Thank you for your generosity.
Starting in September, a renewed curriculum is in effect in the Faculty, featuring multiple opportunities for problem-based learning, translating knowledge into action, and developing soft skills that are critical to engaged, effective and enlightened jurists.

These changes reflect the Faculty’s ongoing commitment to transformative scholarship and global leadership in innovative legal education. We expect our students and professors to challenge orthodoxy, to imagine new solutions to contemporary problems and to conceive of the legal profession as a calling and a life of service in the public interest.

C'est possible grâce à votre générosité. Merci de nous soutenir dans nos efforts.

Le présent rapport souligne certaines des initiatives prometteuses au cœur de notre mission, qui ont pu se concrétiser grâce au soutien de donateurs privés.

The Innovation in Teaching and Learning Fund will provide the Faculty with much-needed new infrastructure, while the Institute for Air and Space Law continues to build its influence on global space governance thanks to a series of fellowships. A crowdfunding campaign launched in 2015 in honour of the memory of Professor Roderick A. Macdonald received contributions from over 150 donors and will fund a renovated lobby in Chancellor Day Hall.

As I settle into the Deanship of this great institution, I am mostly looking forward to what we will achieve together in the years to come. But it is also opportune to look back at what your generosity made possible in the fiscal year 2016. I am overwhelmed by what you have done for the Faculty and our students, today’s and tomorrow’s.

Robert Leckey
Dean and Samuel Gale Chair
Doyen et Titulaire de la Chaire Samuel Gale
Faculty of Law
Assistant professor Sébastien Jodoin self-identifies as a millenial. “I’m 33. I’ve never known a law faculty without laptops. I’ve been on Facebook and Twitter. I have a smartphone.”

On the other hand, no one could accuse him of being glued to a screen. Since graduating from McGill in 2005, he has travelled widely and studied internationally. In 2012 he received the Yale Public Scholar Award for his post graduate work. He holds graduate degrees from both Cambridge and the London School of Economics and has worked for the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law and the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Son expérience universitaire, juridique et personnelle ainsi que son aisance avec les technologies font de Sébastien Jodoin la personne tout indiquée pour parler des façons de miser sur les forces de l’enseignement à la Faculté pour la prochaine génération. « Le contenu du programme de McGill a toujours été très novateur. L’engagement envers l’enseignement y a également toujours été primordial; c’est l’une des choses que j’apprécie le plus dans notre Faculté », déclare-t-il. À l’automne 2016, grâce au Fonds pour l’innovation dans l’enseignement, la Faculté mettra en place des mesures visant à développer davantage ces importantes innovations et à fournir un espace propice aux nouvelles méthodes d’enseignement.

Launched in 2015 with a major contribution from Donald Meehan, LLB’75, the Fund has grown substantially with another significant contribution from Gregory David, BCL’93/LLB’93, and generous donations from the classes of 1965, 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1990. Teaching and learning will change in both physical and intellectual terms.

This year, plans and designs are being put in place for much-needed new infrastructure—in other words, classrooms and other spaces that will be appropriate for revamped teaching methods. The Faculty has made some important reforms that reflect not only a changing world, and the arrival of a new generation, but also solid and recent research on learning.

Le style d’enseignement de Sébastien Jodoin est à l’image de la réforme. « J’aime que les étudiants apprennent en essayant de résoudre des problèmes, même s’ils font des erreurs », explique-t-il, en faisant référence aux études qui révèlent que les étudiants qui tentent de résoudre des problèmes pertinents avant même de suivre un cours magistral retiennent et assimilent mieux l’information.
According to former Associate Academic Dean Hoi Kong, the first curricular innovation rolled out in September 2016 with an Integration Week for first-year students that focused on real world problems that cut across the conventional silos of public and private law.

During this week “we introduced them to some core ways of legal reasoning and began the process of training our students to think in really creative and flexible ways,” Kong explains. This innovation emphasizes the process of thinking through issues, “rather than categories and boundaries that we normally put on the issues,” Kong says. New students are also taking a course on Criminal Justice that will give them an “interdisciplinary, multijurisdictional approach” to the subject.

