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BORDER BLUES

A VIRTUAL PANEL ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 BORDER CLOSURE



Laura Truesdell is the Assistant Director at International Student Services and Student Life at Carleton University. She oversees and supports a variety of international-focused portfolios on campus, including immigration advising and international student support. A Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and Professional Member of the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC), Laura also holds a Masters Degree in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies from the University of London International Programmes. Prior to joining Carleton University, Laura worked as an RCIC in law firms supporting a variety of immigration processes, including refugee claims and humanitarian applications.



Paul McKenzie-Jones is a settler Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Lethbridge and an external research affiliate with the Purai Global Indigenous and Diaspora Research Center of the University of Newcastle, Australia. His research and teaching interests focus on the critical intersections of Indigenous transnationalism and treaty rights. His current research project focuses on Indigenous intellectual and cultural 'erasure' of imposed settler-colonial borders and neoliberal globalization across the CANZUS states through transnational Indigenous environmental, cultural, and political, resistance, nation (re)building, and assertions of sovereignty and treaty rights.



Harmit Sarai is a lawyer at Heron Law Offices. She practices immigration, refugee and citizenship law. Harmit's practice includes pro bono work as a Board member of South Asian Legal Clinic of British Columbia (SALCBC), and a volunteer lawyer with Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAIHR). Harmit began her legal career as a corporate and commercial lawyer at a boutique business law firm in Vancouver. She received her JD degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2019 and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 2020. During law school, Harmit volunteered with the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), where she provided research support in the areas of constitutional and human rights law.

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