



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

ANNUAL
PROGRESS
REPORT

2021

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Deanne Hupfield at the Indigenous Vaccination Clinic Pow Wow, hosted at U of T's Varsity Stadium, UTSG (photo by Johnny Guatto).

Land Acknowledgement

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives wishes to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land. *

* This statement was revised in 2021 with approval by the University Affairs Board.

Foreword

Shannon Simpson, Director,
Office of Indigenous
Initiatives
(photo by Stef + Ethan).

QUOTES FROM OUR TEAM OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES



This year has been yet another year of growth, celebration, challenges, and sadness. We experienced another year of navigating COVID, while ensuring Indigenous students were supported and well taken care of. U of T partnered with Indigenous community groups to deliver vaccines to our community on campus, and offered a Pow Wow Vaccine Clinic to bring some joy and connect with community in an extremely difficult time. The recovery of so many unmarked graves, while not surprising to many of us, was a constant reminder of the past and how much work we still need to do together. In the fall, we were all shocked and deeply saddened by the passing of Si'Yam Lee Maracle, Traditional Teacher, Elder, instructor, poet, author, and friend to so many. The memories of Lee and her beautiful laugh will live forever with all who knew her. We were also able to see continued growth in Indigenous staff and faculty with institution-wide hiring of newly created Indigenous positions and on-boarding of new Indigenous faculty. A focus on Indigenous art remained prominent this year with the commemorative mural at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design and the "Tree Protection Zone" Art Project outside of Hart House, featuring eight distinguished Indigenous artists. So many exciting new spaces, positions, and projects are on the horizon that next year is certain to be another year to celebrate."

SHANNON SIMPSON (ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION AND SCOTTISH), DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

"This past year has been particularly difficult for Indigenous communities in Canada with a stark reminder of the continuing trauma inflicted by Residential Schools and the many thousands of children who did not survive. Closer to home, we mourned the loss of Lee Maracle—a widely respected Elder at U of T. The 2021 Annual Progress Report of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives offers much-needed hope. Thanks to the excellent work of the OII team, and of Indigenous Elders, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners across our three campuses, wonderful progress has been made in the areas of teaching and learning, student experience, faculty and staff recruitment and engagement, and community-based research."

MERIC S. GERTLER, PRESIDENT

"The discovery this past year of hundreds of unmarked graves on former residential school grounds was devastating and heartbreaking. It is a tragic reminder of how critically important it is that we continue the work of building Indigenous knowledge at the University of Toronto and throughout our society. I am grateful for the leadership of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives in charting a path forward that fosters, embraces, and celebrates the tremendous value of Indigenous expertise and experience and the contributions of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff to our collective achievements."

CHERYL REGEHR, VICE-PRESIDENT & PROVOST

"The Office of Indigenous Initiatives is an integral source of change at the University of Toronto that keeps this institution accountable for answering the 34 Calls to Action identified by our TRC Steering Committee in 2017. The OII is also a vital source of leadership, community-building, and support for Indigenous members of the U of T community. This past year underscored the urgency and value of both roles. I am grateful for the expertise and humanity that OII brings to U of T as we create more meaningful spaces and systems for Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and librarians."

KELLY HANNAH-MOFFAT, VICE-PRESIDENT, PEOPLE STRATEGY, EQUITY & CULTURE



section

1



Kelly Crawford, Assistant Director, Indigenous Initiatives (photo by Stef + Ethan).

Institutional Support and Guidance

University of Toronto students, staff, librarians, faculty, and Elders across the three campuses identified 34 Calls to Action in 2017 in the *Report of the Steering Committee for the University's Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)*. This section reports on the progress achieved under the six themes it identified.

ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL changes that advance the University's journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and communities requires the support and accountability of senior leadership. By championing reconciliation, senior leadership can set expectations and affirm the level of institutional commitment to this goal.

—**Office of Indigenous Initiatives**
Under the Vice-President of People Strategy, Equity & Culture and the Vice-President & Provost, the mandate of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) is to support and guide the UofT community as it continues to work towards reconciliation. The Office advises on and oversees Indigenous initiatives across the University, conducting regular environmental scans to establish the impact and progress of such initiatives. It also manages the activities of the Council of Indigenous Initiatives. For more information, please visit <https://indigenous.utoronto.ca/>.

