Thank you for your generosity.
Meeting with you, members of our alumni community, has been a tremendous source of inspiration and, frankly, one of the greatest pleasures of my job. A recurring theme in many discussions is that the unique legal education you received at the McGill Faculty of Law increased your ability to think creatively, your sensitivity to difference, and your capacity to navigate complex issues – capacities that have helped you succeed in a broad range of professional settings around the world.

In the second year of our renewed curriculum, we are proud to take our traditions of innovative teaching and excellent scholarship further than ever. Crossing boundaries of language, jurisdiction and discipline, the latest iteration of our program features new opportunities for problem-based learning, translating knowledge into action, and developing the soft skills that are critical to enlightened and effective jurists. The Faculty of Law is regarded worldwide as a vibrant site of path-breaking legal education and research.

Thank you for making our successes possible. Your generosity and loyalty allow us to nurture our next generation of leaders. I am amazed to witness transformations in our students’ lives during their time at the Faculty of Law and to see what they achieve after they leave us.

While your alma mater has many great ambitions in store, it is crucial that we take the time to acknowledge those who have led us this far. Your Faculty of Law, our students, your fellow alumni and I are profoundly grateful for everything you have done for the McGill Law community. I’m keen to see how much further we will go together.

Thank you,

Robert Leckey
Dean, Faculty of Law
C’est un atout précieux de recevoir des diplômés et diplômées de la Faculté qui peuvent partager leur expérience pratique.

– Cristina Toteda, chargée de cours
A Focus on the Renewed Curriculum

Last year, McGill launched a renewed curriculum aimed at better preparing our students for the rapidly changing legal world. Students now take their classes each semester over 12 weeks, instead of the usual 13, using the extra week to take intensive seminars and courses that will allow them to explore the law in ways not always available in the regular classroom setting.

Les étudiants et étudiantes de première année participent maintenant à une semaine d’intégration, qui dépasse les limites habituelles des cours de première année, et leur permet de découvrir les sources du droit dès leur premier jour. Ce changement a été « très bien accueilli », déclare Anne-Sophie Ouellet, vice-présidente aux affaires académiques de l’Association des étudiants en droit en 2017. « Il s’agissait d’un mode d’apprentissage différent. »

Now in their second year, the students who made up the entering class of 2016 have the opportunity to interweave their learning further with Focus Weeks. These are elective workshops, under the guidance of alumni or faculty members, that develop hands-on practical skills and complement existing courses with intensive study or on-the-ground experience. Thanks to a gift from the law firm McCarthy Tétrault, there will be significant funds over the next 15 years allocated to “working with external partners to support and enrich these workshops,” says Dean Robert Leckey. Focus Weeks allow McGill to bring in lecturers who might not be available for an entire term, and enable students to go outside McGill to visit law firms, non-profits, businesses and government organizations.

Cristina Toteda, chargée de cours et OBA Foundation Chief Justice of Ontario Fellow in Legal Ethics and Professionalism Research, a dirigé en octobre une semaine intensive en éthique et professionnalisme. C’était une occasion pour les étudiants et étudiantes de travailler en collaboration et de développer leur esprit d’équipe « dans un environnement où ils pouvaient prendre des risques et essayer différentes choses. »

In a regular course, “a team presentation might be worth 50 per cent of a mark,” which she believes places an extra academic pressure on students, beyond the fact that they may not enjoy working with each other. “The reality of any job is that you work with other people to solve problems and arrive at an outcome,” and this kind of collaboration is more easily replicated in a workshop environment.

Les fonds ont également permis à Cristina Toteda d’inviter des membres de la communauté diplômée à travailler avec les étudiants et étudiantes en petits groupes pour que ces derniers puissent exercer leurs habiletés pratiques comme la prestation de conseil et des techniques d’entrevue. « Nous travaillons dans des dynamiques qui ressemblent à des relations avocat-client, ajoute-t-elle. C’est un atout précieux de recevoir des diplômés et diplômées de la Faculté qui peuvent partager leur expérience pratique. »
The late John W. Durnford, who passed away as this report was being written, became dean of Law in 1969 during a crucial period. At this time, the Faculty introduced its revolutionary National Program, which aimed to train students in both of Canada’s legal systems. His popularity as a teacher has already been memorialized with the John W. Durnford Teaching Excellence Award. Now his commitment to innovation is also remembered with a new kind of learning space.

The John W. Durnford Classroom on the ground floor of Chancellor Day Hall reflects the values of curriculum reforms that promote collaborative, investigative and hands-on applications of learning. This initiative is part of a larger overhaul of classroom space with the recently completed Roderick A. Macdonald Lobby and the Donald E. Meehan Classroom.

