This booklet is published to mark the official opening on September 15, 2969, of Robson Hall, the new home of the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Law.

It contains a brief backward glance at 100 years of legal education in Manitoba, biographical notes about Chief Justice H.A. Robson, after whom the building is named, and Chief Justice E.K. Williams, after whom the library is named, and photographs of the distinguished guests who have consented to accept the award of honorary degrees to mark the occasion.

Legal education in Manitoba

Manitoba’s first lawyers were educated outside the province. They were full-fledged members of the profession when they arrived here from Ontario, Quebec and other places, and were admitted to practice immediately upon proving their qualifications.

It was not long, however, before the expanding profession began to attract young men wishing to study law in Manitoba, and the first Rules of the Bar Society of Manitoba (forerunner of the Law Society of Manitoba), adopted in September 1872, contained rudimentary provisions for the training of law students. Every candidate for admission to practise was required to serve a five year apprenticeship (three years in the case of University graduates) under articles of clerkship to a practising lawyer, and “to pass the examination prescribed by the Bar Society”. The examinations appear to have been quite informal affairs in the early years, however.

Who was Manitoba’s first law student? This is not definitely known, but certainly one of the earliest, perhaps the first, was Edmund M. Wood, son of Manitoba’s controversial second Chief Justice. Wood became a law student in 1874, the year his father came to Manitoba, and when he was called to the bar in September 1879 he appears to have been the first locally trained lawyer admitted to practise. The remarkably rapid expansion of the profession during this period can be seen in the fact that three years later, in 1882, no less than seventy law students completed their training and were called to the bar.

For the most part, legal education was a “self-help” process; the students were simply told which subjects and textbooks they would be examined on, and they were expected to organize their studies themselves, without the benefit of much formal instruction. For students in some of the country law offices, this need for self reliance was almost total. Indeed, although some lawyers disapproved of the practise, the Law Society allowed students to operate law offices in country towns entirely by themselves, on behalf of city-based lawyers. Winnipeg law students had at least the benefit of comparing notes with a sizable group of other law students, and of supplementing their studies by a variety of education activities undertaken by various law student organizations and occasional formal lectures sponsored from time to time by the Law Society.

The first law students’ organization was the Law Students’ Society, formed in the fall of 1877, when the first large group of students embarked on their studies. Although many of the activities of this and subsequent student clubs were purely social in nature, they also played an important educational role in the years before regular formal instruction was available.

The University of Manitoba first became involved in legal education in 1884, when it established a three year course of studies leading to the LL.B. degree. The first graduate of the course was A.W. Thompson, a brilliant young man, whose promising career was ended prematurely by death a few years later. Isaac Pitblado, who was to play so prominent and sustained a role in Manitoba’s legal history, was the fourth
person to graduate when he received the LL.B. degree in 1889. This course did not include instruction; it simply prescribed a reading program, with three annual examinations, which articled law students could follow concurrently with the course prescribed by the Law Society.

For the next 25 years, the pattern of legal education in Manitoba changed very little. Small alterations were made from time to time, but the basic method of education continued to be apprenticeship, supplemented by private study. As in the past, lecture programs were arranged from time to time, but they all seemed to run out of steam after short periods of operation.

The study of law was exclusively male calling in Manitoba until the second decade of the 20th century. In 1911 when Miss Melrose Sissons applied for admission as Manitoba’s first lady law student, she was turned down on the ground that the word “person”, as used in the Law Society Act, did not include a woman. Miss Sisson was persistent, however, and succeeded in having the Law Society Act amended the following year. She entered service under articles with the firm of Taylor & Colwill shortly after. Another lady, Miss Winnifred M. Wilton became a student around the same time, and when the two ladies were called to the bar together in December 1915, it was announced that Miss Wilton had extinguished any lingering doubts about the aptitude of lady lawyers by winning first prize in the final examinations.

The first small step toward establishing a law school in Manitoba came in 1910, when, by agreeing to allow a leave of absence (6 months for graduates and 12 months for non-graduates) to Manitoba students wishing to study at law schools in other places, the benchers acknowledged the value of such training. The opportunity to study abroad was not available to many students, however, and the need to provide better legal education for those who remained in the province became increasingly evident. In 1911 and 1912, at the request of the Law Students’ Association, the Law Society again provided short series of lectures. Then in 1913 the honourable H.A. Robson, then Manitoba’s Public Utilities Commissioner and former King’s Bench judge, organized a considerably improved program of lectures for that year, and began, with the approval of the benchers, to lay plans for the establishment in the following year of a permanent law school modelled after Osgoode Hall. Among those with whom he consulted in formulating these plans was E.K. Williams, a brilliant young lawyer who had come to Manitoba from Ontario the previous year, and was able to provide a first-hand account of how Osgood Hall school operated. Some of the notes Williams had taken as a student were used as the basis for courses in the new school.