Operating as a tri-campus team, Shannon Simpson (Alderville First Nation and Scottish) serves as the Director of Indigenous Initiatives, with Tee Duke (Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation, Treaty 3) and Kelly Crawford (M'Chigeeng First Nation) serving as Assistant Directors of Indigenous Initiatives at the University of Toronto Mississauga and the University of Toronto Scarborough respectively. Through these positions, the University can support the development and implementation of Indigenous initiatives at UTSG, UTM, and UTSC in a coordinated and deliberate manner with Indigenous and non-Indigenous University and community partners.

OII expanded its internal capacity by establishing new permanent positions to further support and guide the University in its reconciliation efforts. The Indigenous Training Coordinator position, filled by John Crouch (Ojibwe & German-Canadian), was made a permanent full-time position. →

John Crutch, Indigenous Training Coordinator (photo by Stef + Ethan).

In November, the Special Projects Officers that support the Academic Advisors to the Provost, began reporting to OII. Brianna Sands, Special Projects Officer (Indigenous Curriculum and Education) and Joshua Adams (Indigenous Research and Ethics) continue to support the work begun by Dr. Suzanne Stewart in her position as the Academic Advisor on Indigenous Research and Ethics and by Dr. Susan Hill as the Academic Advisor on Indigenous Curriculum and Education. In 2021, nearly 2,748 members of the UofT community participated in one of three different trainings: *Speaking Our Truths: The Journey Towards Reconciliation* (Part 1 and 2); *Reconciliation: Walking the Path of Indigenous Allyship*; and *Reflecting on Land Acknowledgments*.

UTM Indigenous Initiatives also expanded its office by establishing two new positions—the Indigenous Programming, currently vacant, and the Indigenous Support Specialist and the Indigenous Student Support Specialist, filled by Jessica Tabak (Anishinaabe and Hungarian). These new positions support Indigenous students, staff, and faculty at UTM as well as inspiring future Indigenous students to a welcoming and inclusive UTM community. Additionally, UTM’s Indigenous Centre found a temporary space in the Maanjiwe nendamowinan Building, from which it will continue to serve the UTM Indigenous community.

UTSC marked a milestone with the ground breaking of Indigenous House at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Indigenous House will bring together UTSC’s community of Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners by supporting and celebrating Indigenous ways of knowing locally and from across Turtle Island.

For more information, please visit <https://utsc.utoronto.ca/home/indigenous-house>.

—UTM Indigenous Sharing Table

The University of Toronto Mississauga established a UTM Indigenous Sharing Table, made up of Indigenous faculty members, the Assistant Director of UTM Indigenous Initiatives, the UTM Vice-President and Principal, and the Special Advisor to the Vice-President & Provost. The Table meets monthly to support and advise on UTM activities and strategies in advancing Indigenous initiatives through academic and administrative streams. The Table has seen success in gaining campus support and awareness of Indigenous Peoples and history and in establishing new positions, new spaces, and a new office for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

—UTSC Sub-Committee for Indigenous Place-Making

Within the UTSC Truth, Reconciliation & Indigenous Initiatives Advisory Committee, the University of Toronto Scarborough established the Sub-Committee for Indigenous Place-Making as an advisory body for generating ideas, making recommendations, and offering feedback on initiatives to support the creation of welcoming spaces for Indigenous staff, faculty, students, and community members. This work will be accomplished through the visible representation of Indigenous language, knowledge, history, cultures, and art on campus, including new campus wayfinding; revising existing wayfinding; naming/renaming buildings and interior and exterior spaces; and establishing prominent displays of Indigenous art.



Indigenous Spaces

Indigenizing spaces supports the development of flourishing environments for Indigenous students, staff, and faculty members. Indigenized spaces serve a symbolic role, signifying that Indigenous Peoples are present on this land and at the University, and that building relationships is an ongoing priority.



—“Tree Protection Zone” Art Project, Hart House, UTSG

While under construction, Hart House Commons was transformed by “Tree Protection Zone,” a unique Indigenous public art installation on the tree protection hoardings. The hoardings feature commissioned mural-sized works by eight Indigenous artists and their collaborators and consider the preservation of life, water, and kin, and how each is inextricably linked to the protection of trees. This project was supported by the Office of the Vice-President, Operations and Real Estate Partnerships, University of Toronto; the Art Museum at the University of Toronto; Hart House; Indigenous Student Services; and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. For more information, please visit <https://harthouse.ca/blog/tree-protection-zone-a-public-art-project-on-hart-house-commons-transformed-by-indigenous-art>.

