

2009 HUGH ALAN MACLEAN LECTURE IN LEGAL HISTORY



Prof. Jonathan Swainger History Department, University of Northern B.C.

Empire and Order: Crime and Community Identity in B.C.'s Peace River Country

Date: Monday, November 2, 2009

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Fraser Building (UVic), Room 158

Jonathan Swainger was born in Calgary and raised in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. He graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a B.A. in history and earned his master's degree from the University of Calgary.

He completed his doctoral studies at the University of Western Ontario, graduating in 1992. After working at the University of Calgary in 1991 and 1992, he joined the University of Northern British Columbia's history department in 1992, was named chair of the department in 2004 and was promoted to full professor in 2008.

Swainger just completed a five-year term as chair and is currently on sabbatical.

Professor Swainger's research interests are centred on Canadian legal history. He has published articles on the history of crime in central Alberta, the history of the Quebec judiciary in the aftermath of Confederation, and the administration of the prerogative of mercy in British Columbia.

His first book, *The Canadian Department of Justice* and the Completion of Confederation, was published by UBC Press in 2000.

He has also edited or co-edited three essay collections: People and Place: Historical Influences on Legal Culture (co-edited with Professor Constance Backhouse); Laws and Societies in the Prairie West, 1670-1940 (co-edited with Louis A. Knafla); and The Alberta Supreme Court at 100: History and Authority.

Professor Swainger's current research is focused on the history of crime in British Columbia's Peace River region from 1910 to 1960. His forthcoming book manuscript is based on archival records, newspaper accounts and oral history interviews.

The project explores how local and remote factors influenced the administration of criminal justice in the Peace region and how crime came to be coloured by a sense of regional distinctiveness — an identity that was invariably cast against ideas and images imported from the wider world.