The Law School was jointly sponsored by the Law Society and the University; both bodies took part in the planning from the beginning, and in the summer of 1914 they entered an agreement subsequently endorsed by legislation, providing for the creation of the Manitoba Law School, offering a three year lecture course leading to both the LL.B. degree and admission to practise. Expenses of the School were to be shared equally by the two parent bodies, and its operations were to be supervised by a Board of Trustees consisting of two appointees chosen by each body and a chairman elected by the appointees.

The initial staff consisted of only one full-time appointment: R. P. Hills, LL.D., an Englishman who had been described by one who studied under him as a sound lawyer and an able teacher, with the hearty manner and tweedy appearance of a “typical English squire”. Dr. Hills was appointed “Recorder” of the Law School in the fall of 1914, with seven practising lawyers to assist him as part-time lecturers.
Premises were leased in the Y.M.C.A. building and there on October 5, 1914 the formal opening of the Manitoba Law School was held. A large and distinguished company heard Sir James Aikins, then President of the Canadian Bar Association, deliver the opening address.

Classes were offered that year in the first two years of the course, and the enrollment was heavy: sixty in first year and forty-eight in second year. Tuition fees were $30.00 per year. Enrollment at the Law School was not regarded as a substitute for service under articles in a law office. Classes were held from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. (9:00 to 10:35 a.m. in the first year) and from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., Monday to Friday. For the rest of the day the students were expected to carry out their office duties.

After two years in the Y.M.C.A. building, and a few months in University buildings near the Courthouse, the Law School moved to premises on the first floor of the present Law Courts building when it was completed in 1916. The new quarters were a little unusual, having been designed as kitchen and dining room for lawyers, but they served the purpose for over twenty years.

The disruptions caused by World War I affected legal education and the new school in several ways. At meeting held in August 1914 the benchers decided that students on active service should have their articling periods reduced, and be relieved of some examinations normally required. In November 1917 the benchers, apparently concerned that some law students eligible for war service had not enlisted, passed a regulation preventing any unmarried male between the ages of 18 and 34, and not exempt from military service, being admitted as a law student or taking any examination except in special circumstances, unless he could prove that he had been on active service or had volunteered and been rejected. Aliens were prevented from becoming students or entering the profession. Even before this time military enlistments had reduced the school’s enrolment considerably, and this new regulation caused further shrinkage, and a resulting reduction in the school’s finances. Tuition fees were raised, and the number of lecturers reduced. When Dr. Hills requested a salary increase that year, the Trustees felt unable to meet it, and the Recorder resigned in September 1918.

To manage the school’s administrative affairs for the 1918-19 session, Mr. R. J. Russell, the Law Society’s assistant librarian, was appointed Recorder. “Reg” Russell was an omniscient and universally liked man to whose unobtrusive and human management over the years both the Law School and the Law Society owe much more than has been widely acknowledged. Because Mr. Russell was not a lawyer, the administration of academic matters was placed in the hands of a three man “Board of Supervisors”, consisting of D.H. Laird, K.C., L.B. Hugg, K.C., and A. T. Hawley. In addition, Mr. Hawley whose already heavy lecture load was increased, was paid a small monthly salary in return for coming to the school each morning during the session to supervise the work of the Recorder. The Trustees tried to hire Dr. Hills again in 1919, but they were not successful, and these temporary arrangements remained in effect for three years.

In May 1921, a brilliant young lawyer named J.T. Thorson was appointed Dean of the Manitoba Law School. Mr. Thorson had been a Manitoba Rhodes Scholar, after an incredibly successful academic career at Manitoba College, and had already established an enviable reputation at the bar when he took charge of the Law School. He was the first person to bear the title of “Dean” official.

