



University
of Victoria



Indigenous Law and Hope— A Gendered Perspective

Val Napoleon

Thursday, September 19th

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

I often ask students and audiences to imagine the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls as legal agents, persons, and citizens operating within and through their surrounding power relations. I then ask whether and how this switch in perspectives influenced their understanding of the missing and murdered women and girls. I will examine how the Gitxsan legal tradition historically defined the legal personhood of women and girls, and how this has changed with colonization. This exploration will include individual and collective agency and liability, marriage and divorce, and governance – and finding historic legal resources for today’s gendered violence.

Val Napoleon is the Law Foundation Professor of Aboriginal Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria and a member of Salteau First Nation. Her current research focuses on Indigenous legal traditions, Indigenous feminism, citizenship, self-determination and governance.

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