



# UTM INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

UTM Campus Council  
May 22, 2024

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
MISSISSAUGA**



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**Office of  
Indigenous Initiatives**

# AGENDA



- Introduction & giving thanks
- Who we are: UTM OII, UTM IC, Our team
- Truth & Reconciliation
- Achievements
- Looking ahead
- Q & A



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# INTRODUCTION



## Acknowledgment of Traditional Land

*We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.*



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# WHO WE ARE



UTM OII  
UTM IC  
OUR TEAM



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# UTM OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

- Officially launched October 2022
- The office was created at the suggestion of the UTM Indigenous Table, which includes UTM Vice-President and Principal **Alexandra Gillespie**.
- The mandate of the new UTM OII is to expand the university's appeal to a broader audience from Indigenous backgrounds and foster a stronger relationship with Indigenous communities.



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# UTM INDIGENOUS CENTRE

The Indigenous Centre at the University of Toronto Mississauga works to support Indigenous students, staff and faculty at UTM as well as inspire future Indigenous students to a welcoming and inclusive UTM community. The Indigenous Centre works to promote equity and inclusion of Indigenous people among students, staff, faculty and throughout the campus.



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# MEET OUR TEAM



**TEE  
DUKE**

Director



**JESSICA  
TABAK**

Special Projects  
Officer



**FAITH  
DESMOULIN**

Coordinator of  
Indigenous  
Programming



**KAITLIN  
PHILLIPS**

Indigenous Student  
Support Specialist



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# TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



## ANSWERING THE CALL

## WECHEEHETOWIN FINAL REPORT

The report includes 34 calls to action for U of T in the following areas:

- Indigenous spaces
- Indigenous faculty and staff
- Indigenous curriculum
- Indigenous research ethics and community relationships
- Indigenous students and co-curricular education
- Institutional leadership and implementation





# ACHIEVEMENTS



## INDIGENOUS SPACES

Early Spring 2022 – OII Team moves to Maanjiwe nendamowinan Building – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – opens UTM Indigenous Centre Gathering Space

September 2023 – UTM IC raises first Teaching Lodge at UTM – accompanied by the UTM IC Tipi (raised in 2022 and first in Peel Region)

June 2023 – Indigenous Art Installation by UTM Indigenous Student (MJ Singleton) in collaboration with Student Group – Studio X (Benji Jacob)

September 2024 – UTM 2<sup>nd</sup> All Nations Powwow

## INDIGENOUS STAFF & FACULTY, LEADERSHIP

2021-2022 – OII Team expands – adding in a Special Projects Officer position, Work Study Student – full team as of 2023

June 2022 – Mississauga of the Credit First Nations – UTM Office officially opens in Maanjiwe nendamowin – Recipients of the Heritage Mississauga Award in Fall 2022

2023-2024 – Recipients of the Excellence through Innovation Award – Nations Powwow Team



# LOOKING AHEAD

- Increased relationship building within Peel Region and additional external Indigenous communities
- Increased Indigenous place-making
- Indigenous language revitalization
- Indigenous land-based learning initiatives and programming
- UTM's 2<sup>nd</sup> All-Nations Powwow September 2024



# MIIGWETCH Questions?



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[INDIGENOUS.UTM@UTORONTO.CA](mailto:INDIGENOUS.UTM@UTORONTO.CA)

[WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/INDIGENOUS-CENTRE/](http://WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/INDIGENOUS-CENTRE/)

[WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/ALL-NATIONS-POWWOW/](http://WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/ALL-NATIONS-POWWOW/)



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