



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: University Affairs Board

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DATE: May 21, 2024 for May 29, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Indigenous Initiatives 2023 Annual Progress Report

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.6 of the University Affairs Board Terms of Reference states: ‘The Board receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including but not limited to multi-campus services and offices, Campus Police, Human Resources and Equity, crisis response, and campus organizations.’

At an Entrustment Ceremony on January 13, 2017, Elder Andrew Wesley, on behalf of the U of T Elders Circle, presented to President Meric Gertler and Vice-President & Provost Cheryl Regehr the Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto (U of T) Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (the “TRC Steering Committee”).

The Indigenous Initiatives Annual Progress Report outlines the ongoing work of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, whose establishment was a response to one of the 34 Calls to Action set out in the TRC Steering Committee’s Final Report. Additionally, the Report documents the new and ongoing Indigenous initiatives and projects occurring at the University and progress on the Calls to Action from January 2023 to December 2023.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **University Affairs Board [for information] (May 29, 2024)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting of May 31, 2024, the University Affairs Board received the Indigenous Annual Progress Report, 2022 for information only.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Indigenous Initiatives 2023 Annual Progress Report outlines the University's progress in addressing the six themes identified in *Answering the Call, Wecheehetowin: Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Highlights include the Indigenous Tuition Initiative; continued growth in Indigenous staff and faculty numbers; the opening of Ziibiing; Indigenous Place-Making at U of T Scarborough; the 30th anniversary of First Nations House; the inaugural U of T Mississauga Powwow; and hosting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference in the spring.

Additionally, the Report addresses common challenges brought forward by Faculties and departments as well as Indigenous staff, students, and faculty.

Finally, the Report summarizes next steps, including a guideline that will remove barriers to holding Indigenous ceremonies on all three campuses; expanded roles and direction for the Indigenous Research Network; the opening of Indigenous House at U of T Scarborough; and a new committee to support and enhance Indigenous recruitment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Indigenous Initiatives 2023 Annual Progress Report

INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES 2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Indigenous Initiatives 2023 Annual Progress Report

In 2017, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action, University of Toronto students, staff, faculty, and Elders released *Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto*, a document created to ensure the University was in alignment with the TRC by recommending their own Calls to Action, which mirrored the work of the TRC. The U of T report contained 34 Calls to Action, under six major themes. The Office of Indigenous Initiatives set out to support the actions and institutional changes outlined in the *Wecheehetowin Final Report*, as well as to evaluate the progress made towards truth and reconciliation, by creating the Annual Progress Report, which shares that ongoing journey. Section 2 reports on the progress achieved under the six themes identified.

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ON THIS PAGE: Constellations points in the ceiling of the pavilion at Ziibiing depicting Indigenous star knowledge and astrological mappings (photo by Stef & Ethan).

COVER PHOTO: Indigenous employees at U of T visiting the pavilion in Ziibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).



Land Acknowledgement

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives wishes 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.

The pavilion found at Ziibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).

Foreword

FOREWORD & QUOTES FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

This past year, we balanced highs and lows as we navigated global traumas and local challenges with huge accomplishments and celebratory moments. Indigenous communities both inside and outside of the University of Toronto came together to demonstrate strength and resilience and to honour and commemorate our many accomplishments. With great excitement and anticipation, we launched the Indigenous Tuition Initiative. This initiative will enable us to strengthen our relationships with nine of our neighbouring communities, including our host territories, as we break down some of the barriers to achieving success at the post-secondary level. Beyond these nine communities, we have also built bridges with our communities and students outside of Ontario and in the continental US.

The creation of the Indigenous Student Advisory Circle has helped the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) to build and strengthen relationships with a diverse body of Indigenous students who are vital to all the work we do. Coming together with these students has been an absolute privilege and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow from their wisdom, guidance, and the stories they share. Students are the core of what we do here at U of T, and it was an incredible privilege to honour both past and present students at the First Nations House – Indigenous Student Services’ 30th Anniversary.

With support and guidance from Indigenous staff, students, faculty, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and our three host nations, we not only dreamed of and planned for an Indigenous outdoor space central to the St. George campus, but we saw Ziibiing (formerly the Indigenous Landscape at

Taddle Creek) come to be. I cannot wait to gather, learn, have ceremonies, and share this incredible outdoor space with everyone who visits our campus. This is one of several spaces that opened this year along with ceremonial space at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), the renaming of trails and pathways at the Scarborough campus (UTSC), and the prominent and significant addition of the *acknowledging the land* exhibition at Simcoe Hall.

As we look ahead to the coming years, I am so excited for what is to come. As the team at the Office of Indigenous Initiatives continues to grow, so do our research endeavours and student engagement, our presence on all three campuses, and our opportunities to teach, learn, expand, and support Indigenous communities at U of T and beyond.

- SHANNON SIMPSON, SENIOR DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES



Shannon Simpson,
Senior Director, Office
of Indigenous Initiatives
(photo by Stef & Ethan).



As the University of Toronto and Indigenous members of our community work together to advance reconciliation across our three campuses, I would like to thank the Office of Indigenous Initiatives for their outstanding leadership. The OII’s 2023 Annual Progress Report reflects another exciting year of progress on this essential journey and highlights the many important contributions made by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, faculty, staff, and students at U of T.”

- MERIC S. GERTLER, PRESIDENT

“The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has become an integral part of the University of Toronto – a hub for Indigenous knowledge, a centre for community recognition, and a force for Indigenous leadership and presence on our campuses. I applaud the amazing accomplishments that are featured in this report and look forward to continuing to work with the OII and U of T’s Indigenous community on fostering Indigenous success and visibility across the University.”

- TREVOR YOUNG, VICE-PRESIDENT & PROVOST

“The Annual Progress Report by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives tells an important story of institutional change. At the same time, it affirms the impactful work of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and its team of dedicated staff. OII staff are leaders and partners, they provide guidance and consultation, and they are deeply dedicated to ensuring Indigenous students and employees feel supported as they study and research, teach, and work at the University of Toronto.”

- KELLY HANNAH-MOFFAT, VICE-PRESIDENT, PEOPLE STRATEGY,
EQUITY & CULTURE

section

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Indigenous employees at U of T gather under the pavilion in Ziibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).

