

Aboriginal Council of Queen's University

Annual Report 2018



Report provided by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
January 2019



Introduction

The Aboriginal Council of Queen's University (ACQU) provides advice to the university and is mandated to continuously be involved in all decisions affecting Indigenous programs, services and students at Queen's.

In 2018, Council was actively engaged in various Indigenous initiatives on campus. During the February 2018 meeting, the new incoming Community Co-Chair was announced and then officially welcomed during the May meeting. Council was regularly consulted on Indigenous research and collaborations along with Indigenous terminology. Indigenous research continues to be a big focus for Queen's as well as the use of appropriate terminology when referring to and working with Indigenous Peoples, communities and ways of knowing.

The Aboriginal Caucus and Council each meets 3 times per year, and for 2018 meetings took place in February, April and October. The Aboriginal Caucus meetings are an opportunity for the Indigenous members of Aboriginal Council to meet with the Community Co-Chair to identify and discuss any areas for further consideration or concern from an Indigenous perspective. The Co-Chair then presents on behalf of Caucus during the Council meetings.

2018 Meetings at a Glance

February Meeting

Council Co-Chair Marlene Brant-Castellano led a meeting with the Aboriginal Caucus prior to the full Council meeting.

During Council, the Co-Chairs announced that Carol Ann Budd, would be the new incoming Community Co-Chair. University Co-Chair Ann Tierney welcomed Kandice Baptiste, the new Director of Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre. In addition to the new Director announcement, the upcoming expansion and renovation of the Centre was also announced.

Marlene Brant-Castellano discussed the need for improving research practices with Indigenous communities which was raised by Aboriginal Caucus. It was noted that at the leadership level, there is an increasing awareness of the need for Indigenous community partners and beneficiaries of the research to be respectively consulted with when seeking opportunities for collaboration.

The Provost, Benoit-Antoine Bacon announced the retirement of Irène Bujara (University Advisor on Equity and Human Rights). It was noted that in lieu of a retirement celebration, Irène requested that a donation be made to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in honor of Leo Yerxa, an Ojibway artist who gave the generosity of his time and talent to Queen's over 25 years for many projects. Leo Yerxa passed away in September of 2017.

Benoit-Antoine also announced the Principal's signing of the Queen's Strategic Mandate Agreement with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. An important piece of the agreement is that it outlines the university's commitment to serving Indigenous students, including providing comprehensive and culturally tailored support services; increasing enrolment among

Indigenous students through targeted recruitment activities, outreach programming and alternate admissions pathways; and offering programs that focus on Indigenous content.

Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) delivered a presentation on the implementation the TRC Task Force recommendations and highlighted a number of key initiatives outlined in the progress report provided to Council. Kanonhsyonne also announced the plans for the Queen's Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Centre for Policy and Research in Indigenous Learning at Confederation College to host a workshop at Queen's on March 7, 2018, for faculty and staff from institutions involved in the Pathways Collective. The intent of the workshop is to engage participants in learning about the work that the collective has completed to date and engage in exploring potential partnerships and collaborations within their institutions.

Marlene summarized the proposed ACQU Co-Chair appointment process and it was noted that Council should explore the need for a nominating committee to support the appointment and election process. A review of the appointment process was planned for the ACQU meeting for April 2018.

Lastly, the Co-Chairs provided an overview of the 2017 Annual Council Report which included a summary of Council's activities, highlights of news stories and updates on Indigenous faculty and staff.

April Meeting

Council Co-Chair Marlene Brant-Castellano led a meeting with the Aboriginal Caucus prior to the full Council meeting.

Carol Ann Budd, incoming Community Co-Chair was in attendance to shadow outgoing Co-Chair Marlene Brant-Castellano. University Co-Chair Ann Tierney thanked Marlene for her immeasurable contributions and guidance over her six years as Community Council Co-Chair. It was noted how her leadership led to the vibrant, effective increased engagement of Aboriginal Caucus and Council.

Marlene advised that Aboriginal Caucus discussed the use of terminology in relation to Indigenous Peoples, and it was proposed that a Terminology Guide be developed for the Queen's community. Indigenous research methods and the need for increased awareness of how to approach Indigenous research was once again discussed during Caucus. Marlene announced the plans for a daylong event on educating those interested in Indigenous Research, this event is hosted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Collaborations.

The Provost, Benoit-Antione Bacon noted the progress of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) work that had been done over the past year. Thanks and acknowledgements were extended to Council or the role it has played in collectively helping to guide and support this work and the proposed changes across campus. Benoit-Antoine thanked Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) for her work in facilitating the implementation of the TRC Task Force and its recommendations.

Kanonhsyonne noted that progress had been made on each of the 25 recommendations from the Task Force Report which includes the enhancement of services and pathway opportunities for Indigenous

students, increased support for faculty members as they work to integrate Indigenous knowledge into their curricula and the hiring of an Indigenous Educational Developer.

Kanonhsyonne welcomed Haley Cochrane, the Coordinator of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Haley is the first full time hire within the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. The intent of her role is to work closely with Kanonhsyonne to ensure that each the recommendations from the Task Force Report are implemented – Haley is responsible for the Offices project management, administrative coordination, office communications and the hiring of new and future positions.

It was also announced that Queen’s would be welcoming five Indigenous PhD students for a 12-month pre-doctoral fellowship. The students are from various fields, and this is the first round of this pilot project to host Indigenous PhD students.

