

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON EQUITY FOR FIRST PEOPLES
REPORT TO THE JOINT SENATE-BOARD COMMITTEE ON EQUITY
2007-2008**

(Submitted by Professor Michael Doxtater, Chair)

MEMBERSHIP

Michael Doxtater, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Chair
Rose Ann Beauvais, McGill Alumni Representative
Michael Loft, School of Social Work, Indigenous Access McGill
Courtney Montour, First Peoples House
Veronica Amberg, Social Equity & Diversity Education Office
Lynn Champoux-Williams, SSMU representative
Kirsten Ankar, Faculty of Law
Marsha Vicaire, Graduate Representative

MANDATE

The Subcommittee on Equity for First Peoples reviews on an annual basis the recruitment and status of under-represented First Nation and Inuit groups at the University and sees its mission as building equity for Indigenous peoples on campus.

ACTIVITIES

This report describes some of the activities of the Subcommittee for the 2007-2008 year. These activities relate to our community engagement with stakeholders in building Indigenous Peoples' presence in the University.

Discussions were held in the Subcommittee relating to:

- use of the term “Indigenous Peoples” (which embraces Indians, Métis, Inuit, and other persons of Indigenous ancestry) in lieu of “Aboriginal Peoples” which term, if adopted would not require changes to existing units, programs or services (such as First Peoples House, First Nations and Inuit Education, Indigenous Access McGill, Indigenous Education Project and the Centre for Indigenous Nutrition and Education);
- a proposal to create a Special Advisor to coordinate efforts in the University to build equity in a number of key areas to accommodate increased requests for programs from Indigenous communities, to coordinate on-campus activities and to advance student recruitment activities. (It must be noted that there are currently 235 students of Indigenous ancestry registered in various programs – 93 in on-campus programs, and 142 in northern and off-campus programs.

The Subcommittee worked on the following projects:

- (with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group of the Faculty of Arts) the establishment of an Indigenous Studies Chair in the Faculty who will work to advance the goals of the Jake Eberts Family Endowment by enhancing capacity to develop on-campus programs to attract a diverse multicultural indigenous community;
- (with the School of Social Work, the Faculty of Education, the Social Equity and Diversity Education Office, and the Student Affairs Office) to organize and support the forthcoming *McGill University Symposium on Indigenous Cultures (MUSIC) 2008* – a symposium that will provide a forum for Indigenous scholars from across the continent for dialogical engagement with the McGill learning community, exposing students and staff to films, discussants and film makers on residential schools, violence against women, and cultural diversity.