Institutional Support and Guidance

The University of Toronto's senior leadership facilitate ongoing conversations regarding the priorities outlined in *Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* and continue to support, develop, and implement strategies that advance Indigenous presence, the development of partnerships and collaboration, and institutional change that reflects the Calls to Action.

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives: A Tri-Campus Presence

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) is situated within the portfolios of the Vice-President of People Strategy, Equity & Culture (PSEC) and the Vice-President & Provost. The mandate of the OII is to support and guide the U of T community, across all three campuses, as it continues to work towards reconciliation. The OII advises on and oversees Indigenous initiatives across the University, conducting regular environmental scans to establish the impact and progress of such initiatives. The Elders Circle, the Council of Indigenous Initiatives, and the Indigenous Student Advisory Circle all inform the work of Indigenous Initiatives. For more information, please visit <https://indigenous.utoronto.ca/>.

Operating as a tri-campus team, Shannon Simpson (Alderville First Nation) serves as the Senior Director of Indigenous

Initiatives, Tee Duke (Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation, Treaty 3) serves as the Director of Indigenous Initiatives at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and Kelly Crawford (M'Chigeeng First Nation) serves as Assistant Director of Indigenous Initiatives at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Together, they collaborate on the development and implementation of Indigenous initiatives across the University. These roles and offices are essential to the process of building relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous University and community partners, implementing Indigenous culture and pedagogy throughout the institution, and continuing Indigenous initiatives offered University-wide.

Indigenous Tuition Initiative

This year saw a significant step towards strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities and supporting accessibility to education as the University of Toronto introduced the new Indigenous Tuition Initiative, →

which covers the cost of tuition for students from nine First Nations communities, as well as added supports for Indigenous students from outside of Ontario.

As of October 11, 2023, Indigenous students from Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Nation Huronne-Wendat/Huron-Wendat First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga Mohawk), and Six Nations of the Grand River will be eligible for support for their educational journey at U of T. In addition, Indigenous students outside of Ontario and Native American students located within the continental United States may be eligible for domestic Ontario tuition fees. This applies to eligible Indigenous students across all three campuses at U of T enrolled in most undergraduate, graduate, and professional credit-based programs.

This initiative resulted from a collaboration of efforts between the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the University's Registrar's Office with support from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, PSEC, the School of Graduate Studies, and First Nations House. It aligns with the priorities outlined in *Answering the Call: Wecheewetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. The University of Toronto continues to work to be inclusive to Indigenous communities by making substantive changes and creating space for Indigenous people, culture, and ideas. For more information, please visit <https://registrar.utoronto.ca/finances-and-funding/indigenous-tuition-initiative/>.

Honorary Doctorates – Doctor of Laws

In June, internationally recognized Indigenous artist and curator Robert Houle and internationally recognized singer and filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin were each awarded a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,

from the University of Toronto. With artwork that challenges colonial thinking, focusing on Indigenous Peoples, culture, and representation, Robert Houle's work has greatly contributed to the presence of Indigenous art in the contemporary art scene, redefining it worldwide. Alanis Obomsawin's multidisciplinary artwork and films have advocated for social justice and amplified the voices of Indigenous Peoples. Her art, songs, films, and storytelling continue to raise awareness of Indigenous history and resiliency.

Indigenous Student Advisory Circle, Office of Indigenous Initiatives

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has recently established the Indigenous Student Advisory Circle. This group of Indigenous U of T students provides advice and feedback to the Senior Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives on a variety of strategic initiatives across the institution. These topics include research, curriculum, space, student engagement, community relationships, and more.

Orange Shirt Day Design Contest – Student-Designed Artwork

MJ Singleton, an Ojibwe, two-spirit student from the University of Toronto Mississauga, was the winner of the Orange Shirt Day 2023 Design Contest. This special initiative, organized by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives in collaboration with the University of Toronto Bookstore, resulted →



Orange Shirt Day 2023 Design Contest winning design created by UTM student MJ Singleton.

A cultural marker found in Ziibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).



in a student-designed orange t-shirt to be sold at the University for Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Singleton’s artwork, titled *noojimo’iwe*, Anishinaabemowin for “she heals,” depicts a mother and her children walking forward, centred in floral designs and the sun. It highlights the importance of healing intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools by loving and supporting those around you and being strong for one another even through the hurt. Singleton, a third-generation residential school survivor, aims to continue to raise awareness and understanding and to address intergenerational trauma throughout their life’s work.

Through this year’s initiative, the University of Toronto sold upwards of 3400 shirts, totalling over \$34,000 to be donated to the Orange Shirt Day Society. The initiative raised awareness, inspired continued education on intergenerational impacts of residential schools, and supported reconciliation at the University.

Indigenous Priority Pathway Expansion – Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing

To continue prioritizing Indigenous student recruitment into nursing programs, the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing expanded a 2021 initiative that created a priority pathway for Indigenous applicants to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. As of Fall 2023, applicants to masters and post-masters Nursing programs who identify as First Nations,

Métis, or Inuit will be considered based on their qualifications for the program, not in relation to other applicants. Moreover, their supporting documentation will be reviewed by Indigenous community members. Eligible applicants can also apply for the Indigenous Nursing Scholarship, valued at \$10,000.

Indigenous Learning Series – Certification of Completion

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives offers University staff, faculty, librarians, and students three Indigenous training modules that discuss and address the colonial history of Canada and its impacts on Indigenous Peoples. This year, those who have completed all the trainings in the following order – Reconciliation: Walking the Path of Indigenous Allyship, Speaking Our Truths: The Journey Towards Reconciliation Part 1, Speaking Our Truths: The Journey Towards Reconciliation Part 2, and Reflecting on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements – now receive a certificate acknowledging completion of the learning series.

Indigenous Verification Committee

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has created the Indigenous Identity Verification Committee comprised of Indigenous faculty, staff, students, and Knowledge Keepers. The committee will support and advise on an Indigenous-led process of verifying Indigenous identity at the University for opportunities, resources, employment, and admissions pathways intended for Indigenous Peoples.

Artist Catherine Blackburn standing next to her featured portrait inside U of T’s Simcoe Hall for the exhibition, *acknowledging the land* (photo by Lisa Sakulensky).