October Meeting

Council Co-Chair Carol Ann Budd led a meeting with the Aboriginal Caucus prior to the full Council meeting.

University Co-Chair, Ann Tierney welcomed Carol Ann Budd to her first Council meeting as Community Co-Chair. Carol Ann provided an update from attending her first Aboriginal Caucus meeting as a Council Co-Chair. A suggestion was made to review the Council Terms of Reference (TOR) which were initially created in 2013 – a call was extended for volunteers from Council interested in reviewing the TOR.

Provost, Tom Harris introduced himself to Council as Acting Provost. He noted that Benoit-Antoine Bacon had left his role as Provost to serve as President at Carleton University. Tom mentioned that the search for a new Dean for the Faculty of Law has commenced and that Indigenous representation has been included in the search.

The Co-Chairs invited Kandice Baptiste, Director of Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre to provide an update on recruitment and enrolment of Indigenous students at Queen’s. It was noted that for the current year 72 students had self-identified via direct entry and six upper year students who transferred to Queen’s also self-identified. Kandice stated that four students had self-identified within Queen’s online programs and five students self-identified within part-time program offerings. From the second-entry program self-identified students were recorded as followed: 12 in the Faculty of Medicine, 19 in the Faculty of Law and 63 in the School of Graduate Studies.

Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) provided an update on the work of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Kanonhsyonne outlined the four priority areas for the Office; advancement, community engagement, research and pathways opportunities. It was also announced that the Office had hired two new part-time positions; a Cultural Advisor (Allen Doxtator) and a Knowledge Keeper (Tim Yearington).

2018 Council Highlights

- A review of the Terms of Reference for Council has begun. The revised Terms of Reference are expected to be finalized by the April 2019 meeting.
- The Office of Indigenous Initiatives has begun drafting a Terminology Guide for the Queen’s community to refer to. The Guide will include appropriate language and terms to use when

referring to Indigenous Peoples, communities and cultures. Additionally, the Guide will speak to land acknowledgements as well as, how and why the land is acknowledged.

- Council welcomed a new Community Co-Chair as well as new faculty representation.
- Queen's celebrated the retirement of former Community Co-Chair Marlene Brant-Castellano by hosting her retirement event in May 2018.
- The initial planning for the Indigenous Research Centre has begun, this work is being led by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives in collaboration with Council's Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research Working Group.
- Council's Aboriginal Support and Access Working Group has taken increasing the opportunities for pathways for Indigenous student's priority and TRC recommendation.

2018 Gazette Stories & Media Advisories

Featuring Indigenous staff, faculty, students, initiatives and events

January

[New season at Agnes to feature Shame and Prejudice exhibition](#)

[Strengthening Indigenous voices](#)

[Queen's engineering recognized for Indigenous outreach](#)

[Fellowships profile new generation of Indigenous scholars](#)

February

[Learning Indigenous languages](#)

[Principal's message regarding the Colten Boushie verdict](#)

[Media Advisory - Queen's Art Conversation celebrates \\$632,000 donation from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#)

[Unprecedented grant awarded to Queen's Art Conservation](#)

[2018 ISSUE 4: THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE](#)

March

[Queen's Law reveals shortlist of Indigenous art proposals](#)

[Media Advisory - National voice of Canada's Inuit speaks at Queen's University](#)

[Branching out into Indigenous research](#)

[Widening the margins of public policy](#)

[Proposals for reconciliation](#)

[Exploring Indigenous identities](#)

[Raising awareness of Indigenous identity](#)

[Indigenous art collection grows with generous donation](#)

[Media Advisory - Criminal law scholars analyze Stanley trial in expert panel](#)

[Students answer the prime minister's reconciliation challenge](#)

April

[Available Expert - Trans Mountain pipeline could be in jeopardy](#)

[Dreams of reconciliation](#)

[Ka'tarohkwi Festival of Indigenous Arts headlines Isabel's fifth season](#)

[Indigenous alumnus helps right a 133-year-old wrong](#)

May

[Indigenous art proposal selected by Faculty of Law](#)

June

[Mentoring Indigenous youth](#)

[Queen's supports pathway efforts for Indigenous students](#)

[Available Expert - Queen's University to launch Mohawk Language and Culture Certificate for Tyendinaga community members](#)

[Supporting Indigenous academics and Indigenous research](#)

[News Release - Queen's partners to create new certificate program in Mohawk Language and Culture](#)

[Reflecting and reconciling](#)

[New fund to support Indigenous art at the Agnes](#)

July

[Indigenous scholars visit Queen's for year-long fellowship](#)

August

[Breathing new life into Indigenous languages](#)

September

["Words that are lasting"](#)

October

[Indigenous Mentoring Network hub launches at Queen's](#)

[Media Advisory - Second annual John Meisel Lecture features presentation by Hayden King](#)

November

[Decolonize these walls](#)

[Talking treaties, research, and rights](#)

[Welcoming Indigenous staff voices](#)

[An education in reconciliation](#)

[Extending the rafters](#)

2019 Meetings Schedule

- January 28 2019
- April 29 2019

*Ne Queen's University e'tho no'we nikanónhsote tsi no'we ne Haudenasaunee tánon Anishinaabek
tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa.*

*Gimaakwe Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Naadowe miinwaa Anishinaabe aking.
Queen's University is situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek.*