

D'Arcy Vermette, LL.D.

Faculty of Law

1. I would like to complete my work on the Manitoba Métis Treaty which was started in my doctoral research. This will, hopefully, culminate in publishing the manuscript as a book.

Resources needed:

I could use student research/editing assistance with this project.

2. Treaties as cultural havens. I want to look at treaties as being tools of cultural preservation rather than focusing on property rights. Land is obviously an issue for treaty discussions. So too are other rights to use land in a particular way (hunting, fishing, mobility). And, while some of these discussions focus on how those rights to use land preserve culture, the priority of cultural survival is often only incidental to the rights to use things. I would like to flip this discourse for the Métis, arguing that there is a clear indication, especially amongst the French communities, that cultural preservation was the primary purpose of entering into Treaty (or a treaty-like agreement) with the Federal government. I would also like to articulate how that change in focus can influence the interpretation of rights and obligations by the government and courts. I would hope to publish this as an article.

Resources needed:

This project would benefit from a research assistant who was familiar with historical and social science, as well as, legal research. Alternatively, several research assistants could be hired for this.

3. I would like to undertake a project articulating the historical and contemporary bounds of the "Métis Nation". How that idea could play into an analysis of historical interaction between Canada and the Métis peoples, and how that idea could play into modern negotiations for recognition of rights/self-government etc (treaties or treaty-like arrangements).

This is a topic of research. The scope is not planned. It is likely large enough to consume several articles.

Resources needed:

A student with historical research skills.