Indigenous Spaces

Creating Indigenous spaces across all three campuses at the University of Toronto has helped serve a symbolic role, signifying that Indigenous Peoples are present on this land and at the University through the creation of welcoming environments for Indigenous staff, librarians, students, and faculty members. These spaces support the increasing presence of Indigenous culture on all three campuses, forming stronger ties for community, contributing to building relationships, and reminding the community of the rich Indigenous history of the land where the University sits. Across our campuses, new Indigenous spaces were planned and established this year.



Ziibiing: The Indigenous Landscape Project Opens

In December, the fences surrounding the highly anticipated Indigenous Landscape Project, Ziibiing, came down, opening the Indigenous space to the U of T community. The Anishinaabemowin word *Ziibiing* means “River,” a name reflecting the history of the land and Taddle Creek (which, though buried, still flows in this space). The landscape project pays tribute to the Indigenous nations who lived and still exist today on the traditional Indigenous lands on which U of T is situated. This space provides a gathering space to learn, reflect, and celebrate Indigenous history and culture.

acknowledging the land: Simcoe Hall
The Art Museum at the University of Toronto debuted *acknowledging the land* at Simcoe Hall. This project was supported by the Office of the President, with

collaboration from the U of T community and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. The project involves the permanent installation of photographs featuring the works of highly respected Indigenous artists to be displayed throughout the building in spaces previously occupied by portraits of U of T leaders who shaped the University’s development. This unprecedented display of Indigenous excellence in the space of Simcoe Hall honours Indigenous resiliency and is a significant step forward, acknowledging history and amplifying Indigenous voices and presence.

Indigenous Place-Making

While reporting to the UTSC Truth, Reconciliation & Indigenous Initiatives Advisory Committee (TRIAC), the UTSC Sub-Committee for Indigenous Place-making was tasked with the renaming of four major places on campus using Indigenous languages. The Committee

undertook consultation both virtually and in person across a wide range of stakeholders and community members to determine the ‘ethos’ of the place. Four distinct Indigenous languages were used in the naming of the spaces to underline the welcoming nature of the campus to all Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island. The inclusion of QR codes on the signs enhance the learning experience for users by taking them to a website where they can learn how the name was decided.

Rock Walk
Tsi Yonnyakehto: Ten
Meaning: “Rock Walk”
Language: Mohawk

Scholars Walk
Ilinniaqtiup Aqquinga
Meaning: “Scholars Walk”
Language: Inuktitut

Valley Land Trail
Ma Moosh Ka Win Valley Trail
Meaning: “The Place to Go to Be with Nature for Peace and Restoration”
Language: Cree

MW Building
Kina Wiya Enadong Building
Meaning: “The Gift of Multiple Perspectives”
Language: Anishinaabemowin

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ / *Ruovttu Guvlvi / Towards Home* – Exhibition, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design
In October, The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design presented an Indigenous-led exhibition which showcased artwork from Indigenous artists and designers, centring on Arctic Indigenous communities who have created self-determined spaces of home and →

The pavilion located at Ziibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).



belonging. The exhibition presents alternative ways of thinking and practices in Northern Indigenous designs and building that may not be considered in architecture through broadening an understanding of Indigenous practices, making space for land-based designs, and creating new dialogue on this topic in hopes of having a long-term impact within this field. In addition, several architectural designers and *duojars* (craftspeople) united to discuss the future of designs on Indigenous lands in the workshop “Futurecasting: Indigenous-led Architecture and Design in the Arctic.”

Gift of the Stars – Accessibility Services

In June, U of T saw the unveiling of the *Gift of the Stars*, by artist Nyle Miigizi Johnston. The illuminated wall sculpture highlights the intersectionality between Indigeneity and disability as it depicts the Anishinaabeg story of a grandmother and grandson looking up at the stars and learning that everyone offers a special gift to community and is born perfect. The artwork is visible to all visitors in the main lobby of Accessibility Services.

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ / Ruovttu Guvlui / Towards Home (photo by Harry Choi).

The Children Have to Hear Another Story: Alanis Obomsawin

In the fall, The Art Museum at the University of Toronto hosted the exhibition *The Children Have to Hear Another Story*. Alanis Obomsawin is a celebrated artist, activist, and Abenaki filmmaker who has amplified Indigenous voices and stories on major media platforms. The exhibition presents selected pieces of her life’s work, which spans over five decades and includes prints, music, films, and archival documents detailing her journey, achievements, and determination for resurgence of Indigenous ideas and voices. Obomsawin’s work challenges colonial world systems and has guided change not only in Canada, but in other parts of the world as well.

Leave Your Mark – UTM Collaborative Mural

In collaboration with UTM’s Office of Indigenous Initiatives, student Benji Jacob and Manager, Student Recruitment Communications Michael Gomez initiated the creation of a new art mural at UTM which included a design that reflects Indigenous history and includes Indigenous symbols throughout the piece. The artwork *Leave Your Mark* allowed the community to come together and contribute to the piece by painting small portions while visiting campus. Finding inspiration from UTM’s Strategic Framework, which encourages collaboration and outlines truth and reconciliation and the Anishinaabemowin phrase *Maanjiwe nendamowinan* (meaning “a gathering of minds”), this collaborative process included contributions from prospective students, their families, current U of T students and staff, visiting high school teachers, and U of T President Meric S. Gertler. The mural provided an opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to come together to share and learn from one another while building stronger relationships at UTM.

Sacred Medicine Garden, Faculty of Law

After two and a half years of collaboration, planning, and development, the Faculty

of Law is now home to a Sacred Medicine Garden. The space provides a culturally significant gathering place and outdoor teaching area for the Faculty’s members, the Indigenous Initiatives Office, and the Elder-in-Residence. Solomon King designed and built the space, which includes a stone pathway, a mural of the Seven Grandfather Teachings, and large cedar boxes for sacred medicines, as well as a ceremonial area with seating. A sunrise ceremony attended by staff, faculty, and students opened the new gathering space and included the planting of sage, sweetgrass, tobacco, and strawberry. In October, U of T Law hosted an inaugural harvest where community members came together to harvest tobacco and sage, braid sweetgrass, and learn from Elder Constance Simmonds about the traditional uses of sacred medicines.

