



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

BORA LASKIN
Faculty of
Law

Welcome to the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

EXCEPTIONAL.
UNCONVENTIONAL.

law.lakeheadu.ca



Local artist Jessica (Robinson) Mamakeesick is an Oji-Cree woman with roots in Sandy Lake and Keewaywin, Ontario. The artwork featured above, titled “Inner Strength”, is a visual interpretation of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law’s commitment to reconciliation, access to justice, and a healthy and prosperous environment. The feather is in the shape of Nanaboozhoo (The Sleeping Giant) and represents strength, wisdom, trust, honour, and the connection to the Creator. The circle shape is important to Indigenous cultures and speaks to continuity, community, balance, and unity. The floral and berry designs represent life’s abundance, survival, healing, and vitality; a reminder of the connection to land, to sky above, and to waters below.



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Greetings! Boozhoo! Aaniin!

Located on the breathtaking shores of Lake Superior in Northwestern Ontario, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is no ordinary law school.

Established in 2013 as the first law school to introduce the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC), the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law has a proven track record of producing practice-ready graduates. The journey from law student to lawyer requires a new way of thinking, analyzing and problem solving. With an incoming class of only 90 students, we are able to provide an intimate and personalized legal education that allows our students to thrive. Our distinguished faculty members and invested local practitioners are committed to guiding our students along their Juris Doctor (JD) journey.

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is committed to making a difference, providing access to justice and leading the way for northern communities. Along with core law subjects, our students engage in the areas of Indigenous and Aboriginal Law, Natural Resources



and Environmental Law, and Sole/ Small Town Practice.

We believe the best learning comes from a fusion of theory and practice. The IPC integrates the theory of law with practical skills from day one; students complete skills based exercises throughout all three years of their coursework. By the time our students graduate, they will have drafted legal memorandums, opinion letters and contracts; they will have interviewed clients, conducted sentencing submissions and bail hearings, conducted a full civil

trial and engaged in a multi-party negotiation. In their third year, they put those skills to use in a four-month Practice Placement where they hone their legal acumen under the supervision of a practicing lawyer.

When we say our graduates are practice-ready, we aren't joking! Upon graduation, our students will have met the Law Society of Ontario's experiential training requirement; they do not need to article, and are eligible to write the Ontario bar admission exams and become licensed to practice.



The Lakehead Advantage

Why Choose the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law?



Graduate with advanced legal skills from our Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC) that will prepare you for the practice of law

With a focus on small firm practice, we support our students to become thoughtful and effective lawyers in all legal environments. Skill development exercises are incorporated into all three years of the JD program, capped by a four month Practice Placement in third year. Our students are experiencing success on Bay St., clerking for all levels of court in Canada, and working in smaller firms, government offices, legal aid clinics and non-profit organizations across Ontario.

Specialize in Indigenous and Aboriginal Law

All students have an opportunity to specialize in Indigenous and Aboriginal Law. The specialization is designed to provide students with the concentrated knowledge and skills necessary to understand Indigenous peoples' beliefs, cultures, histories and governance practices, as well as the sets of laws and legislation that govern Indigenous people's lives. In addition to the three mandatory Aboriginal and Indigenous Law courses, students must complete 1.0 FCE from a list of approved electives in order to obtain this designation.

Learn from outstanding and committed professors while attending class in a welcoming environment

Our law school is located in a beautiful, historic building overlooking Lake Superior. Thunder Bay is the hub of northwestern Ontario and a great city to live, play and learn. Our class sizes are small and professors and staff know you by name and genuinely care about your success. We take great pride in fostering a warm and welcoming atmosphere that is conducive to a rich learning experience.



A Unique Approach to Legal Education

INTEGRATED PRACTICE CURRICULUM (IPC)

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's innovative IPC model of legal education fuses the theory of law with the practice of law. Students not only develop substantive legal knowledge, but also learn the necessary practical legal skills to use that legal knowledge effectively. IPC legal skills are taught progressively so that they build one upon the other, course by course, year by year.

The 3L 4-month **Practice Placement** component of the IPC places students in law firms and organizations across Ontario, allowing them the full experience of working as a law student in an area of law that interests them. Throughout their Practice Placement, students will be given the opportunity to develop and refine, in a practice setting, the relevant competencies and skills developed throughout the IPC law program in first and second year.