In the second term students will devote a week to indigenous law as a tradition unto itself. “This will be a fascinating way to expose them to the complexity of Law,” says Kong. It will also foreshadow a new second-year course on property law “that will integrate multiple legal traditions – common, civil, and Indigenous law.”

Kong describes these as “a sampling” of the reforms.

Au moment où ces innovations seront mises en place, les travaux de rénovation des salles de classe du premier étage s’amorceront également. Hoi Kong prévoit que l’immeuble rénové aidera à la mise en place de ces innovations grâce à des salles de classe qui faciliteront notamment le travail en petit groupe.

“One of the things that starts to happen when you’re a lawyer,” says Jodoin, “or even as a summer intern, is that things go by so quickly that you don’t have time to reflect. We can offer unique experiences through which students can learn and then reflect. I feel that’s the value added of an innovative approach to legal education.”

– Assistant Professor Sébastien Jodoin
SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Speaking the Language of Human Rights

Iñaki Navarrete, BCL/LLB’16, had never thought of studying disability law when he applied for a summer internship in Mexico. Having entered McGill Law straight from his Montreal CEGEP, Navarrete saw the internship mostly as an opportunity to improve his Spanish. The stint with Disability Rights International (DRI) was funded by a Rathlyn Foundation Fellowship, which enables talented McGill students to pursue research in disability law and policy every year. Two years later, says Navarrete, “disability law has become my passion.”

In Mexico, Navarrete found himself preparing for a major case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights against the Federico Mora Hospital in Guatemala. Almost 300 patients, many with mental health problems normally treatable outside of hospitals, were being housed with a minority of violent and mentally disturbed criminals.

The hospital was overcrowded and underfunded, the wards described by one BBC journalist as “hell on earth.” It had been labelled by numerous human rights activists as “the worst hospital in the world.”

The first objective of the internship was to assist DRI at a session of negotiations with the State of Guatemala for precautionary measures to protect patients before the case could be filed with the Commission. Navarrete drafted memoranda and mounted video compiling the testimonies of the victims.

Thanks to a second stipend from the Rathlyn Foundation, Navarrete was able to travel in the fall to Washington, D.C., to meet a second objective: filing a petition before the Inter-American Commission to ask it to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live, and receive treatment, in the community.

Navarrete was also tasked with ensuring consistency between the Spanish and English versions for the filing.

The legal battle is still ongoing, but Navarrete is proud that his internship led to significant contributions in a major international human rights case. “It was an enriching and stimulating experience,” he says. “I participated in my first case, working alongside passionate, experienced advocates.”

This year, as a fourth-year undergraduate, with help once again from the Foundation, Navarrete coordinated a four-part seminar series on Disability, Human Rights and the Law. In March, he moderated the final seminar on autonomy and security in the context of independent living.

“I participated in my first case, working alongside passionate, experienced advocates.”

– Iñaki Navarrete

Speaking the Language of Human Rights

I participated in my first case, working alongside passionate, experienced advocates.

– Iñaki Navarrete
Space Security Through the Rule of Law and Sustainable Space Development

Global space security ought to be achieved through the rule of law that ensures that all actors play according to agreed upon rules so that space benefits are developed and reaped in a peaceful manner, and one that provides mutual benefits for all users.

– From the Mission Statement: The Erin J.C. Arsenault Space Law Project
Outer space is not the first place that comes to mind when we think of international law; but the proper governance of space, whether for military or commercial purposes, is legal territory that’s more vital today than it’s ever been.

Our e-mail, phone calls, bank transactions and GPS technologies depend more and more on satellites that every year become more prevalent as they become less expensive to operate. As the capability for humankind to carry out activity in space grows, and the world’s reliance on space systems increases, measures that enhance stability – like providing notifications of vehicle launches, or warning of risks of collisions between space objects – will become vital.