Additional Spaces Around Campus

Indigenous spaces can be found on all three campuses as the University increases space to gather, hold ceremony, and host other cultural events for the Indigenous community at U of T. This year, a new teaching lodge has been constructed on the Mississauga campus, the Scarborough campus has placed a Tipi on campus, and Hart House Farm has placed a new Wigwam (longhouse) on the land. All structures contribute to Indigenous presence across the University and reflect Indigenous culture.

Indigenous Faculty and Staff

The recruitment and hiring of Indigenous faculty and staff are fundamental to the ongoing Indigenizing of the institution. These individuals provide Indigenous perspectives and historical methodologies and epistemologies. They enhance curricular developments University-wide. They also foster culturally safe environments across our three campuses that enable Indigenous students and employees to thrive.

In Memoriam: Reverend Doctor Grafton Antone, Wolf Clan, Oneida of the Thames First Nation; Elder-in-Residence, Elders Circle Member, Oneida Language Instructor, 1942–2023

The University of Toronto and community deeply mourned the passing of Rev. Dr. Grafton Antone, an Indigenous Elder, instructor, and esteemed friend. Grafton is known for his boundless contributions in the community through his leadership and by increasing the Indigenous presence in various decision-making roles; his kindness and humour; and his passion for sharing knowledge throughout his life.

Grafton’s journey at the University of Toronto began at First Nations House Indigenous Student Services in 2001, when he joined

as an Elder-in-Residence. There, he was able to share his knowledge and support staff, faculty, and students with Indigenous cultural protocols. Grafton then joined the Centre for Indigenous Studies (formerly known as Aboriginal Studies) as an Oneida Language instructor, continuing to make space for the Oneida language and passing that knowledge on to others. In addition, he provided knowledge and support to U of T’s Victoria University’s Indigenous Advisory Council and was often a Visiting Elder at U of T’s Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Grafton was one of the original members of U of T’s Elders Circle and Council of Indigenous Initiatives, providing cultural knowledge and increasing Indigenous voices in decisions made at U of T. Grafton continued to provide wisdom and

Reverend Doctor Grafton Antone, Elder-in-Residence, Elders Circle Member, Oneida Language Instructor (photo by Tonya Lynn Antone).



expertise within the University of Toronto after his retirement in 2011, when he moved to be with family in his home nation, Oneida of the Thames.

Grafton’s laugh, smile, and presence will forever be missed and remembered at U of T and beyond. A ceremonial fire was held on the University of Toronto St. George campus, creating space for the U of T community to gather, grieve, and share stories.

Dr. Laurie Rousseau-Nepton, Pekuakamiulnuatsh/Innu of Mashteuiatsh; Assistant Professor, David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Dr. Laurie Rousseau-Nepton’s research focuses on the study of star-forming regions,

and her new laboratory works on the development of instruments for astronomy that increase our capabilities to observe the universe. The first Indigenous woman in Canada to obtain a PhD in astrophysics, she received her diploma from Université Laval, studying star formation in spiral galaxies while using and developing an imaging spectrograph. Before joining the University of Toronto, she worked as a resident astronomer at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, helping the scientific community to use various instruments, and created the Star Formation, Ionized Gas, and Nebular Abundances Legacy Survey, an international project that observed more than 50,000 star-forming regions in the local universe. She is involved in many projects related to public communication and science outreach. →



Dr. Laurie Rousseau-Nepton, Assistant Professor, David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics (photo by Michael Pereira).

Her journey in Astronomy is featured in the web series “North Star” from the National Film Board of Canada, which also highlights the contribution of women to astronomy and the important role of culture and ancestral knowledge in the way we do science.

Dr. Tricia McGuire-Adams, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek; Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education

Dr. Tricia McGuire-Adams is an Anishinaabekwe from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education. She received her doctorate in Human Kinetics from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa and her Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance from the University of Victoria. Her scholarship is rooted in physical cultural studies and Indigenous studies. She uses Indigenous research methodologies to research Indigenous health, well-being, and physical activity from Indigenous decolonization and resurgence frameworks. Her current program of research, which is highly collaborative with partners at universities across Canada, Indigenous communities, and other community-based organizations, focuses on Indigenous women’s wellness governance in the academy; martial arts and trauma-informed practices; implementing Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the sport and recreation sectors; and Indigenous disability.

Dr. Sofia Locklear, Lumbee; Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr. Sofia Locklear is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto Mississauga. She is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and is third-generation Ukrainian from Kenora, Ontario. Her research more broadly studies the racialization of Indigenous people in North America. This includes, but is not limited to, white identity formation, health and education outcomes for Indigenous people, and applied Indigenous Evaluation

in the field of public health. She teaches classes such as “Settler Colonialism and Health,” “Race and Indigeneity,” and “Critical Whiteness Studies.” Funded through the National Science Foundation, Sofia and her colleague Dr. Elizabeth Korver-Glenn are currently working on a project about the diverse housing experiences of American Indian/Alaska Native people living in urban settings across the United States.

Joanna Vautour, Anishinaabe Kwe, Serpent River First Nation; Adjunct Lecturer/Cultural Teacher, Master of Social Work Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency Program, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Joanna Vautour is an Anishinaabe band member of Serpent River First Nation (Meawasige family). She has her Master of Social Work with social work experience in the health and well-being of individuals and families in all life stages in the Toronto Indigenous community and throughout Ontario. Joanna’s current work includes Cancer Care, Palliative Care Education and Research, and Social Work Education.