The 70s-style sloped rooms were significantly modernized, thanks to several contributions. The driving forces were: the fundraising committee led by Norman Steinberg, Robert Raich, Stephen Halperin and Harvey Ram; a generous gift by the classes of 1974, 1975 and 1976, in celebration of their 40th graduation anniversary, and a contribution from the Durnford family. McGill’s Teaching and Learning Services also provided funding and expertise in support of the project. The transformation of the other classroom on the ground floor is largely due to the generosity of another alumnus, Donald E. Meehan, LLB’75, whose name it now bears. Teaching and learning began in the rooms in October.

Whiteboards on two walls, power sources in the floor, and flexible mobile seating are some of the changes that support multiple classroom settings. For example, depending on the dynamic that the professor would like to create, a large circle and small groups are possible. These practical and significant changes adapt our rooms to the realities of how today’s teachers teach and today’s students learn.

The Faculty is planning to continue to upgrade teaching spaces, notably classrooms on the second floor, and opportunities remain for donor generosity in equipping our physical space for our program’s path-breaking excellence. 📚
## FACULTY OF LAW FACTS

### ADMISSIONS 2017-18

#### Students

- **27%** belong to a visible or racialized minority
- **13%** self-identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community
- **5%** of the 2017 entering class self-identify as Indigenous students
- **24%** students from CEGEP
- **16%** completed graduate studies
- **11%** first-generation university students

#### First language

- **53%** English
- **31%** French
- **16%** Other

- **1,290** candidates applied
- **18** mother tongues
- **89** cities of birth in 24 countries
- **181** BCL/LLB students admitted
- **23** average age of first-year students
- **37** dual citizens

### STUDENT BODY: SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- **691** BCL/LLB Students
- **74** LLM Students
- **71** DCL Students
- **200** students participated in a competitive moot in 2017
- **40** students went on Human Rights internships during the summer of 2017
- **26** students and recent graduates were selected to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada
- **200** about 200 bursaries and prizes given out to BCL/LLB students
- **$144,000** total value of these bursaries and prizes
- **7** $208,740 granted in entrance scholarships
Social Media Membership (@LawMcGill)

5,540
4,111
2,278

8,652 alumni around the world
113 countries of residence
75% practice law
25% have pursued other careers

Alumni Network

79% Canada
9% USA
12% International
The fellowships were introduced in 2016 and they honour the legacy of two of McGill’s most generous donors and deeply involved alumni, former Chancellor Arnold Steinberg, BCom’54, LLD’00, and his wife, McGill Professor Emerita Blema Steinberg, BA’55, PhD’61, who passed away in 2015 and 2017, respectively.

The goal of the fellowships is to train the next generation of International Migration Law specialists. The Steinberg Fellows work as part of a research team under the leadership and supervision of Professor François Crépeau, BCL’82, LLB’82, director of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP), and former U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

Prior to joining the CHRLP, Adeola worked at the Centre for Human Rights in South Africa as a researcher on law and policy aspects of protection for refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. She considers it “such a privilege” to have worked with Professor Crépeau: “He has given me so much knowledge on international migration.”

Taking up Professor Crépeau’s invitation to talk to students in his class on refugee protection, Adeola has contributed to enriching the studies of McGill Law students. Furthermore, Adeola has had an opportunity to work with another fellow who shares her determination to bring about real change in Africa.
Marina Sharpe, BCL/LLB’05, is originally from Montreal. As a McGill Law student, she was a human rights intern at a legal clinic in Cairo. The experience was so significant that she deferred a job on Wall Street to work at a clinic in Uganda. After two and a half years of working in both the New York and London offices of a corporate firm, she decided to pursue a PhD at Oxford. Through her thesis, she aimed to contribute to resolving a major impediment for anyone working to help resettle African refugees: the lack of guiding resource texts available for anyone faced with the daunting prospect of understanding current treaty law.

In 2019, it will be 50 years since the African Refugee Treaty was signed. Sharpe has used her Fellowship salary to work on a steering committee convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the African Union (AU) to organize anniversary events and for other related projects, including participating in the training of AU member states on the proper implementation of this treaty.

Her fellowship has primarily been used, however, to finish a book that will offer an essential framework and reference for anyone studying the treaty.

“You can only understand the challenges to the implementation of the law if you know what the law says in the first place. If you have no foundational book that translates the treaty and that really explains it, there’s no foundation on which scholarship can develop. The lack of that book has been a huge impediment to understanding this area.” Her monograph, provisionally titled “The Regional Law of Refugee Protection in Africa,” is scheduled to be published by the Oxford University Press in 2018.

If you have no foundational book that translates the treaty and that really explains it, there’s no foundation on which scholarship can develop.