Every decade, new technology emerges that will involve global negotiations framed by treaties that few members of the public know even exist. According to Simonetta Di Pippo (Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Vienna, Austria), “We are on the verge of a new and very productive new space age. Actually, there are many indications that we are at the new launching point for innovative new space technologies and applications. If we manage to do this correctly, this could be an opportunity to greatly broaden the possibilities for the people of planet Earth to utilize, on a sustainable basis, the great bounty of space that beckons us.”

McGill Law has been a world hub of legal scholarship in Air and Space Law since 1951, when the Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) was founded to provide graduate legal education to students from around the globe. For 40 years it has published the Annals of Space and Law (ASL), a compendium of international research, while its own leading-edge research is among the most frequently cited in the field.

In recent years, the IASL has influenced policy on space development, security and governance while continuing to guide international interdisciplinary studies. The Institute has also created rich and productive networks for international exchanges on governance. “None of its accomplishments would have been made possible without the continuous support and funding of the Erin J.C. Arsenault Foundation,” says the IASL’s Director, Professor Ram S. Jakhu.

In 2007, with a $1-million commitment from the Erin J.C. Arsenault fund, the IASL launched its project to provide an interdisciplinary opportunity to foster community outreach, teaching, research, student experiences and public policy dialogue at McGill University, “examining the use of space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all.” In 2011, with a further pledge of $3.3 million, the fund’s activity was extended into 2020 to continue supporting work on space security through the rule of law and sustainable space development.

The support from the Arsenault Fund includes funding for the Arsenault Fellowships, which are intended for graduate students engaged in research on the pursuit of peace and security in outer space through law, policy and global governance.

Recent projects undertaken by the IASL have addressed issues such as Peaceful and Military Uses of Outer Space; Assessment of Outer Space Security; Mining for Natural Resources and Managing Space Debris. The IASL is the regular host of prestigious international conferences like the Space Security Workshop and the Manfred Lachs International Conference on Global Space Governance. This spring in Washington, D.C., the IASL team won the North American round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition.

Thanks to the support of the Arsenault Fund, the Institute will continue to seed a large and prestigious network of alumni working in the public and private sectors around the globe, and offer students the best graduate education in Air and Space Law available anywhere.
### STUDENT BODY

- **BCL/LLB students**: 722
- **LLM students**: 30
- **DCL students**: 94
- **Students in clinical programs placed**: 33
- **Mooters (undergrad)**: 36
- **Mooters (grad)**: 24
- **Clubs**: 5
- **Student-run publications**: 63
- **Outgoing exchanges in 16 countries**: 58
- **Ad hoc human rights internships**: 11
- **Clerks in 10 courts and tribunals**: 1

### THE FACULTY

- **Hours of continuing legal education at the Faculty in 2015-2016**: 145
- **Faculty members (24 women, 27 men)**: 51
- **Research groups, centres and institutes**: 10
- **Research chairs**: 15
- **Courses offered in 2015-2016**: 113
- **Faculty members promoted to full professor in 2014-2015**: 7
- **Faculty members promoted to associate professor**: 2
- **Publications in 2014**: 256
- **Edited collections**: 18
- **Authored books**: 11
Social Media Membership

- Twitter: 3,573 candidats à l’admission
- Facebook: 2,704 étudiants admis
- LinkedIn: 2,102

International Distribution of Graduates

- Canadiens: 79%
- Canadiens des autres provinces et des territoires: 13%
- Étudiants internationaux: 8%

Admissions

- Étudiants du CÉGEP: 17%
- Étudiants internationaux: 4%
- Québécois: 61%
- Canadiens des autres provinces et des territoires: 35%

Language maternelle

- Anglaise: 50%
- Française: 32%
- Autre: 18%

Global Reach

- 1,347 candidats à l’admission
- 187 étudiants admis
- 17% étudiants du CÉGEP
- 25% ont fait des études supérieures
- 24 ans: âge moyen des étudiants de 1re année
- $569,272 in annual fund donations in 2015
- 8,427 alumni around the world
- 112 countries, from Andorra to Zimbabwe

Organized human rights internships
- 35% 32%
- 4% 18%
- 79% 13%
- 8% USA

112 countries, from Andorra to Zimbabwe
O’Brien Fellowships
Bringing New Perspectives
Created in 2006, a year after the establishment of the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, the O’Brien Fellowships have been a pivotal element of the Centre’s activities. O’Brien Graduate Fellowships have allowed talented students from Bangladesh, Eritrea, Panama, Iran, and many other countries to study at McGill and engage with cutting-edge human rights themes.

