

Terms of Reference

FHS Indigenous Committee

Description

The FHS Indigenous Committee is a collective of the six schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences: Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Studies, Kinesiology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. This collaborative exists to serve the following mandate.

Mandate

This committee will address the calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) (sections 22 and 23) around embedding information and education on the impact of colonization in Indigenous health and wellbeing. The committee also will be mindful of local initiatives, Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan and the Provost's Task Force and Implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The committee will strive towards making our Schools a culturally safe and trauma and violence-informed place to work, learn and engage in creative, constructive dialogues about decolonizing our campus.

This committee will endeavour to:

1. Develop shared curricular resources across the Faculty by:
 - Ensuring that the curriculum serves as a meaningful platform for learning, and respectfully honouring Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing.
 - Addressing the 22nd and 23rd calls to action in the TRC including embedding information and education around the on-going impacts of colonization on Indigenous health and wellbeing.

All resources will be housed in a centralized place that is accessible to the students, faculty and staff.

2. Explore opportunities to attract and retain Indigenous students in the Faculty.
3. Build relationships and foster connections with Western Indigenous Services and local and surrounding Indigenous communities, which may include experiential learning opportunities for students.
4. Coordinate and leverage Indigenous initiatives within our Faculty of Health Sciences.
5. Engage in ongoing critical reflection regarding the committee's progress in being accountable to and fulfilling its mandate. The committee should assess and be mindful of the nature and scope of its impact on students, staff, and the faculty within the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Composition

The committee will include membership from the following constituencies, with alternating two-year terms. Meeting attendance will also be open and encouraged to members at large on an ongoing basis.

- At least one faculty representative from each of the six schools
- Associate Dean, Undergraduate or Graduate
- At least one undergraduate student, one graduate student, and one FHS alumni. Indigenous students and alumni are strongly encouraged to join as either formal committee members or as focus group participants. Students from all six Schools are encouraged to apply.

- At least one Indigenous representative
- One staff representative

Co-Chairs

To two Co-Chairs will be elected following a nomination process; one Co-Chair will be an undergraduate or graduate student in the FHS. The student Co-Chair will serve for a term of one year, while the non-student Co-Chair will serve for a term of two years.

Secretariat

The Co-Chairs will organize the date, location, agenda, and notetaking for the meetings.

Meeting Format

- Meetings will be held via Zoom with the potential for face-to-face meetings being held as needed.
- A consensus model for decisions will be used to arrive at the preferred course of action as mandates permit, and based on the requirements of any issues.