



Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your admission to Robson Hall, the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law. On behalf of the Manitoba Law Students' Association (MLSA) executive team, we would like to take this opportunity to genuinely welcome all of you to law school and praise your journey thus far. We are excited to be returning to in-person learning and activities, with all of the community that brings.

We have some information and advice to share with you to help you get to know Robson Hall.

First, information regarding the MLSA. The MLSA is comprised of the executive team (President; Vice-President Internal; Vice-President External; Vice-President Finance) and various representatives of the Robson Hall community, such as representatives for each class, important voices (the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students' Association (MILSA), for example), and other external bodies. These student positions are elected by the student body each spring. The executive team also appoints groups of students to form committees that oversee and coordinate the various aspects of student life at Robson Hall, such as social events, accessibility, professional development, academics, clinical experience, and many more. The full list of our executive, elected representatives, committee members, and information about the MLSA generally can be found at [robsonmlsa.ca](http://robsonmlsa.ca). We encourage you to visit the website and familiarize yourselves with the structure of this student-run body, as it is largely responsible for creating community and enhancing the student experience at Robson Hall. We also encourage you to follow the Robson Hall Instagram page, [@umanitoba\\_law](https://www.instagram.com/umanitoba_law) which posts regularly about students, faculty, events, and other Robson Hall interests. The objectives of the MLSA are as follows:

- (a) Support the academic interests and performance of members;
- (b) Support the professional development of members;
- (c) Supporting the well-being of members; and
- (d) Achieve the effective self-governance and strong representation of interests necessary to achieve all MLSA objectives.

**The MLSA represents student interests, and we will always aim to do so.**

Second, as a student at the Faculty of Law, you are entitled to our student services, activities, advocacy, and voice. The MLSA holds monthly Council meetings that are open to the entire student body and regularly communicates important information through email and various Facebook groups. All student-wide information can be found on the "MLSA Robson Hall" Facebook page, which we highly encourage you to join.

Third, looking forward. As an incoming law student, this is an exciting time in your life, but we know that the great and the new comes with ebbs and flows. A combination of excitement, stress, and many other emotions is to be expected; we know because we've all experienced the beginning of law school. Even with the flux and adaptation we've all been through in recent times, our shared experience and resilience as law students new and old provides us with confidence that you will show tenacity and capability. Above all, the Robson Hall community of students, staff, faculty, practitioners, and more, want to see you succeed and will help you achieve your vision while making the experience as rewarding as possible during your time here. Within the uncertainty beginning your journey in law brings, there are aspects of Robson Hall that will remain consistent, such as those that follow:

- (1) Your classmates:** We have experienced law school virtually for two years, which means that students have had to make extra efforts to make friends and expand their social networks in a virtual environment. Everyone is excited about a return to in-person learning and activities, and finding your community will be as important as ever in enriching the law school experience in the way it is meant to be. For 1Ls, this will especially matter when forming bonds within your respective sections—lifetime friendships and supports are consistently made here. Not only will it provide social benefit but educational benefit as well when forming study groups, sharing outlines, and navigating new topics and experiences together.
  
- (2) Your professors:** The professors help make Robson Hall a special place. They are experienced and superior academics, teachers, listeners, and socialites. Speaking in class, visiting professors in their offices, and getting to know them will go a long way in enhancing the law school experience (and gaining a reference letter!). Nobody should leave Robson Hall without hearing stories from Professor Lord Irvine, something everyone in the Manitoba Bar will agree to.
  
- (3) Your building.** Robson Hall has been largely vacant the last two years, collecting cobwebs (quite literally in some areas). The return to in-person will be a new experience for all years—there are many students in their final year who have yet to step into the building, so the eventual bustling halls of Robson Hall will be a new shared experience for all. Committees have been encouraged to utilize the return to in-person when performing their duties, and the MLSA executive team, old and new, has invested in the improvement of Robson Hall by beginning the construction of a gender-neutral bathroom, beautifying the outdoor spaces, improving the basement areas, and utilizing unused spaces. We want the building to represent our goals of community, so we welcome you to fill the student spaces such as the Common Room and EK Williams Library with spirit.

Lastly, we would like to offer words on the law school experience. Law school is a privilege, and with that privilege comes the responsibility to improve the world around you and create a

positive impact. As stated, there will be many challenges—this is no secret to those who pursue this profession. Your preconceptions of the law will be challenged, your way of thinking and analyzing will change, and you will undoubtedly become better at reasoning your position through challenges to it.

However, throughout those challenges, you will make lifelong memories and friends, achieve accomplishments you hold dearly, and make inroads into your chosen career. Allow these to outweigh the challenges; be patient with yourself, and treat all involved with dignity and respect. As you will hear many times throughout your legal education, the Manitoba Bar is a close-knit one, so remain professional and courteous in your interactions while remaining true to yourself.

Take responsibility for your education and especially your health. Make use of the resources offered by the faculty and MLSA, and ask others for help—we all want to see success in students, and there are many resources to accommodate this. If you are uncertain about these resources or anything regarding your experience at Robson Hall, reach out to the MLSA or faculty, and we will all be more than happy to help.

Final advice on behalf of your MLSA executive team: you have made it this far because you have worked hard enough to make it here. Your class is made up of diverse and accomplished people. There are no impostors, and everyone in this class has earned their spot at Robson Hall.

Enjoy the rest of your summer; we look forward to providing you with what we hope is a fantastic introduction to law school at Orientation Week. Until then, take care.

Sincerely,

**Your 2022-2023 MLSA Executive**

President: Mikal Sokolowski

Vice-President Internal: Brayden Gray

Vice-President External: Ashley Bains

Vice-President Finance: Cody Dangerfield