

BCMEA Manager of Labour Relations Macey Nielissen Speaks to Students at Queen's University



Queen's University alumni and current Manager of Labour Relations, Macey Nielissen, returned to the Master of Industrial Relations class of 2015 to give her thanks for a so far successful and prosperous career in the labour relations field.

The MIR degree offered at Queen's University is aimed at developing the knowledge and competencies that labour relations professionals need to fulfill their professional roles. The MIR provides vast learning outcomes including: an understanding of the laws governing individual employment and collective bargaining relationships, the capacity to collect and analyze data on current workplace issues and negotiation strategies.

Aside from academics, students are then faced with the reality of today's competitive job market. Macey's role was to provide an informal atmosphere and opportunity for students of the program to ask questions about the interview process, networking, negotiating their first contract and what to expect in a typical LR position.

Although Macey reminded students that her experience was unique, she tried to answer students' questions as generally as possible in order to provide them valuable responses. She was not naïve to the challenges of the program itself and field of HR and LR, which she believes was appreciated by the students; "It's not often that students are able to express their fears and ask honest questions in a University environment – I tried to provide a non-judgmental, empathetic space for the students".

Macey expressed her deep gratitude for professors like Robert Hickey, *Unions and Collective Bargaining* and Deborah Leighton, *Labour Law* for having a profound effect on her learning ability during her time in the program and igniting her interest and passion in the field of labour relations.