Thorson’s appointment as Dean marked the beginning of a period of considerable change in the nature of legal education, and improvement in the program offered by the Law School. The most dramatic change was the virtual abolition of “concurrent articling”. Commencing in 1921, students were required
to serve only one year in law offices concurrently with the Law School program in the case of university graduates and after completion of the program in the case of non-graduates. It thus became possible, for the first time, for a Law School program in the case of University graduates and after completion of the program in the case of non-graduates. It thus became possible for the first time, for a law student to devote his full energies to his studies, uninterrupted by office routine. The same year, the Manitoba Law School became the first in Canada to adopt a new model law school curriculum proposed by the Canadian Bar Association. Manitoba was also the first province, in 1922 to raise its entrance qualifications to Second Year Arts or its equivalent. 1922 also saw the establishment of a separate Law School library, and the employment of two full-time law professors in addition to the Dean: H.W.H Knott (an intelligent, learned and articulate, but hopelessly intemperate man, whose brief tenure at the Law School left those who came in contact with him rich in anecdotes), and Frederick Read (a quiet man, who took up the study of law after many years as a law clerk, and was eventually to establish a national reputation for meticulous scholarship.) The Chairman of the Canadian Bar Association’s committee on Legal Education commented in September 1923 on the high level that legal education had reached in Manitoba at that time: “In the Province of Manitoba the standard both of preliminary education and of professional education has developed to a degree which is highly credible from every point of view. When all the Province have adopted the Manitoba standard a fine foundation for Canadian Legal Education will have been laid.”

Professor Knott’s turbulent association with the Law School came to an end in August 1925, when the Trustees decided that they were no longer able to tolerate his dissolute ways, and terminated his appointment. In his place they appointed C. Rhodes Smith, a young man with a distinguished record of scholarly achievement and military service behind him, and an extraordinary career of public service ahead of him, as Attorney-General of Manitoba, Chairman of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and Chief Justice of Manitoba.

Late in 1926 university authorities were disturbed by reports that university students (with a high percentage of law students undoubtedly among them) had discovered a bizarre new spectator sport—watching public hangings in the provincial gaol-yard on Vaughn Street from upper-storey windows of the Old Law Courts building. After a thorough investigation of the matter, the University prevailed upon the provincial government to paint the windows in question. However, we are told, nothing was done to prevent the windows being opened.

It was also in 2926 that Dean Thorson succumbed to the lure of politics, and was elected to the House of Commons. Subsequently, his career took him to the federal cabinet and the Presidency of the Exchequer Court of Canada. His resignation as Dean was regretfully accepted by the Trustees, in September of that year after passing a warm resolution of appreciation of his effort to raise the standard of legal education in Manitoba. That this praise was well deserved as attested to by the fact that the Carnegie Foundation’s “Annual Review of Legal Education” for the years 1926 and 1927 rated the Manitoba Law School the best in Canada.

The Law School was without a full-time Dean for the next 2 ½ years. For the Interim, Mr. Robson was appointed Acting Dean, and took charge (without renumeration) of the day-to-day management of the school, assisted by another of the Trustees, Mr. Edwin Loftus K.C. The major change that occurred during Mr. Robson’s Deanship was the decision in 1927 to lengthen the Law School course to four years, and re-institute concurrent articling in the third and fourth years. The previous program had been too
theoretical in nature, it was felt, so all students were required to serve under articles during the latter half of the course, and non-graduates were required to serve an additional year after completion of the course.

Mr. E.H. Coleman was the School’s next Dean. He was an urbane and erudite man, with a mania for reading. (He was known to take a book with him when walking to appointments down the street.) In July 1929, he was appointed Dean (with freedom to practise in the afternoons), a position that he filled ably for the next four years. In 1931 the benchers ordered that all students should serve under articles for the entire four year period (5 years in the case of non-graduates) except for the time they were actually required to be in the classroom. This brought an end to the School’s experiment with full-time study.

When Dean Coleman left the law School in September, 1933, it was to take up the position of Under Secretary of State for Canada, and launch what was to be an exemplary career of service for his country. Frederick Read filled the position of Acting Dean during the next academic session, until May 1, 1934, when he was given the title “Professor of Law”, and Mr. T.W. Laidlaw was appointed Dean.

“Tommy” Laidlaw was a very popular Dean. Although he made no pretense at deep scholarship, he seemed to possess a talent for everything that he set his hand to, and he was universally liked and respected by those who knew him. His term as Dean—from the depth of the depression to the end of World War II—included some of the most difficult times in the School’s History, and his good-natured and self-sacrificing administration in the face of trying circumstances commanded the admiration of his colleagues and students.

