About the PLSNP

The PLSNP is an eight-week summer course that prepares Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) students for success in their first year of law school. Students develop legal reading, legal writing, and legal analysis skills in the context of an intensive Property Law course.

The PLSNP provides legal writing workshops, mentorship, and a supportive and collaborative classroom experience. The PLSNP also offers a culturally relevant curriculum: a Customary Law component gives the students access to Elders and traditional ceremonies, and both the Aboriginal and Personal Property Law classes emphasize Aboriginal legal issues.

The PLSNP has prepared over 1000 students for law school since it began 40 years ago. Graduates have gone on to be successful lawyers, judges, educators, politicians, and policy experts.

PLSNP Alumni Achievements

Dianne Corbiere

Dianne is from the M’Chigeeng First Nation in Ontario and is currently a partner with Nahwegahbow, Corbiere law firm. A PLSNP student in 1993, Dianne was called to the bar in 1998. In 2012, Dianne was named one of Canada’s Top 25 Most Influential in the Justice System and Legal Profession in the Changemaker category by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

“In being humbled with this recognition, it does remind me that PLSNP continues to serve as a vital connection with my current success. I have gained a powerful and significant network – both student and faculty – that continues to serve my career growth even today.”

Jamie Hammersmith

Jamie is a Cree-Métis lawyer from Prince Albert, SK, with roots in Île-à-la-Crosse, SK, where his Cree family is from. He attended the PLSNP in 2003 and finished law school in 2006. Jamie is currently a lawyer with Maurice Law, where he is proud of his work on behalf of over 40 Indian Residential School survivors, which he calls “a humbling and rewarding experience.”

“The PLSNP was an indispensable part of my legal education because it combined traditional aboriginal culture with Canadian legal principles. Indigenous lawyers and legal scholars must balance these two ways of thinking in order to thrive and succeed.”

Sarah Arngna’naaq

Sarah is originally from Baker Lake, NU. She attended the PLSNP in 2009 and studied law at the University of Victoria. She has worked for Public Prosecutions in Yellowknife; the Nunavut Department of Justice, Legislation Division in Iqaluit; and the Waitangi Tribunal in New Zealand. Sarah is currently completing her articles at the Department of Justice in Yellowknife.

“The PLSNP provided skills and knowledge invaluable in law school and beyond. The Program was more intensive than law school and that showed me that I really could make it through the next three years. Best of all, PLSNP gave me some of my best friends today.”

About the Aboriginal Framework