



Teresa Daw Student Internship **Extended Application Deadline**

Application Package **2025**

November 29, 2024

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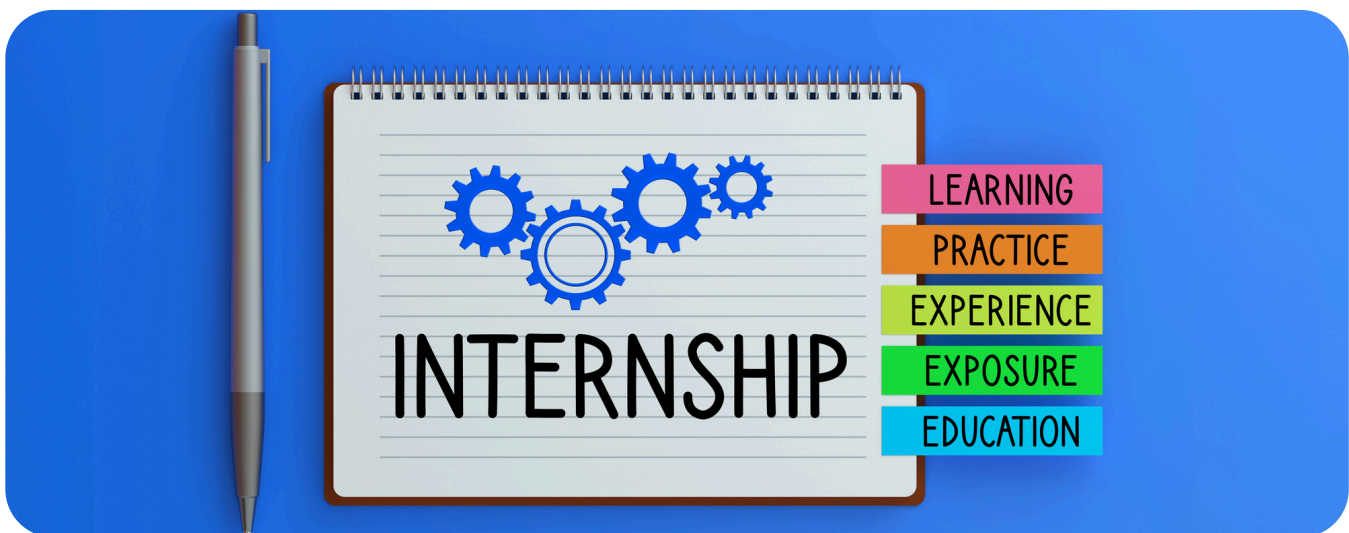
About ARCH's Teresa Daw Student Internship



ARCH Disability Law Centre is a specialty legal aid clinic that practices exclusively in disability rights law. The Board of Directors of ARCH is proud to announce the launch of the Teresa Daw Student Internship, made possible by the Teresa Daw Legacy Fund. This fund was generously bequeathed to ARCH by our past Board President, Teresa Daw.

The Teresa Daw Student Internship will create opportunities for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) law students to explore issues that directly affect their communities related to disability rights, by funding a two (2) month placement at ARCH Disability Law Centre. Learn more about the Internship below.

Purpose



The Teresa Daw Student Internship creates a biennial opportunity for one (1) Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) law student studying at a law school in Ontario to earn a paid two (2) month internship with ARCH Disability Law Centre. This internship seeks to support law students with the mentorship of ARCH and its diverse partners to explore and work through timely legal and disability related issues that are of utmost importance to the student and their Indigenous community.

Background

Indigenous persons with disabilities are disproportionately marginalized. The prevalence of disability within Indigenous communities is much higher than the national average in Canada.

In its first Concluding Observations of Canada's Report on its implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledged the extreme marginalization of Indigenous disability communities in Canada and the lack of access to social supports, employment, health services and education.

In 2017, ARCH struck a committee which is now called the Moving Together Toward Supporting Reconciliation Committee, consisting of ARCH Board members, and Indigenous community leaders. This Committee has been the driving force in the development of this Internship.

ARCH continues to support and participate in projects and outreach that advance reconciliation and build capacity with communities. ARCH was a proud partner of the award winning exhibit, "Into the Light: Eugenics and Education in Southern Ontario", which explored and examined the dark hidden histories of eugenics-based education and its devastating legacy on First Nations and persons with disabilities. ARCH also supported the recently launched online education platform called, "Into the Light: Living Histories of Oppression and Education in Ontario", which can be accessed using this link: <https://intothelight.ca/>

ARCH acknowledges that many Indigenous people understand disabilities as gifts and abilities.

ARCH is fully committed to listening to, building relationships and working with Indigenous communities on the journey to Reconciliation.