Students will have the option to article after graduation if they wish; however, upon the completion of the IPC and graduation from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, students are eligible to sit for the Ontario bar exams and be called to the bar without the need to article.

FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM (1L)

Mandatory courses:

- Foundations of Canadian Law
- Contract Law
- Criminal Law
- Torts
- Property Law
- Constitutional Law
- Legal Research and Writing
- Indigenous Law
- Indigenous Perspectives

UPPER YEAR CURRICULUM (2L & 3L)

Mandatory Courses:

- Aboriginal Law
- Professional Responsibility
- Civil Practice
- Business Organizations
- Administrative Law
- Evidence
- Wills & Estates
- Family Law
- Real Estate Law
- Practice Placement

Students can complement their mandatory courses with a broad range of elective courses that align with their interests, including clinical opportunities, moots, or completing a major research paper.

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law students complete IPC skills-based exercises in all mandatory courses. By the time they graduate, they will have:

- argued a bail hearing and a sentence hearing in Criminal Law
- negotiated and drafted a contract in Contract Law
- written a factum and completed oral arguments in Constitutional Law
- conducted a client interview and drafted a memorandum to file in Tort Law
- drafted a research memorandum in Legal Research and Writing
- completed a case brief in Foundations of Canadian Law
- participated in a sharing circle in Indigenous Law
- participated in a multi-party negotiation in Aboriginal Law
- drafted various litigation documents and completed an entire mock trial in Civil Practice
- drafted a will or power of attorney in Wills and Estates
- reviewed an agreement of purchase and sale in Real Estate Law
- participated in various files and skill development exercises, including file management, legal research, drafting and oral advocacy throughout Practice Placement



THE MINO-WAABANDAN INAAKONIGEWINAN INDIGENOUS LAW AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE & OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

The Institute was launched in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #50, which calls for the creation of Indigenous law institutes to support access to justice for Indigenous people and to revitalize Indigenous laws. The Institute works closely with our **Office of Indigenous Relations** to mentor, support and advise our Indigenous students and allies.

The Institute works with Indigenous communities and organizations by invitation to:

- identify, articulate and develop Indigenous laws, legal principles and systems;
- promote access to both Indigenous legal systems and the Canadian justice system by developing and delivering public legal education;
- develop and strengthen curriculum at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law by promoting land-based teaching practices and increased cultural competency; and
- produce academic research, including tools and publications, that supports the revitalization of Indigenous laws and access to justice.

LAND-BASED LEARNING AT THE BORA LASKIN FACULTY OF LAW

To revitalize Indigenous legal orders within the curriculum, the Faculty of Law provides educational opportunities that center the land and Indigenous pedagogies. Indigenous Perspectives is a mandatory 1L course that includes a three-day intensive Law Camp, Gaa-maadaa'ooniding (which means "the place where we share with another" in Anishinaabemowin). Gaa-maada'ooniding Law Camp is hosted on the traditional territory of Anemki Wajiw (Fort William First Nation). The specific site location and the programming is developed and delivered in collaboration with local Elders and Knowledge Holders working with the School of Indigenous Learning (SOIL). During Law Camp, students engage with Indigenous legal orders by participating in sharing circles, ceremony, and land-based practices such as harvesting and crafting. The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is the only law program in Canada with a mandatory land-based course requirement in the first year.

The Faculty of Law also supports and encourages students to participate in community land-based learning events. The Indigenous Law and Justice Institute team visits Anemki Wajiw's Sugar Bush annually as well as Anemki Wajiw's Hide Tanning Camp. Students are invited to participate



alongside the Institute team. Students have also been invited to Treaty #3 territory to visit the Kay-nah-chi-wah-nung Historical Centre and Rainy River First Nations to learn about the Manitou Burial Mounds sacred site, the history of Treaty #3, governance, economic development, and policing in the community, and cultural teachings and demonstrations.

These community land-based activities allow students to deepen their understanding of Indigenous legal orders and build strong reciprocal relationships with community.

Art shown above:
"Where the Heart Gathers"(2023),
designed by Neechee Studio - an
Indigenous youth art collective,
which serves to honour the
children who did not return home,
residential school survivors, and
to illustrate the ongoing journey of
healing and reconciliation.
This mural is housed in our
Indigenous Law Students
Association lounge.