The depression years were not quite as difficult as they might have been thanks to the careful management of the Trustees and the generous and understanding co-operation of the regular and part-time teaching staff. In 1932 the Trustees were forced to reduce the salaries of regular staff members by 10% and to cut the lecture fees for part-time teachers in half. In 1935 it became necessary to raise tuition fees to $125. In spite of these economies, the School was able to increase its regular teaching staff to four by the appointment in November 1932, of Harvey N. Streight. Mr. Streight’s long and devoted association with the School had actually begun a few years earlier, when he became heavily involved in the program as a part-time lecturer.

As the rigors of the depression began to ease, the Law School’s program began once more to expand and improve. Substantial additions were made to the library in 1937 and 1938, and the School’s 1937 Gold Medalist, Mr. Harold St. G. Stubbs, was engaged during those years, on a part-time basis, to supervise the library. In October, 1938, the School finally left the Law Courts premises it had occupied since 1916, and moved to much more commodious quarters in the Old Law Courts building.

At about the same time, the board of trustees, under the stimulus of Dr. Sidney Smith, a former Dalhousie law professor, and new University President, launched a thorough survey of the School’s objectives, teaching methods, curriculum, personnel and salaries, in the light of practices in other Canadian law schools. After lengthy consideration, the Board adopted a new curriculum in May 1939 (featuring, for the first time, a thesis requirement for students in the LL.B. program—the only aspect in which the University and Law Society curricula now differed). In June of that year it announced a major re-organization of the teaching staff. Dean Laidlaw was given a substantial salary increase, so as to enable him to devote full time to the job, without engaging in law practise. A new staff member, Professor Gordon S. Cowan (who was probably the first person to use the case method effectively in
Manitoba) was brought to Winnipeg from the Dalhousie Law Faculty, and he and Professor Read were asked to devote their full energies to teaching, C.R. Smith and H.N. Streight were given the status of part-time lecturers, and allowed to carry on the practise of law. A new part-time librarian Mr. T.R.A. Ashley was also engaged about the same time.

Alas the renaissance was short-lived, for the demands of war soon began to sap the school’s strength. Several key teachers left to undertake war work, and a very high proportion of law students enlisted in the armed forced. The way was made easier for students to do so by a 1939 Law Society regulation permitting up to three years’ active military service to be set off against the time to be served under articles. Reduced enrollments meant diminished income, and tuition increases were not sufficient to make up the difference. In August 1941 it became necessary to revert to the staffing arrangements that prevailed prior to the recent re-organization. Professor Cowan had returned that spring to Halifax (where he engaged in private practise, with great success, until 1966, when he was elevated to the Bench, first as a puisne judge, and then as a Chief Justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court Trial Division.) Dean Laidlaw returned to part-time practise, and C.R. Smith was again engaged as a regular lecturer with practising privileges. As enrollments continued to decline, further economies were effected: the length of the school term was shortened, lectures were ended or curtailed in some courses, and the School’s calendar was reduced to a mimeographed bulletin. By the 1942-43 session only a handful of students remained. The graduating class in 1944 had only two members. Dean Laidlaw returned to full-time practise, but continued to serve as Dean on an interim basis until June 1, 1945, when the Board of Trustees named G.P.R. Tallin, K.C. as his successor.

In Mr. Tallin the Trustees chose a man with an awesome range of interests and accomplishments: Rhodes Scholar, championship athlete, prize-winning typist, distinguished lawyer, voracious reader, part-time teacher (not just of law—but of such diverse subjects as mathematics and public speaking as well), and dedicated soldier (having served in both World Wars). Stories about Dean Tallin are as numerous as his former students, but it is not always easy to distinguish fact from legend. Those who did not know him in the early post-war year find it difficult, for example, to know what to make of the oft-repeated claim that to demonstrate the virtues of physical fitness he would prostrate himself at the front of the classroom, and challenge students to stand on his mid-section.

The first board of Trustees meeting that Dean Tallin attended in his official capacity was a sad occasion, for it was necessary to record the death on July 9, 1945 of Chief Justice Robson, the revered Chairman of the Board and founder of the School. Formally, it was almost two years before another Chairman was appointed, but in fact the duties of chairmanship were ably exercised by the Honourable E.K. Wiliams from the time that Chief Justice Robson’s illness first prevent his doing so. Chief Justice Williams (whose supremely successful career at the bar had recently been crowned by appointment as Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench) had been playing such a leading role in the School’s affairs in recently years that his fellow Trustees naturally turned to him for interim leadership and then, on April 25, 1947, elected him Chairman of the Board.

