

Aboriginal Council of Queen's University

Annual Report
2019



Report prepared by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
May 2020



Introduction

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

Aboriginal Council membership consists of representatives from the surrounding community, university and student groups on campus. Aboriginal Caucus meets in advance of each Council meeting, this is an opportunity for Indigenous Council members to meet with the Community Co-Chair who Chairs Caucus meetings to discuss any issues, concerns or topics that require further consideration. The Community Co-Chair then presents these issues to Council on behalf of Caucus.

Meetings take place 3 times per year, beginning in early Winter, again in Spring at the end of the academic year and lastly, in the Fall at the beginning of the new academic year.

2019 Meetings at a Glance

January Meeting

Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, the January meeting was cancelled in 2019. All agenda items were moved to the Spring meeting.

April Meeting

Provost Tom Harris and Deputy Provost Teri Shearer were in attendance to share a report on behalf of the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Principal. Provost Harris re-affirmed his commitment to funding Indigenous initiatives and noted the university's sound financial position for the upcoming academic year despite the OSAP changes announced.

Deputy Provost Shearer announced that a new drop in space and dedicated club space would become available, with a full announcement to be made public in the coming months. The dedicated space would support identified groups such as the Queen's Muslim Student Association, Levana and the Queen's Black Alumni Chapter. She also shared that an end of term BIPOC social gathering would take place, an event organized by the BIPOC Working Group with support from the Equity Office.

Kanonhsyonne (Jan Hill) provided an update on the work of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII). She shared that as of November 1st, 2018, she was appointed as the Associate Vice-Principal (Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation). Additionally, Kanonhsyonne stated that the four areas of focus for the OII were as follows: research, visibility, engagement & ongoing operations for the OII. She noted that the hiring process has begun for an additional Elder who will provide support to the broader university community.

Dr. Anne Godlewska shared a presentation on the Assessing Student Awareness of Indigenous Peoples project. This project resulted in a report that has been shared with Council and the Queen's community. Major findings of the report were as follows: students who take Indigenous-focused courses are learning

a great deal about Indigenous Peoples and histories, courses with some content leave students not fully understanding the history of Indigenous Peoples or the issues faced and about 15% of students would prefer that an Indigenous course be mandatory in their learning.

Other recommendations from the report included increased hiring of Indigenous faculty, provided curricula support for faculty and lastly require that each student complete a minimum of one Indigenous focused course during their time at Queen's.

Lastly, a presentation was shared by the Smith School of Business on their current work in respect to the recommendations from the Queen's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report. They noted that an ad hoc committee has been created within the faculty to oversee and track reconciliation efforts. The four focus areas of the committee are as follows: student awards, research, curriculum and student experience.

October Meeting

University Co-Chair Ann Tierney spoke to the Chown Hall incident that took place over the Thanksgiving weekend. She spoke to the immediate response provided by Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre and applauded the staff for their quick response in supporting students.

She noted that the university would continue to work to provide a safe environment to foster discussions among students impacted by the incident. She thanked the students who led and organized a Solidarity March noting that it was very well attended by the university community.

Community Co-Chair Carol Ann Budd shared an update on behalf of Aboriginal Caucus noting that the Chown Hall incident was heavily discussed throughout the meeting. She shared that members felt they don't have a voice and that those on campus continue to fear for a lack of safety.

Principal Deane attended his first Council meeting as Principal. He noted his excitement to return to Queen's after being away for 9 years during what he calls the "Post-TRC Era". The Principal spoke to the Chown Hall incident, he asked for input and advice from Council on ways to remedy the incident in a meaningful way.

Provost Harris also addressed the incident and shared his gratitude for the Queen's staff members who have supported the students and he also spoke to the resiliency of the students impacted by the incident. He re-affirmed his commitment to the reconciliation work at Queen's.

Kanonhsyonne (Jan Hill) shared an update on the upcoming initiatives and events coordinated by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. She shared that Queen's will be hosting the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium in June 2020. This event is in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Kingston Indigenous Language Nest and Tsi Tyonnheht Onkwawenna.

She also shared the date for the 21st annual Indigenous Knowledge Symposium, an event presented in collaboration with the Kingston Frontenac Public Library and the Kingston Indigenous Language Nest. The theme for 2019 was "Preserving Indigenous Languages for the Next 7 Generations".

