



Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

613-520-2600

Indigenous@carleton.ca

carleton.ca/indigenous

Carleton
University



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WHO WE ARE

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement (CISCE) is led by a three-part mandate:

- 1 To provide First Nation, Métis, and Inuit student supports
- 2 Develop Indigenous policies and programs
- 3 Support the entire Carleton University community, whether Indigenous or not (students, staff, and faculty), through professional development:
 - Curricula consultations
 - Facilitations
 - Individual and classroom mediations



STAFF CONTACTS



Benny Michaud
Director



Theresa Hendricks
Theresa.Hendricks@carleton.ca
*Indigenous Special Projects
Coordinator and Administrator*



Macho/Phil Commonda
Philip.Commonda@carleton.ca
Algonquin Community Liaison Officer



Franco Buscemi
FrancoBuscemi@cunet.carleton.ca
Inuit Community Liaison Officer



Staci Loiselle
Staci.Loiselle@carleton.ca
Indigenous Cultural Counsellor



Rylee Godin
Rylee.Godin@carleton.ca
IESP Specialist and Counsellor



Vanessa Cyr

VanessaCyr3@cunet.carleton.ca

*Indigenous Academic and Cultural
Programs Coordinator*



Kendra Barberstock

KendraBarberstock@cunet.carleton.ca

Indigenous Student Academic
Advisor



Frankie Lafrance

FrankieLafrance@cunet.carleton.ca

Indigenous Student Academic
Advisor



Lane Bourbonnière

Lane.Bourbonniere@carleton.ca

Indigenous Curricula Learning
Specialist



Barbara Dumont-Hill

Elder

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORT

Ojigkwanong Centre

The Ojigkwanong Indigenous Student Centre is a place where First Nation, Métis, and Inuit 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 with swipe card access.



Weekly, Monthly, and Annual Programming

The Academic and Cultural Programs Coordinator develops weekly and monthly programming to support Indigenous students. Programming includes but is not limited to the Knowledge Keeper program, beading circle, Indigenous artistic traditions, writing support services, student orientations, and monthly feasts. This programming is subject to change every school year to better cater to the needs of that year's student population.

On an annual basis, the Centre supports hosting numerous events throughout the year, including Indigenous-specific orientations, workshops during Pride Week and Inclusion Week, an Indigenous Student Career Fair, an Indigenous Winter Market, an Indigenous Holiday Feast, a Round Dance, a Powwow, the Kinàmàgawin Symposium, an Indigenous Graduate Honouring Ceremony, and the Nunavut Arctic Exchange.



Individual Culturally-Relevant Counselling

CISCE has two in-house accredited psychotherapists on the team who are available to support Indigenous student well-being. Indigenous students can reach out to CISCE to request to meet with an Indigenous Counsellor for one-on-one support. This service is free of charge to all First Nation, Métis, and Inuk learners.

Annual Kinàmàgawin Symposium

According to call #12 of the Kinàmàgawin Report, CISCE will host one university-wide event per year to facilitate relationship building, learning, and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, ways of knowing, and lived experiences. This event is free and open to all on campus, whether you are Indigenous or not. The Symposium addresses timely topics, chosen by Indigenous students, and it serves to further the knowledge on Indigenous topics.

Past symposium themes addressed Connecting to Spirituality: Learning from the Land, Community, and Culture; Indigenous Approaches to Well-Being; Accessing the Academy through following the Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel; High Arctic Relocations and Inuit Resilience; and Indigenous Identity Politics and Sovereignty.



Smudge Spaces

Carleton now has two Medicine rooms on Campus in Ojigkwanong and the Stormont Residence House. Here, students have access to the four sacred medicines, drums, and shakers to help engage in ceremonies.

We are also happy to announce that Carleton now has over 50 pre-approved spaces on campus where people can instantaneously smudge without permission, with the Architecture Building and Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre being two buildings that are completely smudge-friendly.



Indigenous Enriched Support Program (IESP)

The Indigenous Enriched Support Program (IESP) is designed for First Nations (status & non-status), Métis, and Inuit 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 for, and be supported in the process of applying for a degree program. The IESP is ideal for students who are unsure of what program to pursue, who are returning to school after some time away, who are looking for additional support during the transition to post-secondary education, or who do not meet the full criteria for a degree program.



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 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.

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.

