Module 4: Civil Law

Enduring Understanding

Civil laws are designed to protect the interests and concerns of individuals, groups, and levels of government. Civil laws must establish a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of society. Civil law is complex, as it attempts to resolve common disputes at the individual level. These considerations also apply to Indigenous land and treaty rights.

Learning Experiences

- 4.1 Define civil law and how it differentiates from criminal law, particularly in terms of purpose, structure, procedure, and resolution.
- 4.2 Assess the various elements involved in civil procedures, including parties involved in civil actions, stages in a civil action, class action lawsuits, and civil courts.
- 4.3 Describe various types of compensation, such as damages and injunctions, as well as alternative dispute resolution methods, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.
- 4.4 Examine Indigenous practices and case law regarding rights on reserves, land titles, and treaty lands, as well as property rights on reserves and civil actions against government, such as residential school compensation and treaty and land rights.
- 4.5 Analyze elements, examples, and defences of intentional and non-intentional torts, such as negligence, invasion of privacy, and defamation of character.
- 4.6 Explain the main elements of contracts, including the factors that can invalidate them, and the different types of contracts available, such as cell phone contracts, parking agreements, purchases, rent, warranties, and mortgages.

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