Note: Maximum of 750 words (900 in French)

*[Institutional Letterhead]*

October 23, 2025

Primary Nominator

Street Address

City, Province

Postal Code

Re: Professor YYY

Dear Primary Nominator,

I have been asked to write in support of the nomination of Professor YYY for election to the Royal Society of Canada. I am most pleased to do so as I believe Professor YYY to be at the very top rank of Canadian legal scholars. Indeed, as I assess Professor YYY against a more universal standard, I can honestly say that her academic Contributions to scholarship on Indigenous peoples’ issues and theorizing social diversity are in the top rank of common law jurists world-wide.

Let me begin by noting my various interactions with Professor YYY. None of these, I believe, put me in a conflict of interest with respect to this reference. While we have never directly collaborated on any projects, she and I share a keen interest in the topic of Reconciliation, a topic for which she recently received a major research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). In addition, I have reviewed her scholarship at the request of the Law Commission of Canada. Indeed, I have read most of the published items that are listed on her CV. There is much to say about YYY’s teaching, support of graduate students, administrative leadership in the trans-national Indigenous rights community, and counsel work for Canadian aboriginal organizations. But since membership in the Royal Society of Canada is meant to recognize scholarly excellence, I shall confine my observations to this aspect of her academic career.

My reference focuses on four features of YYY’s scholarly career.

First, ongoing commitment to scholarship. YYY has maintained a consistent pace of scholarly research and writing since the early 1990s.

Second, international recognition. Her work has attracted attention in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, as attested by the significant number of named lectureships that she has presented over this same period.

Third, policy impact. YYY has been sought after not only by First Nations, but by federal and provincial governments, commissions of inquiry such as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and by think tanks such as the Law Commission of Canada.

Fourth, intellectual and theoretical sophistication. YYY’s scholarship is of the highest order, a point confirmed by the prizes and awards—the Smiley Prize in Political Science; the New Zealand Law Foundation Fellowship; the Bertha Wilson Professorship; and the AIATSIS Fellowship in Australia.

Professor YYY’s research interests are broad and far-reaching, including private law, administrative law, constitutional law and international law. More recently, in her work with the Law Commission she has taken on the enormously challenging task of attempting to discern the fundamental premises of different Indigenous legal traditions in Canada. This is a work of comparative scholarship that no-one has yet attempted. I have read a draft of this monograph and am staggered by the depth of knowledge of comparative law that it reveals and the originality of YYY’s arguments.

Until the past decade, most work on aboriginal law in Canada has been about the law of Canada as it relates to aboriginal peoples. YYY has been at the forefront of scholars who are closely investigating the normative and conceptual premises of aboriginal law as the “law of aboriginal peoples.”, including the integration of traditional Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. This task has led her into the fields of legal anthropology and legal pluralism theory. In my view she is pushing the traditional analyses of scholars like Etienne LeRoy and Norbert Rouland in new and exciting ways. My own research in legal pluralism has been enriched by YYY’s studies of Indigenous law in Canada, and her insights have greatly enhanced the work of the Quebec research group “Autochtonie et gouvernance” of which I am a member.

Professor YYY has been a creative and productive legal scholar for almost twenty years, and over the last six years she has carved out a place as one of, if not ***the*** most original and creative theorists of Indigenous law in the English-speaking world. She is intellectually engaged, generous with his ideas, supportive of the research of others and, by her example and by her counsel, has been able to assist her colleagues and other First Nations scholars in upgrading their own work.

Among Canadian law professors not now a member of the Royal Society, I am hard pressed to think of any who are more deserving of the honour of election to membership in the Royal Society of Canada.

Yours sincerely,

***[Signature, (mandatory)]***

*Prof. LMN*, FRSC

Learned Hand Professor of Law

Note: Please ensure to have a biographical statement for each of the referees. The biographical statement should not be the CV of the referee, and it should be *included separately after the referee letter, either after each respective letter of reference or all together, after all reference letters.* The maximum length of the referee biographical statement **should not be longer than 250 words (300 in French).**

**Referee:** Professor LMN, Harvard University

Professor LMN is the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University where she has taught since the mid- 1970s. She obtained a B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1959, a J.D. in 1961 and a Master of Comparative Law in 1963, also from Chicago. She was named Learned Hand Professor of Law in 1993. Her primary research interests lie in Comparative Constitutional Law in the United States and Europe, International Human Rights, Comparative Law, and the Legal Profession.

She has published five leading monographs and a dozen peer-reviewed articles in top journals. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences.