

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Office of Indigenous Initiatives  
Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)  
Peterson Hall, Suite 200  
3460 McTavish Street Montreal, Quebec H3A 0E6

Shé:kon/Greetings Indigenous Students at McGill,

We are writing to provide an update on the process that is underway related to the student aspect of how McGill will employ Indigenous citizenship verification. We wrote to you in March 2023 to inform you of this work and to invite students who presently self-identify as Indigenous to participate in a working group. We currently have formed the working group, which commenced its work on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This initiative is grounded in McGill's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation as articulated in the 52 [Calls to Action](#).

The composition of this working group is as follows:

- 1) Associate Director Indigenous Student Success (Co-Chair)- Thomasina Phillips
- 2) Associate Provost of Indigenous Initiatives (Co-Chair)- Celeste Pedri-Spade
- 3) One (1) internal Indigenous staff member- Avery Barnaby
- 4) Two (2) Indigenous community representatives- Kevin Kanahsohon Deer and Lynn Jacobs
- 5) Four (4) Indigenous McGill University student representatives- Angel Oliver, Taylor Goodleaf, Jenni Makahnouk, and Sage Goodleaf-Labelle

This Indigenous-led process will be grounded in the principles of transparency, respect, accountability, kindness, and inclusivity. We will be providing updates on the proceedings by posting all relevant documentation on the Indigenous Initiatives website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/indigenous-citizenship-verification-employment-related-opportunities-icvero-working-group>

As we move forward with planning how to best engage our Indigenous student community in this important work, we want to reaffirm our commitment to an open, inclusive and respectful process and our understanding that Indigenous student voices are central to the success of this initiative. We also invite you to stay informed about the issues by visiting the following resources, which the working group is consulting:

- Indigenous Voices on Indigenous Identity What was Heard Report. National Indigenous Identity Forum March 2022. First Nations University. National Indigenous University Senior Leaders'

Association: [https://www.fnuniv.ca/wp-content/uploads/Indigenous-Voices-on-IndigenousIdentity\\_National-Indigenous-Identity-Forum\\_Report\\_March-22\\_June-22-FINAL.pdf](https://www.fnuniv.ca/wp-content/uploads/Indigenous-Voices-on-IndigenousIdentity_National-Indigenous-Identity-Forum_Report_March-22_June-22-FINAL.pdf)

- ‘GII-IKIDONAANIWAN’ ‘It Has Been Said’ Queen’s University Indigenous Identity Project Final Report. First Peoples Group: [https://www.queensu.ca/indigenous/sites/oiwww/files/uploaded\\_files/FPG%20Queens%20Report%20Final%20July%207.pdf](https://www.queensu.ca/indigenous/sites/oiwww/files/uploaded_files/FPG%20Queens%20Report%20Final%20July%207.pdf)
- Building Trust and Accountability: Report on Eligibility in the Indigenous Screen Sector. Archipel Research and Consultation: [https://iso-bea.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Building-Trust-and-AccountabilityFINAL\\_compressed.pdf](https://iso-bea.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Building-Trust-and-AccountabilityFINAL_compressed.pdf)

We look forward to hearing your valuable thoughts and opinions on this work and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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