

## Aboriginal Law Section Report 2011-2012

The following highlights the CPDs and events held in 2011-2012. Once again, the organizers and participants made this year a successful one.

1. October 18, 2011: Wine and Cheese with the new Chairperson of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

Jointly with the Alternative Dispute Resolution, attendees met with Shirish Chotalia as part of her on-going consultations with lawyers across Canada on a new interest-based mediation project that the Tribunal has instituted.

2. January 20, 2012: MBA Mid-Winter Conference - Due Diligence and First Nations Business Developments

Attendees heard from Ned Brown (Pitblado LLP) and Brad Regehr (D'Arcy & Deacon LLP) on economic development activities and the due diligence required when doing business with First Nations.

3. April 26, 2012: Aboriginal Law Students Reception

The annual reception for aboriginal law students was hosted by Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP and attended by approximately one dozen students and one dozen lawyers. This was purely a networking opportunity for students hosted by the Section and there was no formal agenda. The Manitoba Aboriginal Law Students Association was instrumental in promoting the event to its student members and this year, the event was also attended by a couple of incoming students who will be starting their first year at Robson Hall in September. It was wonderful to be able to include them.

4. May 23, 2012: CPD - Case Law Update - Taxation of Income - *Canada v. Robertson and Ballantyne v. Canada*

In a joint meeting with the Tax Law Section, attendees heard from Norman Boudreau (Booth Dennehy LLP) and Ivan Holloway (D'Arcy & Deacon LLP), on two recent Federal Court of Appeal decision related to the taxation of fishing income of status Indians here in Manitoba.

5. June 1, 2012: CPD - Jurisdictional Issues

In a joint meeting with the Labour Law Section and the Constitutional Law/Human Rights Section, attendees heard from Mark Toews (Deeley Fabbri Sellen Law Corporation) and Michael Connor (Manitoba Justice - Constitutional Law Branch), on jurisdictional issues over labour relations in the First Nations context, including the recent SCC cases of *Nil/Tu,o Child and Family Services Society v. B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union* and *Native Child & Family Services of Toronto v. C.E.P.* and their application in Manitoba.

6. Upcoming: June 14-15, 2012: National CBA Aboriginal Law Conference

This year's conference will be held in Saskatoon on the topic of Aboriginal Peoples and Natural Resources. While not technically an MBA event, it is worth noting the Manitoba Section representation at this event: Aimée Craft (moderator and National Chair), Brad Regehr (moderator and National Past-Chair), Bob Adkins (speaker), Allison Fenske (moderator and Conference Co-Chair).

7. Upcoming: Section Planning Meeting: TBD

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Fenske, Chair