Suzy Kasennaiehne Goodleaf, M.Ed., OPQ, Mohawk ancestry from the Kahnawake Territory; Associate Professor, Master of Social Work Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency Program, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Suzy Goodleaf, M.Ed., is a two-spirit Mohawk from the Kahnawake Territory near Montreal, Quebec. She is a member of the Bear Clan. She is a proud mother of two children and a grandmother to one. She has been formally trained as a Psychologist and a Marital and Family Therapist specializing in the treatment of trauma resulting from the multi-generational impacts of the oppression of Aboriginal people. Suzy is a second-generation residential school survivor and has worked with Health Canada during the years of the Truth and Reconciliation process. Over the past 30 years, Suzy has had the opportunity to gain experience through her work with First Nations people across Canada. She has worked in her own



Dr. Sofia Locklear, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology (photo by Amy Paulson).

community as a front-line social worker, supervisor and trauma specialist; as a clinical supervisor at the Waseskun Healing Lodge for Native Offenders; as the visiting psychologist for the Cree Nation of Mistissini and Waskaganish and the Native Women’s Shelter of Montreal; and currently works as a regular consultant with Kahnawake Community Services and Health Canada (crisis mental health service and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the Indian Residential School File). Suzy has a love for children and works as a part-time psychologist at the community daycare Step-by-Step Early Learning Center, for family and developmental issues related to the impacts of multi-generational trauma. Suzy also has a private practice where she sees people from many nations for individual treatment, couple counselling, family therapy, and community consultation. She has just recently become an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto for the first Masters-level Program in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency.

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich, Yellow Quill First Nation; Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, and Indigenous Engagement Lead, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (he/they), BSP, PhD (University of Saskatchewan), PharmD (University of Toronto), AAHIVP, RPh, was appointed as the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s first Indigenous Engagement Lead in January 2023, which he holds in addition to his role as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. In 2013, he became the first First Nations Doctor of Pharmacy in Canada, and in 2015 at the University of Saskatchewan, became the first (and remains the only) First Nations faculty member in pharmacy in North America. His mother was a ’60s Scoop survivor who grew up in seven different foster homes, and his grandmother and great-grandmother both survived residential schools (Gordon’s Indian Residential School). He identifies as two-spirit, queer, disabled, Saulteaux (Anishinaabe), and Ukrainian, and has spent most of his life thus far on Treaty 6 territory and the Métis homelands (Saskatoon, SK). →

Their primary areas of research and practice are pain, HIV/AIDS, substance use, 2SLGBTQ+ health, Indigenous health, and health professions education. The findings of his PhD in education (Indigenous Peoples' experiences with pharmacy education in Canada) prompted him to become the founder and now chair of the Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada. In 2024, they will be revealing their drag persona (Miss Priss Crypton) and will use this persona in various research and educational endeavours.

Delaney Thomas, Six Nations of the Grand River, Seneca Nation, Bear Clan; Community Engagement Coordinator, Indigenous Access & Inclusion, UTM Centre for Student Engagement

Delaney Thomas is part of the Seneca Nation, Bear Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River. Delaney completed a Master of Social Justice and Community Engagement in September 2023 and began working with the Centre for Student Engagement in November 2023 as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Indigenous Access & Inclusion at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus.

Epiphany Hunt, Red River Métis, and proud citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation; Program Coordinator, Master of Public Health: Indigenous Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Originally from Winnipeg, Epiphany Hunt (she/her) has spent most of her life living, learning, and working as a member of the Toronto urban Indigenous community. She joined the Dalla Lana School of Public Health this year as Program Coordinator for the Master of Public Health: Indigenous Health program. Previously, she spent two and a half years working as a Peer Researcher at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, researching and writing on the health impacts of incarceration on Indigenous mothers and mother figures. She also worked with Aboriginal Legal Services for five years, most recently supervising an Indigenous alternative dispute resolution program for families experiencing conflict with the child welfare

system. She is also experienced in the areas of criminal diversions and victims' rights advocacy for the Toronto urban Indigenous community.

Jessica Tabak, Neyaashiinigiing and band member to the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation; Special Projects Officer, Office of Indigenous Initiatives Mississauga

Jessica Tabak is a proud Anishinaabe and Hungarian kwe from Neyaashiinigiing and a band member to the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. She is UTM OII's first Special Projects Officer of Indigenous Initiatives. Within this role, she leads projects that mobilize the reconciliation Calls to Action, as outlined in *Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*.

Roxanne Skye, Gayogoho:no from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory; Indigenous Communities Liaison, Indigenous Research Network

Roxanne has graduated from the Ogwehoweh Language Diploma program at Six Nations Polytechnic in partnership with McMaster University. The new role of the Indigenous Communities Liaison in the Division of People Strategy, Equity & Culture was created as part of the Calls to Action in *Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. This role will help to build and strengthen relationships among Indigenous communities, Knowledge Keepers, and researchers by promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Delaney Thomas, Community Engagement Coordinator, Indigenous Access & Inclusion, UTM Centre for Student Engagement (photo by Stef & Ethan).





Native plant signage located at Ziibiing. The signs include translations in Anishinaabe, Seneca, Latin, and English (photo by Stef & Ethan).

Indigenous Curriculum

The University of Toronto continues to integrate Indigenous curriculum, epistemologies, and pedagogies across all three campuses. The University maintains the perspective that Indigenous thought and philosophies are equal to other disciplines as sources of knowledge and promotes foundational changes to curricula that reflect Indigenous knowledge systems and protocols.

New Courses Available at the University

This year, several new additions to curriculum focused on Indigenous content or included it as a major component:

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE:

- ANT325H1 – Indigenous Archaeologies
- JPS316H1 – Indigenous Feminist and Queer Theories
- POL444H1 – Land and Indigenous Politics

FACULTY OF LAW:

- LAW710H1F – Indigenous Law in Context: Intensive (a three-day, land-based course)
- LAW108H1S – First Year: Indigenous Peoples and the Law

FACTOR-INWENTASH FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK:

- SWK4804H – Special Studies 4: Critical Social Work Analysis with Indigenous Peoples

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY:

- VIC 108 – Belonging, Imagination and Indigenous Identity

Additional Initiatives for Indigenous Curriculum Development

Divisional guidelines on “Indigenous Languages for Graduate Degree Requirements” were developed by the Faculty of Arts & Science to support and encourage graduate units to recognize opportunities for Indigenous language instruction and learning within the University. The guidelines state, “The Faculty of Arts & Science has a responsibility to support access to Indigenous language research, teaching, and learning wherever possible” when considering Indigenous language courses and programs that may be used to satisfy degree requirements. In addition, the guidelines acknowledge the relevance of Indigenous languages in a range of contexts and provide avenues of consultation and vetting when determining course applicability to program language requirements.

