



Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

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Carleton
University





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Who We Are

At the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement, we support students, staff and faculty at Carleton by providing culturally safe spaces for dialogue and learning. We do this by nurturing a sense of belonging for Indigenous students and by developing and delivering resources and training to educate the Carleton community about the experiences, histories and worldviews of Indigenous peoples.

All of this work is guided by our deep connection to ancestral teachings and our recognition of the Algonquin people within whose territory our office is located.



CISCE is led by a three-part mandate:

1

Indigenous Student Support

2

Indigenous Policy and Program Development

3

Professional Development opportunities through facilitations, mediations, and consultations

Ojigkwanong Centre

The Ojigkwanong Indigenous Student Centre is a place where First Nation (Status or Non-Status), Inuk, and Métis students can study, socialize, and participate in academic and cultural programming. Located at 228 Paterson Hall, this space features a medicine lodge, kitchenette, lounge, study space, computer lab, and telephone booth.



The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Register for Ojigkwanong [here](#).

Weekly, Monthly and Annual Programming



The Indigenous Academic and Cultural Programs Coordinator develops weekly, monthly, and annual programming to support Indigenous students. Programming includes but is not limited to Baker's Circle, Inuit cultural programming, a maker's circle, wellness workshops, drop-in beading, student orientations, and more.

To stay up to date with programming, please visit:

[Weekly and Monthly Programming](#)

Individual Culturally-Relevant Counselling Services

The Centre has two in-house accredited psychotherapists to help support First Nation (Status or Non-Status), Inuk, and Métis students. The students can reach out to the Centre, request to meet with a counsellor, and work through their concerns. Students do not need to worry about payment or insurance, as this service is free of charge to all Indigenous students.

To learn more about counselling support, please visit: **[Individual Counselling](#)**, and to connect with a counsellor, please email indigenouscounsellor@carleton.ca

Annual Kinàmàgawin Symposium

According to Call #12 of the Kinàmàgawin Report, one large university-wide Indigenous event will occur to facilitate relationship building, learning and appreciation of Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing.

The Kinàmàgawin Symposium is a free and open event that addresses timely topics, chosen by Indigenous students. This event serves to empower students, staff, and faculty at Carleton (Indigenous or not) to further their knowledge on Indigenous topics and help pursue a journey of allyship.

To learn more about the Annual Kinàmàgawin Symposium, please visit: [Kinàmàgawin Symposium](#)

Medicine Lodges



There are two medicine lodges located on campus: in Ojigkwanong, located in Paterson Hall, and Stormont House, located in the residence village. Here, Indigenous community members have access to a space where they can smudge and engage in personal ceremonies anytime they need to.

The Centre provides traditional medicines (sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco), drums, qulliqs, and shakers to aid with personal self-reflection. This is also a place where Elders and Knowledge Keepers can teach and provide spiritual guidance to others.

To learn more about the Medicine Lodge in Ojigkwanong, please visit: [Medicine Lodge](#)

To gain access to the Stormont Medicine room, please contact Indigenous@carleton.ca

Indigenous Student Support

Indigenous Peer Mentorship Program

The Indigenous Peer Mentor Program helps first-year students transition to university life by promoting student engagement and a sense of belonging on campus.



The Indigenous Peer Mentor Program matches new self-identified Indigenous students at Carleton University with experienced Indigenous students who act as mentors, providing academic and social support and ongoing advice. This program provides members with social, academic and cultural development, peer-to-peer support, and activities to support community building and personal growth.

For more information about the program, please visit: [**Indigenous Peer Mentorship Program**](#)

Indigenous Enriched Support Program (IESP)

The Indigenous Enriched Support Program (IESP) is designed for First Nations (status & non-status), Métis and Inuk learners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Students will take first-year credit courses while benefiting from a supportive environment of peer mentors, academic coaches, academic advising and personalized workshops. Upon completion of the program, students will qualify and be supported in the process of applying for a degree program.

The Indigenous Enriched Support Program is ideal for students who are unsure of what program to pursue, who are returning to school after some time away, looking for additional supports during the transition to post-secondary education or those who do not meet the full criteria for a degree program.

To learn more about this program, please visit: [**IESP**](#)

Ceremony Spaces Across Campus

Carleton University fully supports the right of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty to engage in ceremony without prior permission in designated areas. These spaces were assessed by Environmental Health & Safety and the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement to ensure these spaces were safe.

When using one of the listed rooms for a ceremony, individuals do not need additional approval; just go ahead and light a smudge/quल्ली freely!