In 2011, David O’Brien, BCL ’65, extended his already substantial generosity to the Faculty to create a second program: The O’Brien Fellows in Residence. This program provides opportunities for human rights professionals to visit and contribute to the Centre, broadening the understanding of pivotal human rights issues.

The residencies also serve as a professional development opportunity for the Fellows. Says recent visiting Fellow Justice Johann van der Westhuizen, a co-drafter of the South African post-apartheid constitution: “My time at McGill was, quite simply, one of the highlights of my professional and academic year. Perhaps it was the highlight.”

This year a Fellowship Forum allowed visiting Fellows to present their projects and meet with past Fellows, as part of what founding director of the Centre, René Provost, described as “an extended 10th anniversary.”

The event epitomized a program that Provost describes as an intergenerational “constellation,” bringing together theory and practice, international and domestic human rights issues, in the hope of examining and eliminating barriers to progress.

Presenters included South African Fellow Ebeneezer Durojaye, who painted a fascinating picture of a country still struggling with the application of one of the newest, and in many ways most progressive, constitutions in the world. Michelle Farell, director of the International Law and Human Rights Unit at the University of Liverpool, provoked reflection on the definition of torture with a case from Northern Ireland still being argued 40 years after the events took place. Syrian human rights and justice specialist Sarwat Dalal Bashi gave a sobering history and analysis of the war crimes the current Syrian regime is accused of perpetrating.

“The two O’Brien Programs have become an important conduit for bringing new expertise and new knowledge on global human rights challenges to the Faculty of Law,” says Director of Human Rights Programs Nandini Ramanujam. “The Fellows, through their active engagement, make rich contributions to the teaching, research and community outreach agendas of the Centre, the Faculty, and to McGill University.”

The O’Brien Programs have become an important conduit bringing new expertise and new knowledge on global human rights challenges to the Faculty.

– Nandini Ramanujam, Director of Human Rights Programs
The lobby of New Chancellor Day Hall has always been a space where education has flowed along with the flow of life. In this technology-driven age, when more and more learning and research are done in isolation, meaningful architectural spaces that support frequent, physical and spontaneous interaction feel more necessary than ever.

Thanks to a Seeds of Change crowdfunding campaign launched in 2015, one that easily exceeded its goal of $100,000 by the spring of 2016, this essential learning place will be renovated. The refurbished lobby will serve to honour one of McGill’s most iconic, influential and loved educators, Professor Roderick A. Macdonald. For the countless Law alumni and faculty who recall Macdonald as an exceptional educator, a ceaseless innovator, and a fierce defender of an inclusive, egalitarian vision of Canada, the new name could not be more fitting.

Professor Alana Klein remembers the kind of conversations that inevitably continued into the lobby after a class with Macdonald was finished: “These were big, gesturing, risky, bold discussions where something real was at stake, but where I was free to change my view all the time. I still feel the reverberations of these discussions, which follow me wherever I go, pouring in and out of the doors and windows of Chancellor Day Hall.”

Professor Hoi Kong remembers how Macdonald would often say that teaching and learning law was “a way of being alive.” It was in this lobby, Kong believes, “that Rod taught some of his most profound lessons.”

This project, and the generosity of over 150 donors who have made it possible, will ensure that his memory continues to serve as an inspiration for future generations of students, graduates and members of the University community.

“

The best way to achieve a harmonious and peaceful society is to recognize that people have within themselves the capacity to do what is appropriate under the circumstances, and that the law should be designed to facilitate their agency, and not to control them.

– Roderick A. Macdonald

”
Johanne Poirier, première titulaire de la Chaire Peter MacKell sur le fédéralisme, sait à quel point les autres pays tiennent en haute estime la constitution canadienne.