—Indigenous Creation Studio, UTM

The Indigenous Creation Studio is a space dedicated to Indigenous-led making and methodologies: a place for instruction, student-driven community projects, art projects, performances, guest talks, meetings, and Indigenous ceremonies and celebrations. Functioning as a complement to and extension of the Community Medicine Garden, the



Studio aims to bring study indoors, and expand ethical research practices that model and foster an accountable Indigenous arts-based research community within the campus. Led by Professor Maria Hupfield, the Studio will increase the visibility of Indigenous Peoples on campus and offer learning opportunities for all students, researchers, artists, and youth at UTM’s summer camp.

—Daniels Mural Project, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, UTSG

In response to U of T’s 34 Calls to Action, the Daniels Mural Project by the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, in collaboration with an Indigenous art selection committee, initiated a process to increase the presence of Indigenous public art on campus. Que Rock (Nipissing First Nation) was chosen to complete the inaugural installation, which honours the 215 children discovered at the residential school in Kamloops, B.C., and the unmarked graves that continue to be discovered across Turtle Island. The mural uses the north façade of the Daniels Building as a canvas. Work depicts a sun on its left—representing the Seven Grandfather Teachings of humility, courage, honesty, wisdom, truth, respect, and love—while its

right features Grandmother Moon, representing the connection to Turtle Island, the water nation and Mother Earth. At the mural’s centre, children are carried by eagles to the spirit world; the eagles carry fish for the healing journey. For more information, please visit <https://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/news/2021/09/30/anishnaabe-artist-que-rock-honours-residential-school-children-u-ts-daniels-mural>.

—Medicine Gardens, UTM, UTSC, UTSG

Medicine gardens were established across all three campuses in 2021.

- UTM’s Community Medicine Garden supports Indigenous medicines and sustainable food practices while countering the aesthetics of Victorian gardens.
- UTSC Campus Farm, in partnership with the Department of Sociology, created an Indigenous garden. The garden is part of two undergraduate sociology courses and has been integrated into farm programming.
- UTSG’s Faculty of Law established a medicine garden to increase cultural programming, support the Elder-in-Residence, and assist with the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge into the law school curriculum.

Left
Susan Blight’s 6 kilometres and 8000 years long, part of the “Tree Protection Zone” Art Project, Hart House, UTSG (photo by Mihyun Maria Kim).

Above
Que Rock, artist of the mural for Daniels Mural Project, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, UTSG (photo by Nadya Kwandibens/Red Works Photography).

Indigenous Faculty and Staff

Indigenous faculty and staff members are essential to developing and furthering the University's Indigenous curricula and research, as well as fostering a community environment within the institution that is supportive of Indigenous Peoples. They provide Indigenous perspectives and contribute academic and cultural support for Indigenous students.



Si'Yam Lee Maracle,
Instructor, Advisor, Elders
Circle Member, Traditional
Teacher-in-Residence
(photo by Hill Peppard).

—In Memoriam: **Si'Yam Lee Maracle (Stó:lō), Instructor, Advisor, Elders Circle Member, Traditional Teacher-in-Residence, 1950-2021**

The University of Toronto and beyond collectively mourned the passing of Lee Maracle, an Indigenous icon and treasured friend. Known for her innovative, genre-defying style of storytelling that blends autobiography, poetry, and fiction, she was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2018 for launching “a dialogue that has been instrumental in promoting social justice in Canada.” At U of T, Lee was a member of the University's Elders Circle, a former Traditional Teacher-in-Residence at First Nations House - Indigenous Student Services, and a former instructor at U of T's Centre for Indigenous Studies and Transitional Year Programme. She advised the University's Truth and Reconciliation Steering Committee, which released its recommendations in early 2017. The same year she helped Indigenous Studies students at the University organize the first U of T Pow Wow in decades and was honoured with a Bonham Centre Award for her contributions to the public's understanding of sexual diversity in Canada. A ceremonial fire was held from sunrise to sunset on the University of Toronto St. George campus, giving the U of T community the space to connect, grieve, and share stories. For more information, please visit <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/writer-teacher-knowledge-carrier-u-t-joins-country-remembering-lee-maracle>. →



Left
Brianna Sands, Special Projects Officer (Curriculum and Education)
(photo by Stef + Ethan).