The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy has integrated Indigenous concepts and content into the curriculum by updating various courses as well as the U of T Interfaculty Pain curriculum, and is also continuing this work within the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) curriculum.

The Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing has updated their Program Objectives and Program Learning Outcomes for each program based on the collective wisdom of the Indigenous Health Nursing Working Group, the Black Health Equity Working Group, faculty, and students. The objectives and outcomes include knowledge that leads to anti-discriminatory and culturally safe nursing.

The Vice-Provost, Innovations in Undergraduate Education, and New College hosted “Ways of Knowing, Ways of Sharing: The Creation of Partnerships for Meaningful Storytelling in the ‘Classroom,’” which brought together U of T faculty and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to discuss how to share Indigenous perspectives and ways of being in the “classroom.”

At the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, the Faculty’s Decanal Advisor on Indigenous Knowledge, Dr. Douglas Cardinal, facilitated a lecture titled “Indigenous Principles for Architecture.” The lecture outlined how architects and planners are able to build sustainable environments that harmonize with nature by adopting Indigenous worldviews and principles.

Ethical Conduct and Community Relationships

The Wecheehetowin Final Report's Calls to Action emphasize the importance of investing in education to establish ethical research practices while promoting respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.



Community gather at the 14th annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference hosted by U of T. (photo by Johnny Guatto).

NAISA 2023 Tkaronto

The University of Toronto had the privilege of hosting the 14th annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference at the St. George campus May 11–13, 2023. Marking the first in-person conference since 2019, the conference gathered more than 1000 attendees consisting of Indigenous scholars, researchers, Elders, and other community members working in the field of Indigenous studies. The conference was created to promote understanding, fostering and creating connections within the field; to discuss themes within the discipline; and to support and strengthen Indigenous studies within academia.

Tkaronto, meaning “where the trees stand in water,” originated from a Kanien’kéha word and today refers to the City of Toronto. From time immemorial, the area on which the city now stands has been the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples, as well as part of the original lands of the Wendat people.

The conference began with a welcome ceremony at Convocation Hall featuring Indigenous singers and drummers. Over the next three days, NAISA offered various discussions, roundtables, presentations, panels, and performances, honouring Indigenous cultural values and community practices near and far. In addition, the conference offered cuisine that included foods from the traditional lands and waters, prepared by local Indigenous chefs. Walking tours were also scheduled, giving

attendees from around the world an opportunity to learn more about and experience the land, city, University, and other local organizations. The conference provided the opportunity for many to engage in vital conversations, make connections globally, and enhance the revitalization of Indigenous culture in academia through the field of Indigenous studies.

2023 Indigenous Community Gathering

In October, the Indigenous community at U of T – consisting of students, faculty, staff, librarians, and Elders – gathered at Hart House Farm for a day to connect, recharge, and foster relations. The gathering included traditional teachings from Elders, a feast prepared by a local Indigenous chef, group activities, and opportunities to connect with the land. This year’s event was sponsored by the Indigenous Research Network and organized by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives with support from Indigenous Initiatives UTM, Indigenous Initiatives UTSC, the Faculty of Arts & Science, and Hart House.

Ziibiing Lab Lunch & Learns

Ziibiing Lab, the Indigenous-led research lab at U of T, welcomed approximately 100 participants as it hosted seven lunch-and-learns this year for students. The sessions focused on various Indigenous-related topics.

Indigenous Students and Indigenous Co-Curricular Education

The University of Toronto continues to work towards Indigenous recruitment and the creation of an environment where current and future Indigenous students can thrive. Prioritizing Indigenous supports and cultural activities leads to the fulfillment of students in their educational journey by helping them feel connected to the community and ensuring that they feel acknowledged along the way. In addition, these initiatives raise awareness and provide learning opportunities for non-Indigenous students.

Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Tri-Campus
The University of Toronto organized various events and initiatives across all three campuses in recognition of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

- In collaboration with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (including UTM and UTSC Indigenous Initiatives), First Nations House – Indigenous Student Services, and Hart House, the University hosted an institution-wide event located in the Great Hall at Hart House. The commemoration was hosted by David Kim of Hart House, and consisted of a discussion panel including Grant Hurley, Mikayla Redden, and Desmond Wong,

moderated by Angela Henshilwood. The panel discussed the creation of the Indian Residential School Survivors’ Storybase, which is an online collection of residential school survivors’ stories that are accessible at the University of Toronto Libraries. This project provides the opportunity to hear Indigenous stories and to listen, learn, and reflect on the Indian Residential School System and its continuing legacy.

- The Faculty of Arts & Science partnered with the Department of Anthropology, New College, and the Centre for Indigenous Studies to host guest speaker Professor Kisha Supernant (Métis/Papaschase/British), Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology at →

Community gather at the institutional-wide event for Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (photo by Polina Teif).





the University of Alberta, to present “Truth First: Indigenous Archaeology as Restorative Justice.” Supernant discussed their work of discovering unmarked graves at former residential schools through the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR), working with Indigenous communities to preserve those sites, as well as practising a restorative approach to archaeology.

- The Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, led by Dean Gretchen Kerr, welcomed Dr. Wilton Littlechild, an accomplished lawyer, public official, and Commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada as well as an award-winning athlete, to discuss “The Role of Physical Activity and Sport in Reconciliation.” Dr. Littlechild addressed this topic while sharing teachings, reflections, and lived experiences with the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community at U of T.
- The Rotman School of Business invited Bob Joseph, author of *21 Things You*

May Not Know About the Indian Act, to discuss the history of the Indian Act, its goal to control and assimilate Indigenous Peoples, and the impacts and repercussions of its implementation.

- The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design offered an open invitation to staff, faculty, and students to gather in the Daniels building and view the University-wide commemoration event hosted at Hart House. The Daniels event also included remarks from the Acting Dean and members of the Faculty’s First Peoples Leadership Advisory Committee, a Q&A, and lunch.