Another sad note was sounded in the fall of 1945, when Mr. R.J. Russell, the School’s Recorder since 1918, announced that he would have to resign from the position due to ill health. Col. Harvey Streight, who had just returned from military service had been re-appointed to the lectureship he held in the 1930’s, was named Recorder commencing December 1, 1945. For some reason, he was invariably
referred to as “Colonel Streight” thereafter, although a less military demeanor would be hard to imagine.

So it was a new team—Williams, Tallin and Streight—that took on the task of guiding the School through the difficult transition period between war and peace. Fortunately, they were able to count on the assistance of Mr. C.R. Smith, who remained on the permanent staff (although he was less active after becoming Attorney-General in 1946), and a group of experienced part-time lecturers. Professor Read did not return to Manitoba after his wartime service in Ottawa; he went instead to the University of British Columbia.

The chief problems of the new administration were the opposite of those faced by the previous administration; they stemmed from the enrollment of too many students, rather than too few. Total enrollment soared from 18 in 1944-45 to 63 in 1945-46, 111 in 1946-47 and 164 in 1947-48. Not only did this deluge create considerable space and staff problems within the School itself, but soon there were not enough law firms in Winnipeg to provide articling experience for all the students enrolled in the School. It became necessary for a few years, therefore, to provide special afternoon “practice classes” to take the place of articling for those who were unable to find offices. Mr. D.A. Golden, a Gold Medalist, Rhodes Scholar and Hong Kong Veteran, was added to the permanent faculty in September, 1947, and placed in charge of these special classes. Because veteran students were so anxious to make up for lost time, it was decided to allow them to take the third year of their Law School course during the summer following completion of their second year course. This acceleration meant that from 1946 until 1952 the School ran a year-round operation, with two full third-year courses being offered each year, and added appreciably to the challenge that inflated enrollments presented to Dean Tallin and his colleagues.

A storm broke out in Ontario in 1949 that was to rage in that province for several years, and was eventually to have a very significant effects on legal education throughout Canada. Dean Cecil A. Wright of Osgood Hall Law School became involved in an acrimonious debate with the benchers of the Upper Canada Law Society over whether the concurrent law school-law office method of educating law students was satisfactory. He contended that students should have an opportunity for extended full-time study of law in a University atmosphere before entering law offices, and he and his staff resigned from Osgoode Hall and moved to the University of Toronto in support of this belief. An unhappy impasse then prevailed for several years as the Ontario lawyers engaged in a thorough re-examination of the needs of legal education. Little heed was paid to this controversy in Manitoba, however. Complaints were occasionally voiced by students, but these usually concerned minor matters such as the wages paid to articulated students (at one point the students tried to invoke the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act against their principals, but were frustrated by an amendment to the legislation), and there were general satisfaction with the basic method of education.

In fact, when viewed against the background of the heated debates about legal education in other parts of the country, the Manitoba scene seemed remarkably tranquil during the later post-war years. This is not to say that they were uneventful years. In 1948, four-year students were allowed to submit, in lieu of a thesis, summaries of articles in current law journals. Some of these summaries were published by the Canadian Bar Review, and “Current Legal Periodicals—by the Manitoba Law School” was a regular feature of that publication for several years. A course of graduate study, leading to the degree of LL.M. was instituted by the School in 1949. This course, which had been requested by members of the profession for years, was, in keeping with the nature of the school, a part-time affair, involving two
years of evening courses and examinations, plus a thesis. In the fall of 1950 the School moved its location to the new Law Courts building once more. The new quarters, which occupied much of the third floor, were very spacious compared to previous accommodation. Several changes in staff took place during this period and the School’s permanent staff was reduced to its lowest level for many years.

Probably the most significant development during this period of the School’s history, although it might not have seemed so at the time, was the decision by the Board of Trustees in 1953 to forgo the annual financial contributions from the Law Society and the University. As a result of this decision the Manitoba Law School was committed to a policy of self-support at a time when other Canadian law schools were beginning to look for increased external assistance to pay for growing staffs and expanding libraries.