Right
Dr. Jaris Swidrovich, Assistant Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy
(photo by David Stobbe).

—**Brianna Sands (Bkejwanong, Walpole Island First Nation), Special Projects Officer (Curriculum and Education), Office of Indigenous Initiatives**

A member of Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation), Brianna Sands joined the Office of Indigenous Initiatives as a Special Projects Officer with a focus on Indigenous curriculum and education. Prior to coming to U of T, Brianna was the Environmental and Consultation Coordinator at Caldwell First Nation, and worked with the Chief and Council on incoming consultation requests and with other First Nations, governments, and local environmental organizations on various projects. She continues to advocate for Indigenous Knowledge Systems and believes it is important for education and curriculum to include Indigenous epistemologies and pedagogies for the current generations and for the next seven generations to come.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ST. GEORGE (UTSG)

UTSG has hired new Indigenous faculty and staff members, including First Peoples Leadership Advisor to the Dean, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design; Indigenous Health Lead, Dalla Lana School of Public Health; Elder-in-Residence, Faculty of Law; Coordinator, Indigenous Community-Engaged Learning, Centre for Community Partnerships; and Indigenous Mentor and Community Partnership Specialist, Woodsworth College.

—**Tahohtharátýe (Joe Brant) (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory), Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Centre for Indigenous Studies**

Tahohtharátýe (Joe Brant) is an Assistant Professor, cross-appointed in the Department of Linguistics and Centre for Indigenous Studies. He is an advanced-proficiency speaker of Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk language). He has a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University and a Master of Education degree in Indigenous Language Revitalization from the University of Victoria. Tahohtharátýe has dedicated much of his adult life to Kanyen'kéha learning and revitalization in his family and community. He is the proud father of the first, first-language Mohawk speakers in his commu-

nity in over 60 years. As an adult second-language learner of Kanyen'kéha, he has been dedicated to learning Kanyen'kéha and passing it on to his children and other Mohawk language learners of all ages.



—**Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (Yellow Quill First Nation), Assistant Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy**

As a Two Spirit, queer, Saulteaux First Nations man from Yellow Quill First Nation (Treaty 4 territory) with Ukrainian heritage, Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (he/him) is widely recognized across the Canadian pharmacy landscape for his contributions to the emerging processes of decolonizing and Indigenizing pharmacy education and practice. Dr. Swidrovich completed his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan in 2010 and his postbaccalaureate PharmD degree at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy in 2013, and he is currently a PhD candidate in Education with the University of Saskatchewan. As an HIV Pharmacist™ (AAHIVP), his clinical work has primarily been in the area of HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, pain, and mental health at both St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon and at the Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH), which is a student-run clinic in the core neighbourhood of Saskatoon. His research focus includes his clinical practice areas as well as intersectional approaches to 2SLGBTQ+ health, Indigenous Peoples' health, social determinants of health, pharmacy practice, and pharmacy/health professions education.



Left
 Emma Stromberg, Indigenous Partnership Advisor, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science (photo by Stef + Ethan).

Right
 Jessica Tabak, Indigenous Student Support Specialist, Indigenous Initiatives (photo by Nick Iwanyszyn).



—**Emma Stromberg (Métis), Indigenous Partnership Advisor, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science**
 Emma Stromberg is of Métis (Qu’Appelle Valley, Red River) and Jewish descent and grew up in Toronto. Building respectful relationships that support the self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples and communities has been central to Emma’s approach to policy-making and advocacy for the past 12 years. Emma received her undergraduate (BA) degree from Trent University in Indigenous Environmental Studies in 2010 and received her Master’s in Education from York University (Urban Indigenous Cohort program) in 2020.

—**Dr. Chase Everett McMurren | Water Song Medicine Keeper (Métis), Indigenous Health Education Theme Lead, MD Program; Indigenous Health Practitioner Community of Support Lead, Office of Indigenous Health, Temerty Faculty of Medicine**
 Chase Everett McMurren (he & him & his) is of Michif (Métis), Celtic, French, and Ukrainian descent. Originally from Southern Alberta on traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory, he has been living in Tkarón:to | GichiKiiwenging | Toronto for years. His clan is the Turtle and

his spirit name is Water Song Medicine Keeper. Chase is a harp-playing, home-visiting physician for long-living elders, and an integrative medical psychotherapist for artists. He serves as an Assessor and Clinical Supervisor for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and provides supervision in the Psychotherapy Training Program offered through the Medical Psychotherapy Association Canada (MDPAC). Chase is training as a Nátawihôwêw* [not-a-way-who-ee-oo], or Medicine Man (*in Michif) and is a certified practitioner of the Hakomi Method.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA (UTM)

