

Meeting Summary
McGill Indigenous Advisory Council Steering Committee
November 15th 2023, 1:00 - 2:30pm EST

Chair: Prof. Celeste Pedri-Spade, Associate Provost (Indigenous Initiatives)
Notetaker: Hannah Martin, Associate, First Peoples Group

Attendees:

Celeste Pedri-Spade - Associate Provost of Indigenous Initiatives
Taiaiake Alfred - Senior Advisor Indigenous Initiatives Kahnawà:ke
Ann Deer – Associate Director, Indigenous Initiatives
Thomasina Phillips – Associate Director, Indigenous Student Success
Mary Diamond Bear – Office of First Nations and Inuit Education (OFNIE) representative
Yann Allard-Tremblay – Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement (ISCEI) representative
Mike Loft – Retired Indigenous McGill faculty member, Kahnawà:