Highlights shared included the beginning of an Indigenous Strategic Plan, work on the Office of Indigenous Initiatives website and a new initiative to create an Indigenous Elders Advisory Council. Additionally, she noted that a new Elder would be hired in the coming weeks and announced that Haley Cochrane, Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator has returned from maternity leave.

Dr. Gordon Smith, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science shared a presentation with Council on the newly released 5-year Strategic Plan. Some of the highlights from the plan include: 50 new initiatives such as the Faculty's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigeneity Implementation Standing Committee, increasing Indigenous teaching and gathering spaces and addresses structural inequalities and barriers.

Patti Brinklow, community representative from Tyendinaga shared an update on the initiatives and work happening within the community in respect of education. She shared the different education programs available such as the immersion program and federally funded elementary school. She noted that issues faced by the community such as the lack of funding to support all students and the waitlist to receive funding for post-secondary education. She was happy to note that a new Education Director is being hired and that they are reviewing their policies to determine ways to stretch funding.

Lastly, Ann Tierney, University Co-Chair and Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs provided an update on the Indigenous recruitment and enrolment. Ann stated that enrolment of self-identified Indigenous student has increased by approximately 16% since the previous year and that there was a 17% increase in students admitted under the Indigenous Admissions policy. Additionally, she confirmed that 2019 would be the first year for Queen's to fully participate in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) which visits 110 schools and communities across Ontario and Quebec.

2019 Council Highlights

- The Terms of Reference continued to be reviewed by a sub-committee of Council.
- The Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research Working Group assisted in overseeing the completion of the Welcoming Room in E-202 within Mac-Corry and the development of the Indigenous Studies Major.
- A new scholarship was proposed by Council community member Laurel Claus-Johnson. The scholarship would be dedicated to funding Indigenous students who attend Queen's.

2019 Gazette Stories & Media Advisories

Featuring Indigenous staff, faculty, students, initiatives and events.

January

[A place of community](#)

[Examining Indigenous rights and the RCMP](#)

[Indigenous students to share worldwide wisdom](#)

[Inviting Indigenous voices into the classroom](#)

['Polishing the chain'](#)

February

[Ka'tarokkwi Festival of Indigenous Arts brings top artists to The Isabel](#)

March

[Decolonizing Canada's national game](#)

April

[Professor Emeritus Tom Courchene finalist for book prize.](#)

[Making Health Sciences more inclusive for Indigenous students](#)

[Dialogue focuses on the importance of Indigenous research and engagement](#)

[Indigenous-led clean-energy projects could power reconciliation](#)

May

[NSERC funding supports Indigenous educational outreach](#)

[Queen's economist wins second Donner Prize](#)

[Interactive sessions focus on Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)

[Integrating Western and Indigenous care](#)

June

[Setting the stage for the artistic repatriation of Indigenous music](#)

[Home game: Rethinking Canada through Indigenous hockey](#)

[Media Advisory- Queen's University honours unsung heroes with latest plinth unveiling](#)

[Making time for Learning](#)

July

[Students explore global Indigenous histories and resilience](#)

August

[Bringing the Queen's and Indigenous communities together](#)

[A warm welcome for Indigenous students](#)

September

[Mentoring tomorrow's Indigenous health experts](#)

[Bringing Indigenous stories to the stage](#)

October

[Media Advisory- Queen's University hosts UC3 Forum: Innovating and Partnering for Climate Action Impact.](#)

[Supporting Indigenous student wellness](#)

[An Inuit approach to cancer care promotes self-determination and reconciliation](#)

[Media Advisory – New Queen's University lecture series kicks off with transgender focused family doctor James Makokis](#)

[Stauffer Library marks 25th anniversary](#)

[Two-Spirit physician visits Queen's to discuss decolonizing medicine](#)

November

[Honorary degrees at Fall Convocation recognize key contributions](#)

[Forging a new path for medical students](#)

[Research @ Queen's: Empowerment through revitalization](#)

[Media Advisory- Queen's University welcomes The Right Honourable Paul Martin](#)

[Campus and community: November 2019](#)

[Rebuilding a Language](#)

[Queen's shares yearly reports on equity, diversity, inclusion and indigeneity](#)

December

[Queen's Board of Trustees approves diversity statement](#)

2020 Meetings Schedule

- February 11th, 2020
- May 5th, 2020

Queen's University is situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek. Ne Queen's University e'tho no'we nikanónhsote tsi no'we ne Haudenosaunee tánon Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa. Gimaakwe Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Naadowe miinwaa Anishinaabe aking.