—**Jessica Tabak (Chippewas of Nawash First Nation & Hungarian), Indigenous Student Support Specialist, Indigenous Initiatives**

Jessica is an Anishinaabe Kwe from Chippewas of Nawash First Nation and Hungarian. She has significant experience within the Indigenous non-profit sector. Currently, she sits on the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto’s Board of Directors as Executive Board Secretary. She has also been a member of the Toronto Public Library’s first-ever Indigenous Advisory Council since 2017.

Indigenous Curriculum

The University of Toronto affirms that **Indigenous thought and philosophies** are equal to other disciplines as sources of knowledge, and prioritizes the integration of Indigenous curriculum into its teaching and research activities.



Dr. Chase Everett McMurren, Indigenous Health Education Theme Lead, MD Program; Indigenous Health Practitioner Community of Support Lead, Office of Indigenous Health, Temerty Faculty of Medicine (photo by Stef + Ethan).

—**Indigenous Health Nursing Working Group, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, UTSG**

The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing established the Indigenous Health Nursing Working Group (IHNWG), which is focused on making recommendations to the Faculty’s Curriculum Committee on responding to the 2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The work of the IHNWG includes identifying opportunities to incorporate principles of cultural safety, cultural humility, social justice, and anti-racist approaches related to Indigenous health within the Faculty of Nursing’s undergraduate and graduate program curricula. Specific deliverables include assessing how Indigenous health content is integrated into programs, courses, and clinical placements; conducting an environmental scan of how Indigenous health content has been integrated into other Canadian accelerated track programs; reviewing relevant literature; and drafting recommendations.

—**First Story Toronto Course Credit, Woodsworth College, UTSG**

Woodsworth College’s Dr. Jon Johnson and First Story Toronto provided First Story Toronto walks and events across U of T’s three campuses as 0.5 of a course credit. Because of COVID-19, many of these events were virtual walks co-led by newly trained First Story youth and student guides using videoconferencing technologies. These virtual walks made effective use of 360-degree audiovisuals and supported wide-ranging courses in Indigenous Studies, Anthropology, and Geography as well as others offered through Woodsworth College, the Faculty of Information and the Women and Gender Studies Institute.

—**Indigenous Learning Sub-Committee, Academic Success, Student Life, UTSG**

Academic Success within Student Life established an Indigenous Learning Sub-Committee with a mandate of guiding the department on developing Indigenous resources and programming as well as furthering understanding of Indigenous issues and perspectives in a learning environment. The Sub-Committee has been instrumental in creating a series of student resources and programs informed by Indigenous approaches to learning and teaching, such as storytelling in academic assignments, exam prep using the Medicine Wheel, and others.

Ethical Conduct and Community Relationships

The **Steering Committee** on U of T's Response to the TRC recommended investing in education to guide the conduct of ethical research with Indigenous Peoples.



—Indigenous Research Network

Launched in 2021, the Indigenous Research Network (IRN) is a network of researchers involved in Indigenous research at the University of Toronto. This network addresses research challenges that Indigenous Peoples and communities face and promotes curricular transformations. It released a series of reports—the Indigenous Research Ethics Consultation Report, the Connaught Indigenous Funding Stream Adjudication Report, and the IRN Consultation and Framework report—outlining its strategic initiatives. The IRN held a series of research ethics workshops; Full Moon ceremonies led by Elder Constance Simmonds; and Grandmother Moon teachings for women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. A spirit-naming ceremony was held at UofT's Hart House Farms and the IRN's spirit name was identified as Spirit Peoples' Lodge. For more information, please visit <https://www.irn.utoronto.ca/>.

Above
Indigenous students at UTSC cleaning harvested tobacco plants, UTSC Edible Campus.

Far Left
Members from the U of T Indigenous community, the Toronto community, and the broader University community came together for the First Nations House Tipi Raising, UTSG (photo by Aaron Mason).



Left

Reclaiming: A Landback Installation at 22 Russell Street, UTSG (photo courtesy of Kieran Rice).

