of Our Time Scholarships

Eight scholarships of \$2,000 each. Each scholarship represents a First Nations hero in a different academic discipline. [www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=771](http://www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=771)

### Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust

For students in areas related to economic development and self-government. Preference may be given descendants of Aboriginal veterans. [www.naaf.ca/avst.htm](http://www.naaf.ca/avst.htm)

### INAAF Business, Science & General Education Bursary

For Aboriginal students in areas such as law, business, technology, science or education. Successful applicants are linked with an appropriate corporate sponsor. [www.naaf.ca/business.html](http://www.naaf.ca/business.html)

# Sharing Knowledge: Legal Traditions and First Nations

**Kia Ora, Me'taleyn,  
Kwey, Tansi, Ai'i, Wachiya,  
Auneen, Shé:kon, Kwé,  
Boojhoo, Oki, Hello, Bonjour!**



“Built upon land that was a traditional meeting place for many First Peoples, McGill University is a natural site for the meeting of the minds and cultures and for the empowerment of Aboriginal peoples through education.”

—Waneek Horn-Miller, Mohawk, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory. B.A. (Political Science), Carleton (2000), Coordinator of First Peoples' House of McGill University.

“A progressive institution, the Faculty of Law acknowledges the long history of First Nations people on these lands, and recognizes the important contributions that Aboriginal students make to the richness and diversity of the university community. An education at McGill challenges the mind, opens doors and provides a strong future for First Nations students in whatever they undertake.”

—Lysane Cree, Mohawk, Kanehsatake Mohawk Territory. B.A. (Political Science, minor in Northern Studies), McGill (1996), LL.B./B.C.L., McGill (2000). Associate at Hutchins Grant & Associates.



## Opportunities in Aboriginal Law

We invite you to consider studying law at McGill as a means of achieving your personal, intellectual and professional aspirations. A legal education expands horizons and opportunities, and allows you to contribute meaningfully to your community.

Our Law Programme, which leads to a joint undergraduate common law-civil law degree, is based on the encounter between legal traditions. It recognizes that the law flows from a broad range of sources, and it is built on the study of law as an intellectual inquiry that is inherently 'trans-systemic.'

The McGill Faculty of Law strongly encourages Canadian Aboriginal persons to apply for admission to our integrated B.C.L./LL.B. programme, and invites such candidates to self-identify. Committed to diversity, we seek to create a dynamic and stimulating learning environment for all of our students.

Our Aboriginal students have the opportunity to study and do research in a bilingual environment with a wide range of scholars, and to engage in contemporary legal issues related to Aboriginal communities and interests—both inside and outside the classroom.

## Summer Pre-Law Programmes

Aboriginal applicants admitted to McGill Law may enrol in one of the summer pre-law programmes offered by University of Saskatchewan and by the University of Ottawa. Federal financial assistance is available for these programmes.

[www.usask.ca/calendar/lawcollege/programs/nativelaw/#anchor2](http://www.usask.ca/calendar/lawcollege/programs/nativelaw/#anchor2)

[www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/programmes/pre-droit\\_autochtones/admission.html](http://www.droitcivil.uottawa.ca/programmes/pre-droit_autochtones/admission.html)

“McGill's strength is its trans-systemic programme. It teaches you to think beyond the confines of one legal system and how to use the law in a flexible way.”

Kelly Doctor, Cayuga, member of the Six Nations of the Grand River. B. Soc. Sc., U. of Ottawa, B.C.L./LL.B., McGill (2007)

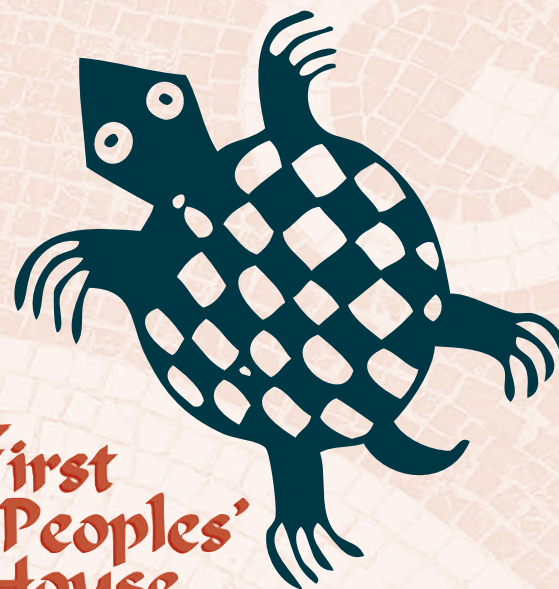


**First Peoples' House**

**First Peoples' House** provides a sense of community and a voice for Aboriginal people who have left their communities to study at McGill. A “home away from home,” First Peoples' House offers the following services:

- **Mentoring Program** with an upper year Aboriginal student
- **Computer Facilities**
- **Guest Lecturers** on Native issues or the work of Native scholars
- **Elder visits** to help you stay connected to community and traditions
- **Academic Counselling**
- **Aboriginal Students' Association**
- **Resource Centre and Hot Lunch Program** currently being developed
- **Housing** is available at First Peoples' House for all Aboriginal students regardless of age. All that is required is self-identification on the Residence Application Form. For more information, call the Student Housing Office at 398-6050 or send an email to [Monique.Mercier@mcgill.ca](mailto:Monique.Mercier@mcgill.ca).

**First Peoples' House**  
3505 Peel Street  
Montreal, QC H3A 1W7  
Tel.: 514-398-3217  
[www.mcgill.ca/fph](http://www.mcgill.ca/fph)  
[firstpeopleshouse.mcgill.ca](http://firstpeopleshouse.mcgill.ca)



## Activities for Credit

Here are some ways in which students interested in Aboriginal law—or general legal issues from an Aboriginal perspective—can expand their knowledge and enhance their experience.

### Kawaskimhon Moot

*Kawaskimhon* means “speaking with knowledge”. It is a non-competitive moot based on current issues in Aboriginal-Government relations. Law students from across Canada represent parties to the negotiation. Participants seek to reach a consensus on issues raised by the moot problem as they prepare written arguments and give oral presentations in a circle format.

### Legal Clinic Course

Through the Legal Clinic course, students can enrich their legal education by gaining practical work experience. Working in various community organizations and legal clinics, students provide legal information and assistance to the socially disadvantaged. This course promotes a deeper understanding of the legal system's response to poverty and inequality. Aboriginal law placements include the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawake* and *Femmes autochtones du Québec*.

### Studying at Other Law Schools

Students may study for a semester or a year at another Canadian law school, and can participate in specialized programs in Aboriginal law. For example, the *Osgoode Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments*, established by Osgoode Hall Law School in 1993, combines rigorous academic experience with challenging placements in the field. [osgoode.yorku.ca](http://osgoode.yorku.ca) (select “Aboriginal Intensive Programme” under the Related Sites list).

**Interested in applying? Want to speak with current law students or alumni? Contact us!**

**Faculty of Law, Undergraduate Admissions Office**  
**McGill University**  
3644 Peel Street  
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[www.law.mcgill.ca](http://www.law.mcgill.ca)  
[undergradadmissions.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:undergradadmissions.law@mcgill.ca)