To learn more about these designated spaces, please visit: **[Pre-Approved Smudge Spaces on Campus](#)**

Indigenous Student Mediation Support

We offer culturally grounded mediation support rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing, designed to help restore safety, trust, and accountability in the classroom. Our approach centers the voices and experiences of Indigenous students while working collaboratively with instructors to support learning, responsibility, and growth for everyone involved. Support may include one-on-one consultations, facilitated conversations, and personalized strategies for responding to harm or discomfort in relational and respectful ways.

to learn more, please email **Indigenous@carleton.ca**

Staff Roles

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement is staffed by a team of Indigenous Peoples with varied lived experiences. The Centre's staff work to minimize gaps on campus for Indigenous community members through academic and cultural means.

To learn more about the Centre's Circle, please visit: **[Our Circle](#)**

Indigenous Policy and Program Development

Carleton University Strategic Indigenous Initiatives Committee (CUSIIC)



In 2018, Carleton formed CUSIIC to renew its Indigenous Strategy and strengthen ties with Indigenous communities. Over 18 months, the committee held 40+ sessions with 600+ participants to explore how Carleton can better support Indigenous students, integrate Indigenous knowledge, and improve community engagement.

The result of this process was the committee's final report entitled *Kinàmàgawin: Learning Together*, which included recommendations and 41 Carleton-specific Calls to Action.

You can view the Original report and progress reports here: [CUSIIC](#)

Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

The IEC oversees policies, programs, and services affecting Indigenous students at Carleton University and works with local Indigenous communities to support student success. The council meets once per term during the academic year.



To learn more, please visit: [**The IEC**](#)

Council of Ontario Universities Indigenous Reference Group

This Reference Group works with universities across Ontario to provide support and resources to other institutions that are working towards minimizing the gap for Indigenous staff, faculty and students on and off-campus.

Algonquin Advisory Committee (AAC)

The Algonquin Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, as well as the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement. The AAC works to include the Algonquin perspective at Carleton University.

For more information, please email Indigenous@carleton.ca

Inuit Advisory Committee (IAC)

The Inuit Advisory Committee was established to help guide Carleton University in supporting Inuit students and to promote Inuit cultural knowledge on campus.


For more information, please email the **Inuit Community Liaison Officer**.

Hiring Policy for Positions Limited to Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, and Métis) Candidates

This Policy outlines the process for verifying the Indigenous identity of applicants for positions reserved for Indigenous candidates at Carleton. It ensures integrity in hiring, supports community connection, and promotes safety and knowledge within the university. You can find the policy on the **University Policy Website**.

Admissions and Awards Limited to Indigenous (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) Candidates Policy

This Policy outlines the process for verifying Indigenous identity for applicants to Indigenous-specific program seats, awards, grants, and scholarships. It aligns with existing admissions processes and Section 14 of the Ontario Human Rights Code. You can find the policy on the **University Policy Website**.



Kinàmàgawin Indigenous Learning Certificate

A four-part learning series (12 hours total) exploring anti-Indigenous racism, Indigenous student experiences, systemic barriers in education, and pathways to allyship. Open to all.

Student Support Certificate Workshops

Supporting Indigenous Students

Learn how to support Indigenous learners through inclusive practices, Elders-in-Residence, mental health resources, and culturally grounded support.

Foundations of Indigenous Knowledge

Explore Indigenous cultures, histories, and key issues like MMIWG2S+, land rights, and allyship.

One-Time Facilitated Sessions

CISCE offers tailored, one-time sessions for classrooms, teams, or departments on topics such as:

- The Indian Act
- MMIWG2S+
- Land & Water Rights
- Indigenous Pedagogies
- Environmental Justice
- Anti-Indigenous Racism

To learn more about any of these opportunities, please visit: **CISCE Facilitations**

All workshops and facilitated sessions are free of charge and open to students, staff, and faculty, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. Everyone is welcome to participate in this community-based learning.

Consultation Support

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement offers individual curriculum consultations for faculty throughout the academic year. Whether you're integrating Indigenous content into your course for the first time or seeking guidance on a specific topic, we're here to support you.

Our services include, but are not limited to:

- Recommending resources
- Exploring diverse teaching approaches
- Reviewing course outlines

Mediation Support for Staff and Faculty

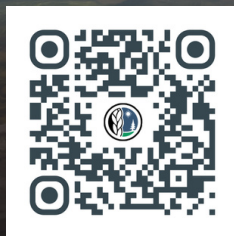
This service is available to all faculty and contract instructors who may have questions about how to best support an Indigenous student experiencing difficulty in their class. Our team brings deep knowledge of the supports available across campus and maintains strong relationships with Indigenous community partners who provide additional programming, resources, and services. Whether you're responding to an immediate concern or seeking long-term guidance, we are here to help foster inclusive and accountable learning spaces.

Connecting with an Elder or Knowledge Holder

If you are hoping to invite an Elder or Knowledge Holder into your space, you can go through the process at the [Requesting an Elder/Knowledge Holder](#) webpage.

Contact Us

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