Right

Dancer Lua Shayenne at the Moving Dancing Knowledge: Blackness, Dancing and Wellness interactive workshop at Hart House, UTSG (photo by Dahlia Katz).

—“Personalizing Your Land Acknowledgement” Workshop, Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation, Academic Success, First Nations House, UTSG

The Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI) partnered with Academic Success and First Nations House to offer a two-part workshop entitled “Personalizing Your Land Acknowledgement.” This series led to the development of a CTSI Land Acknowledgement, which can be adapted by CTSI staff and used in CTSI programming.

—Indigenous Research Grant, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, UTSG

The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, through Dr. Amy Wright, received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team Grant, entitled “Supporting the Journey to Fatherhood: A Community-led and Father Driven Approach.” This grant will study the journey Indigenous men take when becoming fathers. The project will support the design of supportive parenting programs, developed for and by fathers, on healthy

parenting and early childhood development. This project will be conducted in partnership with the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle.

—Indigenous Volunteer Pilot Program, Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP), UTSG

The Centre for Community Partnerships and First Nations House - Indigenous Student Services partnered on a pilot program for Indigenous students to volunteer with Indigenous-led and Indigenous-serving community organizations. Indigenous student participants are paid for virtual volunteer work completed in 2021-22. This program paves pathways for Indigenous students by providing career development opportunities. The program was supported by a new position, the Coordinator of Indigenous Community-Engaged Learning, which specializes in relationship-building and stewardship with Indigenous community organizations for community-engaged learning courses.



Indigenous Students and Indigenous Co-Curricular Education

A U of T priority is recruiting and supporting Indigenous students, which includes providing support for cultural activities. Such initiatives help Indigenous students feel included, comfortable, and acknowledged while also raising awareness and educating non-Indigenous students.

—**Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Tri-campus**

The University of Toronto held various in-person and virtual events across campus in recognition of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

- The University, in collaboration with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, First Nations House - Indigenous Student Services, and Hart House, held a virtual event with remarks made by administration and a video on Phyllis Webstad.
- Victoria University students, staff, and faculty joined the Office of the Dean of Students for a collaborative origami project in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Dalla Lana School of Public Health's Dr.

Melanie Jeffrey gave a talk on Orange Shirt Day.

- Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study held an assembly that included poetry, student work on TRC Calls to Action, and music.
- UTSC Campus Farm livestreamed the Indigenous Garden for a time of quiet contemplation and reflection in honour of the day.
- The Department of Computer Science held an Orange Shirt Day social media series.
- John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design commemorated Orange Shirt Day with in-person and online events, including the reveal of the Indigenous mural.

Beaded orange shirt by Rosalee Mitchell (photo by Fresh A & D).





—2021 Indigenous Community Gathering, UTM

UTM's Indigenous Centre hosted the 2021 Indigenous Gathering of staff, faculty, and librarians, bringing everyone together to bolster community relationships, deliver updates, and share a feast.

—Virtual Residential School Tours, Faculty of Arts & Science, UTSG

In response to the discovery of unmarked graves at Residential Schools across Canada, the Faculty of Arts & Science, in partnership with three Indigenous organizations, offered staff, faculty, and alumni opportunities to learn about Indigenous People's experiences with Residential Schools. The Secwempec Museum and Cultural Heritage Centre,

the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma University, and the Woodlands Cultural Centre provided virtual "tours" and presentations of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, Shingwauk Residential School, and the Mohawk Institute Residential School, respectively.

—Pow Wow Vaccine Clinic, Well-Living House, UTSG

The Well-Living House, with the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health, held an Indigenous-specific COVID-19 vaccination Pow Wow at the University's Varsity Stadium. Together with other Indigenous-specific vaccination clinics held on UTSG campus, the Pow Wow Vaccine Clinic enabled over 7,000 vaccinations to be given to the Toronto Indigenous

community. For more information, please visit <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-hosts-vaccine-clinic-pow-wow-varsity-stadium>.

—Roundtable with Indigenous Artists, School of Cities, UTSG

The School of Cities hosted a roundtable of four Indigenous artists who addressed the needs of Indigenous artists when working with non-Indigenous organizations. The discussion covered topics such as creating supportive working environments, compensation, the impact of COVID-19, and the effects of the TRC on the arts sector. For more information, please visit <https://www.schoolofcities.utoronto.ca/events/roundtable-indigenous-artists-changing-arts-sector-center-indigenous-artists%E2%80%99-wellbeing>.

