



School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Re: Progress Report on School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies Site Reviews/Program Approvals

February 1, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this report on the recent progress of the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies on our progress in addressing the Action Plan related to the BA/MA Cyclical review.

In 2016, we were asked to report on our progress towards five action items related to our **BA/MA programs**:

- The first item that we have been asked to report on was our progress in increasing enrollment in our BA programs. We have had some success in doing so by increasing the number of online Canadian Studies courses we offer and by embarking on major curriculum changes, including the introduction of a Combined Honours degree in Indigenous Studies. We have also developed a proposal for a Minor in Heritage and Conservation and we are exploring the possibility of developing a BGINS stream in Canada-US relations as well as the possibility of a joint degree in Built Heritage with Algonquin College.
- The second item was our progress in increasing support for Indigenous students. As our report on the Indigenous Studies program attests, we have done so in several ways. We will have a coordinator of Indigenous Studies beginning in July 2017, School members will be better trained for supporting our Indigenous students and a new Indigenous Studies program began in September 2017.
- The next item was our progress in clarifying the rules and expectations governing language requirements. While there is still disagreement in the unit about the purpose of our language requirement, we have decided to “agree to disagree” and have clarified that our language test is geared towards testing reading comprehension. We have cleaned up our website to reflect this and to bring it in line with the requirements listed in the calendar.
- In regards to the MA program, we were asked to report on our progress towards reducing restrictions on out-of-program courses. While we fully agree with this recommendation and have unofficially implemented it, we have not yet made the official formal changes to our program. We will send a reminder to our graduate supervisor to make this formal change.

- We were also asked to report on our progress in increasing the number of TAs in Indigenous and Canadian Studies courses. This is complicated to report on because we are limited in our ability to control the number of TAs we offer by ODFASS, which is in turn limited by, for the lack of better terms, market forces. We aspire to assign all of our graduate students to Indigenous and Canadian Studies courses but we cannot guarantee that all of them will.

Please feel free to contact me with any follow-up questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Thompson

Director
School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies
Carleton University