Titulaire d’un doctorat de l’Université de Cambridge, Mme Poirier a enseigné le droit comparé, le droit constitutionnel comparé et le fédéralisme comparé, et est intervenue comme experte en la matière dans de nombreux pays sortant d’un conflit. Éminente spécialiste du droit public et du droit constitutionnel, elle a codirigé le Centre de droit public de l’Université libre de Bruxelles de 2008 à 2012.

« Depuis 20 ans, les Canadiens sont d’importants exportateurs de notre expertise constitutionnelle », déclare-t-elle relativement au grand respect à l’égard de notre constitution.

Cependant, en tant que Montréalaise ayant étudié à l’Université McGill pendant les négociations constitutionnelles du lac Meech à la fin des années 1980, elle sait qu’il existe une certaine « fatigue constitutionnelle » au Canada à l’égard de notre document constitutif. Elle est bien au fait de la croyance répandue voulant que relancer le débat public sur notre propre constitution, comme certains le préconisent, serait un exercice fastidieux et sèmerait également la discorde sociale.

Cependant, à titre de titulaire de la Chaire Peter MacKell, elle aborde la question sous un autre angle.

Mme Poirier croit que le message selon lequel toute réforme constitutionnelle est inaccessible est un message négatif à transmettre aux étudiants et qu’il est également « antidémocratique » à une époque où il est clairement nécessaire d’établir un dialogue avec les peuples autochtones, les minorités linguistiques et les nouveaux arrivants au Québec et au Canada qui se sentent marginalisés.

« Je veux suggérer aux étudiants qu’au-delà de l’interprétation de la constitution faite par des juges, il est également possible de la voir comme un outil servant à exprimer une conception dynamique de l’État. » Elle souhaite que les étudiants acquièrent une confiance en leur capacité d’apporter un changement positif.

« Je ne prétends pas que cela sera facile ou même possible à court terme, mais ce n’est pas une raison pour éviter les débats, les conversations ou les études comparatives en design constitutionnel. »

La Chaire a pu être créée grâce au legs de 3 millions de dollars de Peter MacKell (BA’48, BCL’51), diplômé en droit et ancien membre du Comité consultatif de la Faculté, qui a compris que la constitution canadienne représentait une source d’enseignement pour le monde.
Son titulaire jouera un rôle dans les programmes de recherche de la Faculté relativement à tous les aspects du fédéralisme, et de façon plus générale, à la place du fédéralisme en tant que mode de structuration sociale pour l’ordre juridique mondial.

Mme Poirier travaillera aux côtés de Mark Walters qui est devenu, en août 2016, le nouveau titulaire de la Chaire F.R. Scott en droit constitutionnel, position auparavant occupée par le regretté Roderick Macdonald, qui a étudié tout au long de sa carrière le fédéralisme dans un contexte de diversité sociale (voir l’article à la page 15). Les deux titulaires puiseront dans le legs de M. Macdonald et y contribueront.

Mme Poirier voit également sa nomination comme une occasion d’introduire l’expertise et l’expériences d’autres nations au Canada : « L’un des projets auxquels je songe pour le 150e anniversaire de la Confédération vise à inviter des constitutionnalistes étrangers à s’interroger sur les façons de moderniser la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 ». 

Un autre projet qui lui tient à cœur sera le concours de rédaction juridique, rendu possible grâce au généreux soutien de Rachel Baxter (BSc’84, BCL’88) et de Colin Baxter (BCL’90, LLB’90). Le Concours de la Famille Baxter sur le fédéralisme invitera les participants à proposer des idées novatrices sur les institutions qui facilitent – ou entravent – la coexistence pacifique de différents groupes.

Par ces initiatives et cette Chaire, Johanne Poirier espère faire de l’Université McGill un endroit qui favorise une « pensée constitutionnelle » où les débats sur la constitution ne sont pas seulement possibles, mais également bienvenus, intégrateurs et prolifiques, tant à la Faculté qu’ailleurs.

“Au-delà de l’interprétation de la constitution faite par des juges, il est également possible de la voir comme un outil servant à exprimer une conception dynamique de l’État.”