About Teresa Daw



Teresa Daw was a tireless and passionate leader and advocate. Among her many passions was the desire to create meaningful experiential learning opportunities for students from marginalized communities. Teresa was a fierce advocate and a strong ally of Indigenous communities across Ontario. Prior to her passing in 2018, Teresa Daw worked locally, nationally and internationally to advance social justice and inclusion for marginalized and under-represented groups for over thirty years. Highlights of Teresa's involvements include five years as Co-Chair of the Persons Living with disAbilities Committee of the Federal NDP where she was responsible for crafting the party's policy on the rights of persons with disabilities.

As a founding board member of the Mount Community Centre in Peterborough, Ontario, Teresa advocated for the development of accessible, inclusive and dignified housing. As a founding board member of the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network, Teresa initiated an outreach project to improve access to the Registered Disability Savings Plan and secured financial resources for an RDSP Endowment Fund to assist people with low incomes to contribute to their RDSPs. Teresa also managed and supported international relief and development projects, primarily in Africa. Teresa valued community development and education as needed agents for systemic change in achieving social justice for persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities. ARCH is so grateful for Teresa's unparalleled generosity and commitment to our work and to the many diverse communities that we serve.

About ARCH



ARCH is dedicated to defending and advancing the equality rights, entitlements, fundamental freedoms and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ontario. In order to carry out its mandate, ARCH provides a range of legal services directly to persons with disabilities in Ontario.

ARCH represents persons with disabilities and disability organizations in precedent setting cases at various provincial and federal tribunals and courts, including: the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario; the Canadian Human Rights Commission; the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal; the Canadian Transportation Agency; the Superior Court of Justice; the Court of Appeal for Ontario; the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal; and the Supreme Court of Canada. ARCH also provides free confidential summary legal advice, and a range of other legal services, directly to persons with disabilities in select areas of law across Ontario.

ARCH has an extensive law reform practice, working on a variety of initiatives related to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. ARCH provides public legal education to disability communities, and conducts community development projects to support our law reform work. ARCH has extensive experience in providing experiential learning opportunities for law students within a disability rights legal practice. ARCH and Osgoode Hall Law School pioneered the innovative and first of its kind, Disability Law Intensive, in 2013.

The DLI program offers second and third year law students a unique opportunity to develop their legal skills while learning about disability rights issues as they intersect with many areas of law, including human rights law. The program is structured through a policy and law reform rotation and a test case litigation and direct client services rotation throughout the academic year.

ARCH is primarily funded by Legal Aid Ontario. More information about our work is available on our website: www.archdisabilitylaw.ca

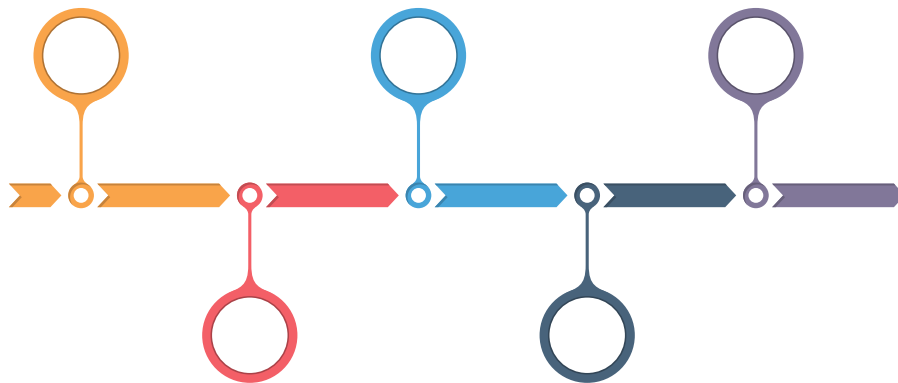
Goals of the Teresa Daw Student Internship

The internship will be awarded to the student who meets the goals and requirements as set out, and demonstrates a strong commitment to disability inclusion, social justice, and can articulate an important issue in their community that raises legal and disability rights concerns to be addressed.

The Goals of the Teresa Daw Student Internship are as follows:

- To create a meaningful experiential learning opportunity with concrete outcomes for Indigenous students that honours the memory and legacy of Teresa Daw;
- To provide and facilitate a safe learning environment for Indigenous law students to self-direct legal research that is important to them and their communities;
- To foster relationship building, mentorship opportunities, and mutual learning;
- To increase ARCH's capacity to better serve Indigenous Peoples with disabilities across Ontario;
- To create opportunities for examining comparative legal systems responses, and to continue ARCH's work in better understanding the intersections between Indigenous, western, and international legal systems;
- To strengthen relationships between ARCH and Indigenous communities;
- To assist Indigenous students to pursue careers in law and disability related fields; and
- To provide direction and mentorship in areas of substantive law within ARCH's areas of legal practice, including but not limited to, an opportunity to explore the legal intersections between western law and UN treaties such as the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and declarations such as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

More about the Internship: Eligibility, Timelines, and Remuneration



ARCH seeks a student who exemplifies Teresa Daw's unwavering commitment to advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities and social justice by demonstrating a passionate interest in supporting their communities and seeking positive change.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Teresa Daw Internship, participants must:

- Identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, or Inuit) living in Canada;
- Be enrolled in a law school in Ontario;
- Demonstrated interest in advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and
- Fulfill the application requirements as set out below.

