

Aboriginal Law Section Report 2017-2018

Here is a brief summary of the MBA Aboriginal Law Section events this year:

November 1, 2017: Meeting of the Executive

Michael Jerch, Valerie Matthews-Lemieux, Kelly Olson and Jared Wheeler met in person to discuss our proposed activities during the year, including a Turtle Lodge Event, a student and practitioner mixer, and potential panels.

November 14, 2017: Student and Practitioner Mixer

An event was held from 6pm-8pm at Jerch Law with MILSA Students. Approximately 15 students and 10 practitioners were in attendance.

April 9, 2017: Joint Aboriginal Law and Environmental Law Section CPD

Approximately 24 individuals registered and attended (either by phone or in person) a session on "A Conversation on the Proposed Changes to the Federal Environmental Decision-Making Process and their Relationship with Indigenous Law". The speakers included Elder Florence Paynter, Byron Williams and Susan Winger (rep from CEAA).

Planning of an Indigenous Law CPD

On behalf of the MBA Aboriginal Law Section, we have been jointly planning a session at Turtle Lodge which will be held in September 2018 on Indigenous legal traditions. The event will be held in ceremony and led by Elders and law students from Robson Hall.

While the MBA Aboriginal Law Section may not have held as many events as other sections this year, we believe the Section has taken importance steps in moving the conversation forward relating to the importance of Indigenous Legal Traditions and in implementing the TRC Calls to Action. The planning of the Indigenous Law CPD which I am doing in my capacity as co-chair of MBA Aboriginal Law Section has required (and will continue to require) a big investment of time. This work will implement TRC Calls to Action by assisting lawyers in getting training in Indigenous laws, bridging gaps between Indigenous law students and the Manitoba Bar, and providing leadership opportunities to Robson Hall students. It will be an important opportunity for mutual learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as the MBA Aboriginal Law Section Co-Chair.

Submitted by,

Joëlle Pastora Sala, Co-Chair, MBA Aboriginal Law Section