

Dr. Lori Chambers



Lakehead University Research Chair in Gender, Law and Equity

Women's Studies

Start Date: April 2008

Website: <http://womensstudies.lakeheadu.ca/?display=page&pageid=4>

Key Words Describing Areas of Research

Women; law; children; poverty; family

Gender, Law and Equity

My research program is interdisciplinary and diverse, but it is united by a focus on gender, law and equity in a variety of contexts. I am deeply interested in connections between human rights law, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and lived experience. I work from an historical perspective, but my research is also directly applicable to questions of policy and legislative interpretation. I envision law from a broad perspective; questions of law are questions of culture and political choice. In this context, although the multiple projects in which I am involved derive from disciplines outside law, they are nonetheless united by a concern with working to improve, the policy decisions that give meaning to women's human rights, in particular the rights to property, health and access to the necessities of life. Much of my research documents the struggles of impoverished women; we know that poverty is the first determinant of health. Eliminating the poverty of women - and their children- is an essential priority for social change. In diverse ways, my research asks how this goal can be accomplished. My research is innovative and ground-breaking, bridging what is too often a divide between historical understanding and law and policy making.