-Johanne Poirier, première titulaire de la Chaire Peter MacKell sur le fédéralisme
McGill Law is in the House

Lors de la dernière élection fédérale canadienne, 15 diplômés de l’Université McGill se sont présentés comme député. Plus de la moitié – huit – ont été élus. Les McGillois ont de quoi être fiers. Et la nomination de Catherine McKenna (LLB’99) au poste de ministe de l’Environnement et du Changement climatique, un poste qui gagne en importance, a été un événement particulièrement inspirant pour les étudiants de McGill.

Michelle Lahey, BCL/LLB’17, is a coordinator of Women in House, a McGill program based in the Faculty of Arts that encourages women students to consider careers in politics and government. Lahey says "being given such a high profile position, immediately on her election, speaks to her background and the trust that the government has in her. Law, like politics, is a male-dominated profession and I think it’s wonderful to see that we have women that are not only in law, but taking non-traditional routes with their degrees.”

Catherine McKenna apportait déjà sa contribution bien avant les élections. En 2005, elle a cofondé Égaliser (anciennement Avocats canadiens à l’étranger), un organisme de bienfaisance qui aide les étudiants en droit canadiens et les cabinets d’avocats à accomplir du travail juridique bénévole dans les pays en développement.

“The best of McGill Law,” says McKenna, “is that Canadian lawyers are uniquely placed to make a difference in the world. We have common law. We have civil law. We have English. We have French. We come from a variety of backgrounds. We can work in partnership with organizations and governments that need assistance.”

Though she has travelled far and accomplished much before and since her election, McKenna says McGill is never far away. “It’s amazing how different people from McGill Law have come back into my life and career.”

**McGILL LAW GRADS IN CANADA’S 42ND PARLIAMENT**
- Catherine McKenna (LLB’99)
- David Lametti, BCL’89/LLB’89 (LPC; LaSalle–Émard–Verdun, QC), former Associate Dean (Academic) of Faculty
- Will Amos, BCL/LLB’04 (LPC; Pontiac, QC)
- Anthony Housefather, BCL ’93, LLB’93 (LPC; Mont-Royal, QC)
- Joël Lightbound, BCL/LLB’11 (LPC; Louis-Hébert, QC)
- Marc Miller, BCL/LLB’01 (LPC; Ville-Marie–Le Sud Ouest–Île-des-Soeurs, QC)
- Nick Whalen, LLB’01 (LPC; St. John’s East, NL)
- Thomas Mulcair, BCL/LLB’77 (NDP; Outremont, QC), NDP leader
Professor Robert Leckey began a five-year term as dean of the Faculty starting July 1, 2016. "I'm humbled and honoured to have this opportunity for service – and, frankly, overwhelmed by the many gestures of support and good will," he says. "The Faculty is thriving and I look forward to building on its record of achievement locally, nationally, and internationally."

Professor Leckey joined the Faculty of Law in 2006, and is currently a full professor and a William Dawson Scholar. He does research and teaches in the areas of constitutional law and family law, using a bilingual and transsystemic approach. He has received the McGill Law Students' Association's John W. Durnford Teaching Excellence Award (2009) and the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching (2010).

Diplômé de l'Université de Toronto (SJD'06), de l'Université McGill (BCL/LLB'02) et de l'Université Queen's (BAH'97), le professeur Leckey s'est distingué par son leadership tant à McGill qu'ailleurs au Canada. Il a été directeur du Centre Paul-André Crépeau de droit privé et comparé de 2014 à 2016. Il a également présidé le Comité des appels de l'Université ainsi que le McGill Equity Subcommittee on Queer People. De 2011 à 2015, il a servi à titre de président d'Égale Canada, un organisme national de défense des droits des personnes gai, lesbiennes, bisexuelles et transgenres ; il en avait auparavant présidé le Comité des affaires juridiques. De 2010 à 2011, il a été directeur de la recherche de la Commission d'enquête sur le processus de nomination des juges du Québec.

"Be it in your hometown or on campus, I hope to see you soon to share with you my energy and vision for our Faculty's future," the new dean adds.
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.