As a result of this policy, the School found itself, in the late 1950’s, in an unfavourable position compared to some other Canadian law schools, and the board of Trustees decided, in 1957, to do something about it. The first step was to make the Deanship a full-time position again for the first time since 1941. Then the pass-mark for examinations was raised to 60%. Next, the School hired a new permanent lecturer for the 1958-59 term-a slight young Englishman named Clifford Edwards, whose extraordinary teaching talents made a very important contribution to the School’s improvement program. The following year (1959-60) two more full-time teaching appointments were made. This brought the full-time teaching staff to 5—the highest it had ever been.

The School suffered a sad loss in 1960 with the student death of Colonel Streight while undergoing surgery. His duties as recorder were very ably taken over by Professor Edwards. My A.J. Christie retired as librarian the same year, to be replaced by Mrs. M.J. Carey. It was also in 1960 that the Law Society established an annual series of lectures on continuing legal education for members of the profession, and named in honour of Mr. Isaac Pitblado, Q.C. in 1962 the Manitoba Law School Journal (later renamed the Manitoba Law Journal) was established.

Outside Manitoba, the basic pattern of legal education was undergoing radical alterations. The long impasse in Ontario between the Law Society benchers and the University of Toronto “rebels” had finally been broken by an imaginative new scheme of legal education requiring students to spend three years of full-time study in an approved university law course, followed by a year’s service under articles and a further 15 months’ study in a “bar admission course” operated by the Law Society. This pattern, with variations, was soon in force in most of the other common-law provinces.

Stimulated by these developments, the pace of change began to accelerate in Manitoba as well. A Law Society committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C.K. Tallin Q.C., recommended in 1962 that concurrent articling be abolished in Manitoba as well. A Law Society committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C.K. Tallin Q.C., recommended in 1962 that concurrent articling be abolished in first year, an alteration that was implemented by the Trustees for the 1963-64 academic year. Before that year was complete however, even more substantial changes were under consideration.

1964 brought major changes in the Law School’s staff. G.P.R. Tallin, Q.C. retired as Dean at the end of the 1963-64 session. Professor C.H.C. Edwards was appointed to replace Dean Tallin, and Mrs. M. J. Carey took over the recorder’s duties.

One of Dean Edwards’ first tasks was to prepare, at the request of the Board of Trustees, a memorandum concerning the possibility of offering a three-year full-time program of instruction. The
brief that he and his colleagues presented, urging the adoption of such a scheme, was studied by the Trustees, the benchers, and the University, and formally approved in time for implementation in the fall of that year. Thus, when the members of the Manitoba legal profession and their ladies gathered in the Georgian Room of the Hudson’s Bay store on the evening of October 17, 1964, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Manitoba Law School, it was with the knowledge that, for good or for evil (and here opinions differed sharply) a new era had begun for legal education in Manitoba that would be markedly different from the one that had just closed.

Adoption of the three year full-time curriculum gave rise to a number of other changes. The LL.M. course was terminated in order to free the teaching staff to concentrate on improving the undergraduate program. Several new full-time faculty members were hired, and several experienced professors were brought from England as visiting professors to relieve the pressure until the School acquired an adequately large and experienced permanent faculty. To house the new staff members, temporary offices began to appear in such unlikely locations as stair landings, and the need for a law school building became manifest. In 1965 the Law Society created a Bar Admission course, under the direction of Mr. A.M. Isreals, Q.C., as a supplement to the period of intensive service under articles required to be served by students after graduation.

It soon became obvious that financial support of an entirely different order of magnitude than the past would be necessary to operate the School’s expanded program, and to realize its ambitious plans. Since this support would be difficult to obtain without university status, it was decided that the School should become a faculty of the University of Manitoba. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees approved, on August 22, 1966, an agreement terminating the 52 year-old co-operative arrangement between the Law Society and the University, and the Manitoba Law School ceased to exist.

Progress has been very rapid during the past few years. The size of the full-time faculty has increased considerably, and the student body has become so large that careful selection of applicants is now essential. The library has been expanding at a remarkable rate, especially since the appointment of our first trained Law Librarian – Professor S.S. Hu. To stimulate legal research within the faculty, the Legal Research Institute of the University of Manitoba was created in 1967, and has embarked upon a number of important projects. Many improvements have been made in curriculum and teaching methods. The chief barriers during this period have been the physical constraints imposed by the inadequacy of the faculty’s premises. With the completion of Robson Hall, these limitations have been removed, and the future prospects for legal education in Manitoba appear very bright.