

Department of
Politics

*(Dis)locations of
Democracy*
Seminar Series



**The Department of Politics
invites you to**

**The Rule of Law: Lessons of Legality from
Wet'suwet'en to Tyendinaga**

A talk by

Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark
Associate Professor
University of Victoria

Monday 9 March 2020
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Verney Room, South 674 Ross Bldg
York University

On Wednesday February 19th 2020, in response to questions about railway blockades in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asserted that "This is an important part of our democracy in Canada, but we're also a country of the rule of law and we need to make sure those laws are respected." Invoking the rule of law to challenge Wet'suwet'en political authority, Trudeau made it evidently clear that despite recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report, reconciliation would not entail a recognition of Indigenous law. Yet, the question remains whether Canada is held to the same standard to follow the rule of law, as extractive projects continue to skirt around Aboriginal title and rights jurisprudence and the duty to consult. This talk is centered on these longstanding conflicts, analyzing how, when, and for whom law is invoked and applied.

Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) is the Distinguished Visiting Indigenous Faculty Fellow at the Jackman Humanities Institute and an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Victoria. She is the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-led Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Director of the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nationhood.

Light refreshments will be served

