

Third year Dalhousie law student, Alison Hopkins, is the winner of the 2009 Canadian Council on International Law's Ronald St. John Macdonald Young Scholars Award. The award was presented earlier this month at the Canadian Council on International Law's annual conference in Ottawa.

Alison's paper, 'Defining the Protected Groups in the Law of Genocide', won for best submission in the undergraduate category. The paper explored the interpretation of the groups protected under the 1948 Genocide Convention. Using the recent jurisprudence of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, the paper looked to predict how the International Criminal Court will interpret the protected groups in future prosecutions of genocide.

The Ronald St. John Macdonald Young Scholars Award was established to recognize excellence in scholarly work produced by young Canadians in the area of international public law. It is named after Dalhousie alumnus and former Dean of Dalhousie Law School, Ronald St. John Macdonald, who had a profound impact on the area of international human rights law.