



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### TRANSFORMING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH LAW INITIATIVE

#### Position: LLM

**Project:** Recognizing and protecting the rights, interests, and needs of coastal communities and/or future generations in the context of ocean-based energy developments in Atlantic Canada

#### Project background

The [Marine & Environmental Law Institute](#) (MELAW) is internationally recognized for excellence in marine and environmental law teaching and research. MELAW is housed in the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University and carries out research and consultancy activities. MELAW also directs the [Marine & Environmental Law Program](#) (MELP) academic specialization.

MELAW is a member of Transformative Adaptations to Social-Ecological Climate Change Trajectories (TranSECT), a part of the CFREF-funded Transforming Climate Action<sup>1</sup> initiative. TranSECT is an interdisciplinary large research project aimed at developing innovative adaptation solutions to the profound impacts of climate change on the coastal areas of Eastern Canada. Conducted in collaboration with teams from the Université du Québec à Rimouski, Université Laval (Québec), and Dalhousie University (Halifax), TranSECT focuses on understanding and solving complex socio-ecological system (SES) issues that arise from the convergence of local and global disturbances in the context of climate change.

Within TranSECT, MELAW's goal is to address the evolving law and policy landscape for ocean-based solutions to climate change. These include coastal and offshore ocean-based energy solutions and their impacts on marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate change emission pathways.

#### Terms of reference for LLM

Term: 1 year [September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027]

Role and tasks in the project: to complete an LLM thesis on Canadian and provincial (Atlantic provinces) laws and policies concerning the recognition and protection of the rights, interests, and needs of coastal communities and/or future generations in the context of coastal and offshore ocean-based energy developments, and to propose regulatory or policy reforms. Possible areas of focus include: participatory rights in the processes for assessing and approving such developments; user conflicts, legal resolution mechanisms, and co-location opportunities and challenges; benefit agreements and/or compensation mechanisms for loss of livelihoods; and consideration of future generations' rights and needs in decision-making processes. Other

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<sup>1</sup> Transforming Climate Action: <https://www.ofi.ca/programs/transform-climate-action>.



research interests that address rights-based approaches to law and policy governing ocean-based energy projects are also welcome.

The successful applicant will be expected to summarize the findings of the LLM research in a policy brief and/or other document(s) for dissemination to a wider audience.

They will also be expected to participate in TranSECT project activities and contribute to interdisciplinary dialogue.

Qualifications: JD, with optional specialization in marine, environmental or Indigenous law.

Remuneration: \$30,000 scholarship

### **Supervision**

The successful applicant to this position will work under the supervision of Professor Sara Seck [Sara.Seck@dal.ca].

### **Where to apply and by when**

ALL of the following documents, as per the [How to Apply](#) webpage, should be received by Shannon Langton ([lawgrad@dal.ca](mailto:lawgrad@dal.ca)) no later than April 10<sup>th</sup> to be considered for the project. We will start considering applications on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue reviewing applications as they are received until the position is filled.

- All post-secondary transcripts (virtual is acceptable)
- 2 letters of reference, must be sent by the referee
- Curriculum Vitae
- Proof of English proficiency, if applicable
- Motivation letter, stating why you are interested in the Schulich School of Law and how you hope your work will impact the TCA and Transforming Climate Action Through Law projects.
- Written thesis proposal (please visit webpage for additional details)

Only those applicants who are able to study in Canada, and able to relocate to Halifax, NS for September will be considered. The successful applicant will be required to officially apply online and pay the \$115 application fee before admission can be processed.

*Dalhousie University commits to achieving inclusive excellence through continually championing equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. The university encourages applications from Indigenous persons (especially Mi'kmaq), persons of Black/African descent (especially African Nova Scotians), and members of other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, women, and persons identifying as members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of our community. For more information, please visit [www.dal.ca/hiringfordiversity](http://www.dal.ca/hiringfordiversity).*