– Marina Sharpe, Steinberg Fellow
Examining the Future of Federalism

Last spring, federalism experts from across Canada gathered at a conference marking the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation. Participants at “Canadian Federalism and its Future” met in Montreal, Quebec City, and on the train while travelling between the two. In Montreal, they were joined at the McGill Faculty Club by scholars of federalism from around the world who had come for a symposium featuring the winners of the inaugural Baxter Family Competition on Federalism.

Most important to Professor Johanne Poirier, the Peter MacKell Chair in Federalism who oversees this new prize, was the opportunity for the McGill community to hear from young scholars from Canada and abroad. The prize is open to all law students and PhD candidates, junior legal scholars, and lawyers in the first five years of their career. Thanks to the generosity of Colin Baxter, BCL’90, LLB’90, and Rachel Baxter, BSc’84, BCL’88, who initiated and funded this biennial prize, and to friends and family members who share Colin’s and Rachel’s commitment to federalism, this year’s three finalists and members from the contest’s international jury were able to travel to McGill.

For the inaugural competition, participants were invited to submit an original essay related to an aspect of federal theory or practice. Given that the competition was launched to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation of 1867, submissions that examined the past, present and future of Canadian federalism from comparative angles were particularly encouraged.

When Poirier returned to her native Montreal two years ago from a faculty position at Université Libre de Bruxelles, she was warned more than once that Canadians had become weary of constitutional debates. She had a “modest goal” to rekindle interest. That the symposium opened to a packed room is clearly a good sign.

The prize committee received close to 40 high-quality submissions. Authors were from Canada, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, the United Kingdom and the United States. The jury included scholars from Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and Australia. First prize went to Asha Kaushal, an assistant professor from the University of British Columbia, for her essay “Constitutional Jurisdictions.” She was joined by fellow finalists Erika Arban, a lecturer from the University of Antwerp, who won second prize for “Exploring the Principle of Federal Solidarity,” and Eleonore Gauthier, an articling student from the University of Toronto, for “Spending Power, Social Policy, and the Principle of Subsidiarity.”

For 2019, Poirier is hoping to expand the number of finalists and to encourage institutes and universities around the world who offer courses on federalism to shape assignments so that student essays will be eligible. There are so many conferences on federalism in Europe, says Poirier, that if she had the time, she could travel to one “every few weeks.” In North America, for the time being, the Baxter Prize will remain one of the few opportunities to foster these important debates.
Moderniser la Constitution

Parmi les nombreux universitaires venus de partout au Canada pour assister au colloque « Le fédéralisme canadien et son avenir » se trouvaient des étudiants et étudiantes de Montréal inscrits au séminaire « Moderniser la Constitution canadienne », un exercice à la fois osé et fructueux.

Ce séminaire a été coanimé par Joanne Poirier et Daniel Turp, professeur de droit constitutionnel de l’Université de Montréal. De nombreux Canadiens connaissent davantage ce dernier comme un ancien député du Bloc québécois, alors que de nombreux Québécois se souviennent de lui comme l’ancien candidat à la course à la direction du Parti Québécois. Organisé pour marquer le 150e anniversaire de la Constitution canadienne, le séminaire a réuni des étudiants et étudiantes de McGill et de l’U de M. Certaines séances étaient consacrées au droit comparé et à l’histoire constitutionnelle canadienne. D’autres portaient sur la préparation d’une Assemblée constituante à Ottawa.

Dans le cadre de ce séminaire, le défi de taille lancé au groupe consistait à réécrire la Constitution canadienne. Pour rendre la chose encore plus intéressante, nous dit la professeure Poirier, certains membres du groupe provenant de chacune des deux universités avaient des visions souverainistes. Néanmoins, en quelques mois, « les équipes ont rédigé une Constitution moderne, lisible et accessible, et qui répond à de nombreux défis auxquels la société canadienne est confrontée. »

Pour Scott Whitelaw, étudiant en droit (LL.M), une visite à Ottawa dans un contexte juridique n’était pas une première. Il détient des diplômes en droit civil et en common law de l’Université d’Ottawa, et il a été stagiaire à la Cour d’appel fédérale. Cependant, cette occasion a été une chance unique pour lui de travailler avec des collègues qui représentaient l’ensemble des opinions politiques sur ce sujet. Il a grandement apprécié son expérience, et est reparti avec beaucoup d’espoirs quant à l’avenir de telles collaborations. « Les discussions qui ont découlé de notre cours m’ont amené à croire que les prochaines générations étudiantes resteront très fortement engagées », conclut-il.

Les équipes ont rédigé une Constitution moderne, lisible et accessible, et qui répond à de nombreux défis auxquels la société canadienne est confrontée.