First Nations House 30th Anniversary Celebration

This year, more than 200 community members at the University of Toronto came together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of First Nations House (FNH) – Indigenous Student Services. Hosted in the Hart House Great Hall, the evening of celebration consisted of honouring the years of dedication and contributions FNH

Indigenous Education Week: Indigenous Fashion and Regalia Show (photo Masoud Riyazati).



has brought to the University and community. Indigenous chefs Rick Powless and Charles Catchpole prepared a five-course meal for attendees, serving Indigenous-inspired cuisine. In recognition of this significant milestone, Dianne Longboat (founder of FNH), U of T’s President Meric S. Gertler, and previous FNH directors and family delivered remarks. The night of celebration included Indigenous music and dance as well as a ceremonial event in which the Eagle staff was raised and previous directors of FNH were invited to tie feathers to the Eagle staff.

All-Nations Powwow – University of Toronto Mississauga

While drawing in a crowd of 1500 people, U of T’s Mississauga campus welcomed the inaugural All-Nations Powwow on March 25, 2023. UTM’s Indigenous Centre collaborated with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to co-host the event, which brought together the community from both near and far to celebrate Indigenous cultures through traditional dancing, singing, and ceremony. In addition, Indigenous vendors, businesses,

and organizations united in a marketplace showcasing Indigenous services, apparel, artwork, jewellery, cuisine, and more.

Indigenous Education Week: Indigenous Fashion and Regalia Show

Concluding Indigenous Education Week, First Nations House, with institutional support, hosted the Indigenous Regalia & Fashion Show, transforming the Great Hall in Hart House into a runway show. Designers gathered in Toronto to showcase their collections, complemented by performances from Indigenous artists. The show centred around Indigenous culture and identity through fashion.

Maamawi: Tattoo Gathering

In October, Hart House collaborated with the Native Youth Centre and Native Child and Family Services to bring together tattoo artists from across the province, the U of T community, and the broader public to celebrate Indigenous art and heritage at the Maamawi: Tattoo Gathering. The cultural event emphasized the empowerment of Indigenous youth through tattoo artistry and →

Maamawi: Tattoo Gathering (photo by Matthew Volpe).



Indigenous Art Walk
(photo by Day Milman).

honoured ancestors while engaging in the traditional practice. Highlights included opportunities to receive tattoos, culinary delights focused on Indigenous cuisine, music, and an Indigenous makers' market.

Snowshoeing and Anishinaabemowin Storytelling

In January, First Nations House, in partnership with Hart House, UTSC Indigenous House, and UTM Office of Indigenous Initiatives, invited Indigenous students at U of T to participate in snowshoeing as well as in an immersive language learning gathering with Albert Owl. Hosted at Hart House Farm, the event centred around Indigenous ways of knowing through land-based learning and was facilitated entirely in Anishinaabemowin.

Traditional Food & Sovereignty Workshop

Chef Rick Powless facilitated a workshop for Indigenous students and the U of T community focused on Indigenous traditional food and sovereignty. Highlighting the themes of food access and social

determinants of health, the workshop brought history, culture, traditional ingredients, and teachings to U of T while focusing on students' needs, access to food, and varying skill levels in cooking.

Identity Through an Indigenous Lens: Clan Systems & 2SLGBTQ+ People

In March, First Nations House welcomed Ej Kwandibens, who facilitated a workshop discussing Northern Woodland Anishinawbe Clan Systems Perspectives. This workshop was open to all members of the U of T community, but centred 2SLGBTQ+ and Indigenous students, and offered teachings on the traditional governance system, identity, the reclamation of self, and belonging.

Sweetgrass Series: A Holistic Framework for Academic Success

Academic Success introduced a new series of workshops using the Indigenous sweetgrass framework of three braids, reflecting mind, body, and spirit. This three-part series was created to strategize skill development in these areas while enhancing student perspectives and learning.



All-Nations Powwow
hosted by the
University of Toronto
Mississauga (photo
by Nick Iwanyszyn).

Manitoulin Island First Nations – Student Experiential Learning

Students from across the University visited three Indigenous communities on Manitoulin Island (M'Chigeeng First Nation, Sheshegwaning First Nation, and Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory), where they were able to learn and immerse themselves in culture and language. Students visited cultural and community centres, experienced traditional foods, participated in a sweat lodge ceremony, and learned traditional hand drum songs.

Past-Present-Future: Hart House Farm Art Residency

This interactive art residency project took place over four days in October at Hart House Farm. Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and the community from U of T gathered with facilitator Don Russell as well as Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and artists to engage in teachings about time concepts and balancing our lives based on these concepts. The residency also included sharing stories, spending time on the land, and participating in the creation of collective land-based artwork.

Remapping the Campus Through Contemporary Indigenous Artworks

A hosted walk brought participants to explore spaces at Hart House, the Myhal Centre, the Art Museum at University College, and First Nations House to showcase the Indigenous artwork found on the St. George campus. Artists, curators, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers facilitated reflections and conversations about the artwork, which featured pieces by Alanis Obomsawin, Rebecca Belmore & Osvaldo Yero, Solomon & Trinh King, Dana Claxton, Shelley Niro, and more.

Challenges

As part of the University's responsibilities to accountability and the process of evaluating progress made towards implementing the 34 Calls to Action presented in the *Wecheehetowin Final Report*, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives requested feedback from U of T departments, offices, centres, Faculties, and campuses about challenges experienced by Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and librarians across the institution. In addition, OII asked what supports were needed to overcome these challenges in the future. Notable themes that emerged from the responses are as follows:

- Lack of capacity and Indigenous faculty at the University in comparison to the demand for Indigenous expertise and presence for ongoing and upcoming projects and initiatives;
- High demand for Indigenous presence can cause an increased burden for the limited number of existing Indigenous staff, students, faculty, and librarians;
- Sustainable funding needed to realize ongoing, long-term commitments to initiatives and goals;
- Lack of administrative infrastructure to support projects;
- Lack of Indigenous presence or representation in various Faculties/departments;
- Frequently insufficient knowledge or understanding of Indigenous education or processes associated with Indigenous practices by members of the non-Indigenous community who are tasked with coordinating or collaborating on different programs and events;
- Lack of resources to support recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff, faculty, and librarians;
- Present barriers and challenges to hold smudges and other ceremonies in spaces across the University;
- The persistent belief that Indigenous systems and approaches are unequal to academic systems and approaches.

