The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Remarks at the Opening Ceremony for Allard Hall

Faculty of Law, The University of British Columbia

September 23, 2011

It's a time of transformation from the old to the new. From the Curtis building to Allard Hall. Nothing stays the same too long. Everything is in constant transformation in fact, and today perhaps we're putting away Einstein's theory of the speed of light. It serves to remind us that there are some things that must remain the same.

This university, this Faculty, enjoys an international reputation which must be handed from generation to the next. It's not built on brick and stone but it's built on ideas. It's built with the energy and the intellect of those participants in this university and particularly in this law school.

We are standing on the shoulders of many great men and women who have come before us. The students here are challenged to maintain a high standard. Not only in personal conduct but as the guardians and defenders of our very democracy. Those cherished principles and freedoms that we saw fit to place into the highest law of the land -- our constitution.

We're in a new building, but as everything, someday even this will fade away. But that what we believe in, that what we stand for, that what we even give our lives for, can never change. In the new beginning where this Faculty and university have sought fit to set aside space for the development and growth of aboriginal concepts in law.

Place this gift in the Hall as a reminder of this new beginning but also my thanks for this wonderful notion and idea of aboriginal space in this amazing facility. I wrapped this myself at five o'clock this morning. These are elastic bands -- it's to remind you to be flexible yet organized. And it covers the seven points of our original aboriginal faith. The seven laws that I hope will be taught here in this school, because we have laws that go back centuries and we still believe in them today.