– Johanne Poirier, Professeure et titulaire de la Chaire Peter MacKell sur le fédéralisme
La ville de Changchun, située dans la province du Jilin dans le nord-est de la Chine, a été surnommée le Détroit de la nation. Elle est connue pour son secteur automobile et la construction des célèbres trains superexpress de la Chine. C’est également la ville natale du candidat au doctorat Di Mei – ou « Vito », comme il préfère être appelé – à l’Institut de droit aérien et spatial (IDAS) de l’Université McGill.

Au moment où Vito a reçu son diplôme de la China University of Political Science, à Beijing, il savait qu’il voulait étudier quelque chose à des années-lumière de ce qu’il connaissait. Il a choisi le droit aérien et spatial, non pas par fascination pour les vaisseaux spatiaux ou les avions, mais par curiosité pour un sujet qui était aussi mystérieux pour lui que pour le commun des mortels.

Alors qu’il s’intéressait de plus en plus à ce domaine juridique inexploré, il a commencé à découvrir la réputation de McGill et de ses « célèbres professeurs ». Il savait que travailler là-bas représenterait pour lui « une chance inestimable ».

La bourse d’études supérieures Nicolas Mateesco Matte, qui a attribuée à Vito cette année, doit son nom au fondateur de l’IDAS, également fondateur et rédacteur des Annales de droit aérien et spatial, la revue la plus citée dans le domaine.

Vito dit que sans cette bourse, il n’aurait jamais pu quitter la Chine pour le Canada afin de préparer une thèse qui revêt une importance mondiale. Son domaine d’étude porte sur les réglementations régissant la privatisation des aéroports. Partout dans le monde, les gouvernements, y compris celui du Canada, vendent les aéroports afin d’augmenter leurs revenus. Cette tendance engendrera probablement une augmentation des tarifs et, par le fait même, du prix des voyages. Pour Vito, il devient donc primordial que des experts juridiques fournissent un modèle qui protégera les consommateurs.

Vito profite de son séjour à Montréal, malgré la météo imprévisible de l’hiver qui, à ses yeux, n’est pas très différente de celle de la ville de Changchun.

Grâce à des prix comme la bourse d’études supérieures Nicolas Mateesco Matte, les meilleurs chercheurs et chercheuses de plusieurs pays collaborent pour trouver des solutions équitables et réalisables à des enjeux juridiques qui ont des répercussions sur les gens dans le monde entier.
The Importance of Tax Fairness

Professor Allison Christians focuses on national and international tax law and policy, with a particular interest in the relationship between taxation and economic development. It would be easy to read one of @profchristians’ tweets, or watch one of her talks and lectures available on YouTube, such as “Human Rights and Tax in an Unequal World,” and mistake the holder of McGill’s H. Heward Stikeman Chair in Taxation for an activist.

She says she isn’t: “I have the freedom and the ability to look at these things in depth.” She also has the resources to study the issues and describe the world “the way it is.” Without committed scholarship, she believes, unjust tax laws can go on forever. “I don’t think it’s being an activist to do that work. It’s being an academic.”

The Chair was endowed in 2005, through the generosity of Mary Stikeman, BSc(PE)’58, widow of the legendary tax law authority H. Heward Stikeman, BA’35, BCL’38, LLD’86. The goal of the Chair is to foster scholarship contributing to fairer and simpler tax rules locally, nationally, and globally, and to attract faculty committed to developing a comparative, integrated and dynamic approach to teaching the law of taxation.

Christians has held the position since 2012 and was previously at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Since 2015, she has been twice included in International Tax Review’s Global Tax 50, as one of the most influential tax scholars in the world.

For the better part of 2017, Christians was on sabbatical, where she was given the opportunity to “sit back and see how all the pieces fit together.” She has returned with a fresh energy to explore trending international issues, like the challenge of taxing emerging multinationals.

“Many countries have become frustrated in their efforts to tax a company like Google or Amazon. So, they’re coming together to try and form new approaches,” she says. Christians’ current research examines how countries are coalescing around shared decisions or diverging and creating more opportunities for conflict and competition.

There is much at stake, she believes, in building societies with fair tax laws that will foster the resources needed to encourage a clean environment, equity, innovation and education. There is “something very basic” about making sure the next generation has opportunities that are not defined solely by luck, she adds. “Is there really anything more exciting than a kid whose family struggled, but through public grants, or public policy, is able to achieve great things?” she asks, then answers her own question. “There isn’t!” 🌟
Since 1821, McGill has been offering outstanding educational opportunities to students from across the globe, pioneering new areas of research and discovery, and changing how we understand the world. As we approach our University’s 200th anniversary, McGill’s professors, researchers and students continue to tackle the biggest questions in science, culture and human endeavour.

Looking towards McGill’s third century, we hope you will join with us in celebrating and supporting this important work as we embark on The Road To 200 and beyond, and as, together, we create an even better world and a brighter future.

THE ROAD TO
200

1821 2021

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