The University is committed to addressing these barriers and to making strides towards foundational changes in several ways, including the ongoing hiring of Indigenous faculty, staff, and librarians; recruiting Indigenous students; advancing the dissemination of Indigenous cultures, histories, and pedagogies into curriculum and strategic developments; increasing Indigenous presence University-wide; promoting awareness of Indigenous issues; seeking funding and resources to support goals and initiatives; and fostering collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities.

Community gathering at the inaugural All-Nations Powwow hosted by the University for Toronto Mississauga (photo by Nick Iwanyshyn).



Next Steps, Looking Forward

U of T remains committed to its role in advancing reconciliation across our three campuses in ways that are relevant to and collaborative with Indigenous members of the U of T community and the host nations. As the Office of Indigenous Initiatives continues to grow, so will its impact on the U of T community in advancing Indigenous issues with transparency, accountability, and proficiency.



All-Nations Powwow
hosted by the University
for Toronto Mississauga
(photo by Nick Iwanyszyn).

Institutional Ceremonies Commitment Statement

In a partnership with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Facilities & Services and Environmental Health & Safety, the University is expected to launch an institutional commitment statement in 2024 which states, “Indigenous ceremonial practices – including but not limited to smudging, ceremonial fires, lighting the *qulliq*, and pipe ceremonies – are welcome across University of Toronto campuses. Access to ceremonial elements is an important part of many Indigenous Peoples’ way of life.” The statement supports smudging and other Indigenous ceremonial practices involving smoke or fire across all campuses at the University of Toronto.

Walks with Reclamation

The UTM Indigenous Centre, Studio X, and Indigenous Student Artist MJ Singleton will be collaborating on a large-scale art installation titled *Walks with Reclamation*. Through intricate design featuring local animals in the Woodland Art style, it will honour Indigenous history and resilience, inviting reflection on stewardship and

respect for the environment, and serve as a reminder of our ongoing journey towards reconciliation.

Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy – Certificate in Indigenous Health

The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy has recently begun a curriculum renewal of their Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program, adding Indigenous Knowledges and a collection of learning experiences along with various resources to develop a new opportunity for PharmD students to graduate with a certificate in Indigenous Health in the future. The project leads the way towards reconciliation not only in Pharmacy at U of T, but also in the Canadian pharmacy discipline.

Indigenous Research Network – Managing Director New Hire

The Indigenous Research Network (IRN) is an institutional strategic initiative at the University of Toronto that supports Indigenous researchers and research projects. The IRN has recently posted a new leadership role, Managing Director, which will be critical in the strategic development

and management of IRN initiatives and in the implementation and evaluation of strategic goals and long-term planning.

Indigenous Research Network – Strategic Plan

Under the leadership of Professor Dale Turner, a 2023 priority for the IRN was to develop a strategic plan by engaging with U of T community members. This plan would inform the priorities and action items of the IRN for the next five years. This work included the creation of the IRN Strategic Planning Working Group to help co-develop the vision, scope of work, and strategic plan. It is anticipated the IRN strategic plan will be released in 2024.

Indigenous Artist Retreat

First Nations House, in partnership with Hart House, is planning an Indigenous Artist Retreat at Hart House Farm in 2024. The focus of the Retreat will be to bring together an array of artists with varying styles of art to teach through a series of workshops. The Retreat will also welcome Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to promote a culturally relevant and safe

space, as well as include ceremonial pieces and Indigenous cuisine throughout the experience.

Indigenous Marketplace

First Nations House and the Rotman School of Management are partnering in 2024 to host The Indigenous Marketplace. Approximately 20 vendors will be invited to share and sell at the marketplace, which will include an Indigenous food vendor for the occasion. In addition to vendors, the event will also feature a talk that explores Indigenous commerce both historically and through a contemporary lens.

Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy – Indigenous Curriculum Review

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Engagement Curriculum Renewal Working Group at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy was recently established. Its membership of staff, students, faculty, and community partners will collaborate on continued efforts to integrate Indigenous concepts and content, as well as approaches to Indigenous engagement and the principles of equity, diversity, and →

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inclusion into the new curriculum in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.

Indigenous Languages Revitalization Partnership Coordinator – Faculty of Arts & Science

The Faculty of Arts & Science has approved the creation of a new staff position, the Indigenous Languages Revitalization Partnership Coordinator. This new position will work closely with Indigenous Languages faculty to support reciprocal relationships between the community and University language specialists as well as focus on building capacity at U of T to align Indigenous language teaching and research with the objectives of community-led language reclamation and revitalization work.

Transform Heart Failure: On the Land Indigenous Education Program – Memorandum of Understanding

The Institutional Strategic Initiative Transform Heart Failure (Transform HF) was created in partnership with the University of Toronto and the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research. The research program develops and delivers tools for heart health monitoring in rural remote communities. To support ongoing community-based research, Transform HF will develop a new Memorandum of Understanding, including a focus on field-testing digital health tools in communities to improve health outcomes.

Opening of Indigenous House, UTSC

Expected to be completed in 2024, Indigenous House will bring a purpose-built Indigenous building and outdoor space to the Scarborough campus, offering a community for Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and librarians as well as learning opportunities for non-Indigenous communities. It will provide a space for learning, ceremony, and socializing, and will support Indigenous research, curriculum building, and recruitment efforts as well as celebrate Indigenous ways of knowing.

Indigenous Garden Project – Emmanuel College of Victoria University

An Indigenous Garden is in the development stage at Emmanuel College. This garden will provide an Indigenous space for all community members to gather, support, and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, and enable experiential learning focused on Indigenous relationships to the land as well as Indigenous culture. Members of an Indigenous Advisory Committee have informed the project throughout.

Indigenous First-Entry Recruitment, Admissions, and Outreach Committee (IFRAOC)

The University of Toronto will be forming a new committee to focus on supporting and encouraging Indigenous communities in the University’s direct-entry undergraduate programs through the implementation of strategic initiatives that align with the University’s commitment in *Answering the Call: Wecheehetowin Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. This initiative will enhance institutional efforts in Indigenous student recruitment and outreach.



A bench found in Ziibiing, made from reclaimed wood of trees previously removed from campus (photo by Stef & Ethan).

DESIGN: FRESH ART & DESIGN INC.

The pavilion located within Zibiing (photo by Stef & Ethan).

