

Indigenous, Social, and Legal Perspectives on Miyo Pimachihowin

speaker series, 2017-18

Water Management Laws in Saskatchewan and Their Implications on Land Control

Michelle Brass is an alumna from the College of Law of the University of Saskatchewan. She graduated in 1997 and received her call to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1998 after completing her articles with Saskatchewan Justice. Michelle later joined Justice Canada in Ottawa where she worked in the Legal Services Unit for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada (now call Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development). Upon retiring from Justice Canada, Michelle came home to Saskatchewan and joined the Water Security Agency. Michelle now practices law with Brass Law where she focuses on Aboriginal Law and Environmental Law as it relates to water. Michelle is from the Peepeekisis First Nation of the Treaty 4 Territory of Saskatchewan.

Friday December 1, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

**Location: The Native Law Centre, College of Law,
University of Saskatchewan**



This will be a brief discussion on Saskatchewan's management of water in the province, focusing primarily on the drainage of water and the impact that that activity has had in the province. For many years, farmers have drained water from their lands in order to increase their farmable land base. As well, Saskatchewan is currently in a 25-year wet cycle. These occurrences created a need to manage water more closely. Saskatchewan introduced new legislation in 1915 for water management under The Water Security Act.

Michelle will briefly outline three areas impacted by water management. One area for discussion is the concept of the ownership of the bed of navigable waters and the subsequent ownership of lands where water once flowed and has now been diverted away. Another area for discussion is on how water diversions legally impact neighbors' land, particularly lands that are under federal jurisdiction. Finally, Michelle will briefly discuss government's ability to enforce its new legislation that is meant to achieve an effective management of water. These are not listed in any particular prior and these are not the only issues that may relate to water management in the province. In fact, this is an area of law soaked with legal issues.



A UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN COLLABORATION:

Department of Indigenous Studies

Department of Sociology

Native Law Centre

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**Bannock and soup will be
served at 12:00 Noon**

All welcome | Free admission

For more information, visit us on facebook:
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