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Press release

The Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal is pleased to announce the creation of the *Observatoire national en matière de droits linguistiques* (National Observatory on Linguistic Rights), headed by Frédéric Bérard, PhD candidate and lecturer, and Stéphane Beaulac, full professor at the Faculty.

Invitation to inauguration

You are cordially invited to the inauguration of the *Observatoire national en matière de droits linguistiques* on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 4 PM at the Café Acquis de Droit, Maximilien-Caron Building, Faculty of Law, Université de Montréal.

The Honourable Michel Bastarache, who served as a judge on the Supreme Court of Canada from 1997 to 2008, and Jean-François Gaudreault-DesBiens, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal, will preside.

Mission and objectives

The mission of the Observatory is to promote access to information relating to language rights in both fundamental and dynamic terms. Devoted mainly to political and legal issues pertaining to official language minority rights in Canada, the Observatory is also interested in the evolution of diversity in Canada, particularly in relation to the realities faced by indigenous peoples. For obvious reasons, the linguistic situation in Quebec will also be analyzed.

Under the auspices of the Université de Montréal's *Centre de recherche en droit public* (CRDP), the Observatory has been mandated to collect and disseminate all information relating to the linguistic rights of groups subjected to new paradigms in this area. In addition to an exhaustive overview of pertinent legislation, jurisprudential decisions and doctrinal work, the Observatory will also be responsible for organizing various educational and scientific activities, including colloquia and seminars.

Members of the Observatory are actively engaged in traditional and social media, as well as in events relating to language issues outside traditional academic frameworks. Media monitoring, combined with a blog run by its co-directors and open to scholars, researchers, and correspondents, will optimize the quality of dialogue exchanged between the Observatory, the academic world and civil society.

Finally, special attention will be paid to international jurisdictions with specific linguistic sensibilities. In this vein, the Observatory will look at current academic contributions to the subject in Catalonia, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Morocco, French-speaking West Africa, Southern Africa, Russia and Peru, which will contribute to the international reputation of the Observatory's work and, in turn, to that of the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal.

About the Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal

The Faculty of Law of the Université de Montréal has some 60 professors, 1,300 students and nine research chairs. Its programs cover the full range of university studies in law and offers exceptional training in business law, international law and law governing e-commerce and information technology. The Faculty has recently added to its slate of offerings Juris Doctor (J.D.) in North American Common Law, unique to Québec and Canada.

<http://droit.umontreal.ca/en/>

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