—U of T Virtual Pride Concert Featuring Jeremy Dutcher, Sexual and Gender Diversity Office

In partnership with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Hart House, First Nations House - Indigenous Student Services, and UTM Indigenous Centre, the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office hosted a virtual Pride concert, featuring Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter Jeremy Dutcher and moderated by Riley Yesno. The event, open to all U of T students, staff, faculty, librarians, and friends of U of T, included a specially pre-recorded concert as well as a live Q&A. For more information, please visit https://sgdo.utoronto.ca/stec_event/u-of-t-virtual-pride-concert/.

Indigenous Vaccination Clinic Pow Wow at U of T's Varsity Stadium, UTSG (photo by Johnny Guatto).

Challenges

As part of the University's responsibilities to accountability, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives requested feedback from U of T departments, offices, centres, and faculties about challenges experienced by Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and librarians and what supports are required to overcome those challenges. Notable themes that emerged from the responses are as follows:

- Lack of faculty, time, resources, and consistent funding to implement Indigenous initiatives;
- Siloed networks and difficulties in communication among Indigenous scholars, students, and staff;
- Impact of COVID-19;
- Lack of physical space;
- Indigenous consultation brought in too late in processes;
- Restrictive or limiting policies related to honorariums and compensation for Indigenous expertise; and
- Views of Indigenous systems and approaches as unequal to academic systems and approaches.

The University is committed to addressing these barriers in several ways, including hiring Indigenous faculty and staff members; recruiting Indigenous students; advancing Indigenous curriculum; promoting awareness of Indigenous issues; increasing access to technology and skill development for online media; and seeking funding and partnerships.



Next Steps, Looking Forward

"Tree Protection Zone" Art Project
outside of Hart House, UTSG
(photo by Mihyun Maria Kim).



section

4

U of T remains committed to its role in advancing reconciliation across our three campuses in ways that are relevant to and collaborative with Indigenous members of the U of T community. As the Office of Indigenous Initiatives continues to grow, so will its impact on the U of T community in advancing Indigenous issues with transparency, accountability, and proficiency.

—Council of Indigenous Initiatives

The Council's purpose is to act as an advisory body providing input and recommendations on the University of Toronto's governance and long-term strategic planning, student services, employment relations, academic programming, and research initiatives, as they relate to Indigenous Peoples.

—Renovations at First Nations House and Centre for Indigenous Studies, UTSG

The Indigenous Student Services (ISS) at First Nations House (FNH) and the Centre for Indigenous Studies (CIS) are undergoing major renovations in the North Borden Building. The Resource Centre (FNH-ISS) has been relocated within the third floor, and the main floor will feature an events/tutorial shared space between CIS and FNH-ISS as well as dedicated office space for the Indigenous Students' Association and the Indigenous Studies Students' Union. CIS has also secured a classroom on the second floor of North Borden. These renovations provide an opportunity to create more accessible spaces, to update technology, and to improve event spaces within divisions.

—New Office for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, UTM

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation now have an office located in UTM's Maanjiwe nendamowinan Building. The purpose of the office is to

facilitate a relationship between the First Nation and the University and to acknowledge and support their role as the hosts of the traditional territories upon which the campus resides.

—Construction of Indigenous House, UTSC

The UTSC Indigenous House will create a safe space honouring and celebrating Indigenous ways of knowing and will act as a hub to ensure that all Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and initiatives can be supported and can thrive at UTSC. Over the 2020–21 academic year, students and staff have been engaged with the project and have provided feedback on its design and development phases. For more information, please visit <https://utsc.utoronto.ca/home/indigenous-house>.

—Virtual Living Archive, UTM

The Virtual Living Archive is a curatorial project that will use a culturally integrated and collaborative platform for Indigenous community members to express, document, and preserve a sustainable community archive. Focusing on Indigenous authorship, partnership, and artwork, this project looks to amplify narratives about individual lived experience that connect past to present and address issues regarding reciprocal relationship-building between Western cultural institutions and Indigenous People and communities.



LEFT: Alanna Pasche at the Indigenous Vaccination Clinic Pow Wow, hosted at U of T's Varsity Stadium, UTSG (photo by Johnny Guatto).

DESIGN: Fresh Art & Design Inc.



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For more information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT indigenous.utoronto.ca

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