Deadline for Applications

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2025.

Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted in April, 2025.

Anticipated Start

The Internship is set to begin in May 2025, with start and end dates to be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Remuneration

This student internship opportunity is full-time at 40 hours per week for eight weeks (two months). The successful student will receive a total remuneration of \$10,000 during their internship at ARCH.

The Internship offers a remote placement, with an option for in-person if desired by the successful candidate.

Overview of Selection Process



Indigenous students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Teresa Daw Student Internship Selection Committee, comprised of Indigenous community members and ARCH Board and staff, will review all applications and conduct interviews of select applicants. Other partners may be included as deemed appropriate.

Feedback is welcome regarding every stage of this process from applicants, community members, and partners. In addition, any feedback requested by students regarding their application and/or interview performance will be provided as requested.

About the Application Process

Those interested in applying are asked to submit a written or video essay which:

1. Introduces themselves;
2. Demonstrates an interest/studies/community engagement around law and disability issues;
3. Details an important disability related issue particular to Indigenous communities;
4. Demonstrates ways they will research the identified issue;
5. Includes contact information and references; and
6. Includes a preliminary project work plan that accompanies the essay.

Selected applicants will be invited to an interview offered through accessible virtual platforms.

Depending upon circumstances and where the student resides, participation is expected to take place remotely.

For more information, and to apply, visit online: <https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/the-teresa-daw-internship/>

Messages from ARCH's Committee Members

It has been an honour to serve as chair of the Moving Together Toward Supporting Reconciliation Committee. Thank you to current and former members - we did a great job over the years.

I am proud of the Teresa Daw Student Internship which is an exciting initiative that will enable Indigenous students to engage around legal and disability issues for members of their communities with staff of ARCH Disability Law Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference by addressing the over-representation and marginalization of Indigenous people who have disabilities. This could set these students on a new career path. Teresa would be pleased to see this unfold.

Sandi Bell, Committee Chair

It is our hope as a committee that this internship will provide opportunity and empowerment to an Indigenous law student to make a meaningful impact in their own communities, through advancing accessibility, inclusion and making positive change for Individuals with disabilities. Our committee, past and present, have collaborated to design an internship that will help to build the skills and versatility of the future of the Indigenous bar in Canada with a specific nuance in reducing barriers and tackling important disability legal issues.

Robert Barber, Committee Member, Métis (Red River)

A Message from ARCH's Executive Director



Robert Lattanzio

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Teresa Daw Student Internship.

Teresa Daw was an exemplary leader and incredibly caring, compassionate, humble, and a truly brilliant individual. Teresa's generosity, through her bequest, made all of this possible. It is an honour and privilege to launch this important, and inaugural, internship opportunity in memory of Teresa and all her countless contributions.

I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to every current and past member of ARCH's Moving Together Toward Supporting Reconciliation Committee for all their unwavering efforts and commitment to making this student opportunity possible. The committee had been tirelessly working on this initiative since our initial launch of the Teresa Daw Student Internship at ARCH's Annual General Meeting in November 2020.

A special thanks to our Committee Chair, Sandi Bell, who has been leading our Committee's work with unmatched grace, dedication, and wisdom from its inception. Our thanks go out to all of our past and present committee members:

(Present) Sandi Bell (Chair), Claudette Paul, Logan Wong, Melanie Marsden, Roberta Oshkabewisens, Roxanne Mykitiuk, Robert Barber, Ryan Hooey

(Past) Cat Cayuga, Harjot Dosanjh, Michelle Woolfrey, Yvonne Simpson

A Message from ARCH's Chair of the Board of Directors

On behalf of ARCH, we are proud to contribute to the spirit of reconciliation by launching the Teresa Daw Student Internship.

This exciting initiative reflects a concrete and tangible commitment by ARCH and our partners to a meaningful process of learning and healing while addressing the over-representation and marginalization of Indigenous people who have disabilities.

I would like to specifically thank the Committee Chair Sandi Bell for her unwavering commitment to this process. Although I didn't have the good fortune to know Teresa personally, I am pleased that ARCH was able to make her dream of this internship a reality.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to every current and past member of ARCH's Moving Together Toward Supporting Reconciliation Committee for all their dedication in bringing this student opportunity to life.

Jason Mitschele



Contact Us

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