



[Civil Law Section](#)

Faculty Welcomes University of Washington Students for Symposium on Arctic Sovereignty

Thirteen students from the [Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies](#), University of Washington concluded their week of research in Ottawa at a symposium on Arctic Sovereignty on January 30, 2009 at the Faculty of Law.



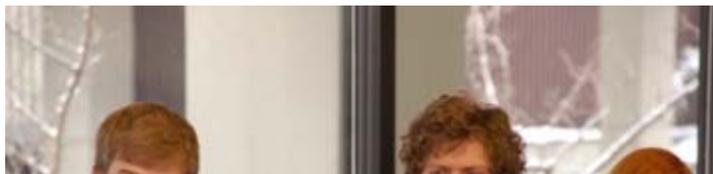
The students heard talks given by Emeritus Professor [Donat Pharand](#) (Civil Law), a marine law specialist; Prof. [Donald McRae](#), an expert in International Law; Prof. [Suzanne Lalonde](#), Université de Montréal; and Professors [Sophie Thériault](#) (Civil Law) and [Brad Morse](#), who discussed Aboriginal legal issues.

The students' visit to the National Capital region was a highlight for the "Task-force on Arctic Sovereignty." The Task Force is a required 5-credits course for the undergraduate degree. Students can pick one of the offered themes. The 13 members of the group will spend one semester studying Arctic sovereignty and submit a 200-page paper at the end of the course. Team-taught by Associate Director of the Canadian Studies Centre at the University of Washington, Professor Nadine Fabbi, and Professor Vincent Gallucci from the School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, the course is interdisciplinary in nature.



Prof. Fabbi, noted that the students undertook this course with little exposure to the subject area and knew little about Canada. Curiosity and an extraordinary motivation, however, enticed the students to prepare well for their Canadian visit. The students met federal representatives, diplomats from several northern countries including Russia, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, others from the European Union, and a number of officials from Inuit and Aboriginal organizations.

"We talked about responsible governance in the Arctic and we definitely have a focus on a more international cooperative framework," stated Marta Schwendeman. After hearing from different parties on the North-West passage, the



Beaufort Sea, and also the Canadian-American historic relations, Patrick Lennon noted, “Our view on the subject has totally changed.”

The paper that the students will produce will be evaluated by Prof. [Rob Huebert](#) from the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary.



Prof. Fabbi would like to repeat this experience again with the [University of the Arctic](#), a network of universities, colleges and other organizations that encourages research in the North. The course would be offered online and would also include a Canadian visit. “So for one week, the students would spend time doing the same thing but also with international students who would also be studying the same issue,” explained Prof. Fabbi. While ambitious in nature, the project would offer invaluable research opportunities as well as the chance to shed light on key Arctic issues.

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