Clinical Opportunities

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES (LUCLS)

Lakehead University Community Legal Services (LUCLS) is a partnership between Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Legal Aid Ontario. Supervised by on-site, full-time staff lawyers, law students provide free legal support to low-income residents across the District of Thunder Bay, advancing access to justice for vulnerable populations, Indigenous persons and individuals living with disabilities.

LUCLS' practice areas include:

- Minor Criminal Offences
- Serious Provincial Offences
- Tenant Rights
- Small Claims Court and Civil disputes under \$50,000
- Employment Law

Located within the law faculty building, LUCLS delivers essential clinical education and skills for law students interested in all areas of law. First-year students volunteer through community outreach, while upper-year student caseworkers gain practical experience managing files, interviewing clients, drafting legal documents, and advocating

before courts and tribunals for academic credit. LUCLS' clinical program qualifies toward a Specialization in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law (SAIL) and offers paid summer positions after first and second year.

THE NEWCOMER LEGAL CLINIC

The Newcomer Legal Clinic serves the legal needs of migrants, refugees, and newcomers in Northwestern Ontario. While immigration policies and economic development initiatives have encouraged newcomers to move to rural communities and small towns across Canada, limited legal services exist to meet their needs.

The Newcomer Legal Clinic provides students with the opportunity to work directly with clients facing the unique challenges of navigating immigration and refugee legal systems from northern and remote communities. Under the supervision of the Clinic's staff lawyer and Assistant Professor Jennifer Dagsvik, students gain practical experience supporting clients, preparing for hearings at immigration tribunals and Federal

Court, and doing research to support public interest litigation.

The Clinic also introduces students to community lawyering: working with clients and service providers to build community and offer legal support that considers the entire context in which a client's legal problems arise. Completing the Newcomer Legal Clinic course will prepare students to serve diverse communities throughout the North, or wherever their law practice takes them.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CLINIC

The Intellectual Property Clinic offers free legal services in the area of intellectual property law for clients in Thunder Bay or Simcoe County. Students work with and are supervised by a local practitioner and receive course credit. The IP Clinic works in partnership with Lakehead's Office of Innovation, Partnerships, and Economic Development



Our Vibrant Student Community

With a close-knit, collegial student body, we warmly welcome new students to our school community. Our students are diverse, driven and innovative. Whether it's student government, sports, or activism, there is something for everyone.

- Join our active chapters of the Indigenous, Black, Asian and Muslim Law Student Associations
- Pair up with an upper-year student through our Peer Mentorship Program
- Attend a Course Tutor session (facilitated group study) for your 1L courses
- Volunteer with Pro Bono Students Canada on a wide variety of access to justice projects in the region and beyond
- Try out for a Mooting team and compete in Canada-wide competitions, while also earning course credit

Get involved with our many student clubs like the Human Rights Law Club, Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, Women in Law or Sports Law... to name a few!

Learn more about our elected student representatives, the Law Students Society (LSS), by visiting lakeheadlss.com.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

Our graduates are securing positions across the province in private practice, government, and public interest organizations.

- 62%** secured associate positions directly after graduation
- 22%** chose to article after graduation
- 33%** are employed in Northern Ontario
- 33%** are employed in the Greater Toronto Area

WE ARE PROUD OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT OUR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS REPRESENT, INCLUDING

- Couchiching First Nation
- Credit River Métis Council
- Fort Albany First Nation
- Fort William First Nation
- Garden River First Nation
- Kebaowek First Nation-Kipawa
- Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek
- Konadaha Seneca First Nation
- Lac La Croix First Nation
- Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Matachewan First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Michipicoten First Nation
- Mishkeegogamang First Nation
- Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke
- Muskrat Dam Lake First Nation
- Oneida First Nation
- Rainy River First Nations
- Red Rock Indian Band
- Sachigo Lake First Nation
- Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation
- Sandy Lake First Nation
- Temagami First Nation
- Tyendinaga First Nation
- Upper Cayuga First Nation
- Waywayseecappo First Nation
- Whitesand First Nation
- Wiikwemkoong First Nation



Financing Your Education

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

Lakehead offers over \$11 million annually to students in the form of scholarships, bursaries and awards. Entrance scholarships are awarded to top academic achievers with a connection to our mandate. Students have access to the myAwards portal where they fill out a general application that automatically matches you with available opportunities.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (OSAP)

In Ontario, the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is in place to provide Canadian citizens and permanent residents who reside in Ontario with both grants (which don't need to be repaid) and loans (which must be repaid) to cover tuition, ancillary fees, and book costs, as well as living expenses. For more information on OSAP, please visit ontario.ca/osap.

