



**McGill**

School of  
**Physical and Occupational Therapy**

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES



Members of the Mohawk Trail Longhouse in Kahnawake with Occupational Therapy Faculty

(Left to right) Shawn Stacey, Marie-Lyne Grenier, Karen Falcicchio, Hiba Zafran, Elders Joe McGregor and Calvin Jacobs, Heather Lambert, Jessica Barudin, and Loretta Leborgne (in front).



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The Occupational Therapy (OT) Program at McGill University is committed to responding to the [Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the same ethical spirit of its final report, and in accordance with the Faculty of Medicine's statement on [Social Accountability](#).

To do so, the OT [curriculum](#) committee partnered with Ms Janelle Kasperski, [Equity Educational Advisor](#) in Indigenous education at McGill's [Office of the Provost](#), to initiate a participatory methodology for capacity building and long-term engagement. Efforts currently include the integration of critical socio-historical thinking, client-centered reasoning, community-based practice, Indigenous and [global health and rehabilitation](#) into our academic teaching and fieldwork initiatives. Our key partner in building sustainability and equity with Indigenous educators is the [Indigenous Health Professions Program](#) (IHPP).

We have 30 hours of required academic and experiential content integrated across courses, and in all years of our program, developed in partnership with, and led by, Indigenous educators and community facilitators. This includes foundational knowledge about anti-oppressive approaches, colonial history and systemic racism in healthcare in Quebec, Cree worldviews of health (Nation focus may vary by year and speaker), community resilience, and Mohawk traditional healing. There are multiple opportunities for students to practice applying critical reflexivity, cultural safety, advocacy and community approaches.

### [Occupational Therapy Field Studies in Northern Quebec](#)

Our objective for the *OT program's priorities* for recruitment and [admissions](#) planning is to admit a minimum of two Indigenous students per year. Two seats have been designated within the program to facilitate this goal, in ongoing consultation with McGill University's [First People's House](#) and the IHPP, for outreach initiatives, recruitment, and support of incoming students.

Partnerships continue to be explored, developed and strengthened within McGill and across the wider community to assist us in our efforts to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. For details on the OT program's initiatives and ethics: <https://escholarship.mcgill.ca/concern/papers/nc58or997?locale=en>.

Learn more about the [Occupational Therapy Program](#)!

For further information:

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