If you would like to connect with a team member, please email: Indigenous@carleton.ca



INDIGENOUS POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Carleton University Strategic Indigenous Initiatives Committee (CUSIIC)

This Committee was established to develop a university-wide Indigenous strategy for Carleton University. In May 2020, the Kinàmàgawin Report was released, identifying 41 Calls to Action regarding community engagement; Indigenous student support; student experience in recruitment, retention, and graduation; ways of teaching and learning; culture, systems, and structure; research and innovation; and qualitative and quantitative metrics. The Carleton University community has committed to fulfilling these calls and released a progress report in April 2022.



Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is mandated to promote, guide, and oversee the implementation of policies, programming, and services that impact Indigenous students while attending Carleton University. The IEC also works closely with local Indigenous communities to properly represent and promote the success of all current and future Indigenous students.



Council of Ontario Universities Indigenous Reference Group

This 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.

Indigenous Curriculum Specialist Network

This group works with postsecondary institutions across Turtle Island to create safer and braver spaces for Indigenous students. This network works to decolonize, indigenize, and reconcile Western curricula and institutions. The specialists work within this group to roll out support inclusively.

Algonquin Advisory Committee (AAC)

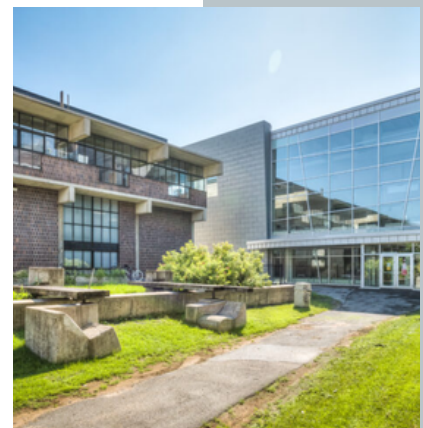
The Algonquin Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, as well as the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement. The AAC works to include the Algonquin perspective to Carleton University.

In an effort to embody a significant territory acknowledgment in a meaningful way, the Algonquin Advisory Council and Algonquin communities in the region—notably Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan—renamed the University Centre to Nideyinàn (pronounced nih-DAY-in-nahn) and translates to “our heart.”

Inuit Advisory Committee (IAC)

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

Following a thorough engagement process with the Inuit Advisory Council and Inuit in the region and in the North, Carleton renamed Robertson Hall to Pigiavik (pronounced pee-ghee-awe-vik), which translates to “a place to begin” or “the starting place”.



SUPPORTING THE CARLETON THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Facilitations

The Centre offers facilitation opportunities through the Kinàmàgawin Indigenous Learning Certificate and the Student Support Certificate.

The Kinàmàgawin Indigenous Learning Certificate is a 4-part series that expands on the 1.5-hour Student Support Training, addressing topics such as anti-Indigenous racism in Canada, institutional anti-Indigenous racism and education systems, the experience of Indigenous students in post-secondary education, what the Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement does, and how people can pursue a journey of allyship. Each session is 3-hours that spans over the course of four months.

As a precursor to the Kinàmàgawin Indigenous Learning Certificate, people can also take the Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training through the Student Support Certificate.

To register for either of these trainings, please visit Carleton Central and access the “Professional Development and Learning Opportunities” portal.

The Centre can also support one-off facilitation opportunities that cater to specific departments, faculties, and topics. This is subject to availability.

To learn more about these facilitation opportunities, please email Indigenous@carleton.ca



Consultations

The Indigenous Curricula Learning Specialist offers support to Carleton staff, faculty, and students within a consultation capacity to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowledge and practices in the classroom environment. This includes but is not limited to, Indigenous resource suggestions, styles of teaching, and navigating classroom conversations.



Mediations

Two forms of mediation are provided to the Carleton community: Indigenous Student Safety Mediation and Indigenous Pedagogy Mediation

Indigenous Student Safety Mediation

Sometimes, Indigenous students may not feel safe in certain spaces. Indigenous students are encouraged to reach out to the Indigenous Curricula Learning Specialist to receive support. The Specialist can advocate on behalf of the student to make that space safer for the learner.

Indigenous Pedagogy Mediation

The Carleton community can use the Centre as a resource to help mediate difficult conversations in the classroom about Indigenous topics. Whether it is making people aware of proper terminology use or educating folx on Indigenous topics, mediation support is available in a 1:1 capacity or group meeting.



Contact Us

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement is currently located at:

Carleton Technology and Training Centre
1125 Colonel By Drive, Suite 3400
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6

613-520-2600
Indigenous@carleton.ca
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