For a complete list of all provincial and territorial student aid offices, you can visit the *Student Aid* section of the Government of Canada website.

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT LINE OF CREDIT

Many financial institutions offer a Line of Credit for students studying in professional programs such as law. Please contact your bank or credit union for more information on how to apply.

TUITION

The tuition for Law in 2027-28 will be set in May 2027. The cost for first year in 2026-27 was \$21,782.00 + \$2644.49.



Admissions

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law takes a holistic approach when considering admission to the three-year Juris Doctor (JD) program. This means there are no specific weights put on individual components of the application, nor are there minimum grade point average (GPA) or LSAT scores. Every piece of the application contributes to the bigger picture of who you are as an applicant.

We consider:

- **Academic Record**
Applicants submit all transcripts from any postsecondary institution they attended. While we use a cumulative GPA to help assess our candidates, we also review all transcripts. Competitive candidates are usually achieving a minimum of 75-80% average in their final two years.
- **Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Scores**
If you write the LSAT more than once, the highest test result will be used for admission. Lakehead does not set a minimum LSAT score requirement. The weight given to the LSAT varies depending on the fulfillment of other elements of the application.
- **Personal Statement**
The Personal Statement provides you with the opportunity to discuss your strengths, capabilities and achievements that distinguish you as a desirable applicant. You may wish to include information about what led you to apply to study law, your preparedness for the study of law and your interest in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.
- **Autobiographical sketch**
A detailed and comprehensive list of your activities since high school in the areas of employment, volunteer experiences, extracurricular, awards and other achievements.
- **Letters of reference**
You must provide at least 2 letters of reference, preferably academic. Carefully consider your referees. Referees should have extensive personal knowledge of you to make statements about your character, personal qualities, academic competencies, employment performance, volunteer contributions and other areas that may be of interest to the Admissions Committee.
- **Supporting documentation as required**

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law strives to recognize, support and foster diversity within its content, structure and people. We recognize that every applicant is unique and complex, and the Admissions Committee is looking for academically strong, well-rounded and diverse candidates to make up our next class. Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate a genuine interest in our mandate areas, especially those interested in serving smaller communities.

CURRENT 2L CLASS

- 7%** self-identified Indigenous
- 49%** identify as members of a racialized group
- 39%** are 25 years of age or older
- 29%** identify as living with a disability
- 42%** identify as first or second generation immigrants
- 93%** are the first in their family to attend law school

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit their application through the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS) which opens each year in mid-August. The deadline to apply is **November 1** for entry into the following September's class.

We typically make first round offers by early December and will continue to admit students into the spring until the class is full.





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Explore Thunder Bay and Anemki Wajiw (Fort William First Nation)

visitthunderbay.com

Located on the northwest shore of Lake Superior under the watchful gaze of Nanaboozhoo, or the Sleeping Giant, the city of Thunder Bay is built around the harbour of the largest inland port in Canada.

- Population of 110,000
- 1.5 hour flight from Toronto, served by Porter Airlines, Air Canada, and regional airlines
- 5 minute walk from campus to the historic Bay/Algoma district, the waterfront, and downtown north core with cafés, pubs & boutiques
- Vibrant local farmer's market open twice weekly
- 2 alpine ski, snowboarding and Nordic ski centres a 30 minute drive from campus; 7 area golf courses; over 34 km of paved recreational trails throughout the City
- Home to a professional symphony orchestra, theatre, art galleries, and many live music venues, including the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium
- A four-season outdoor paradise, Thunder Bay is rich in wide open green spaces, parks and wilderness, and is the gateway to outdoor adventure in Northwestern Ontario
- Growing scene of talented young people representing diverse professions and backgrounds. Small businesses and new innovations are constantly emerging with enthusiastic support from the community

Connect with Us - Visit, contact us or ask questions!

Our building is stunning, the city is friendly and we would love to meet you! We are happy to chat with you about any questions you have about our program, the school or the city.



Follow us on Instagram [@lakeheadlaw](https://www.instagram.com/lakeheadlaw) for regular updates on what's happening.



Friend us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/lakeheadlaw/

CONTACT INFORMATION

Anya Scheibmayr

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Admissions
Student Services Advisor

Phone: (807) 346-7862
Email: law@lakeheadu.ca
Web: law.lakeheadu.ca

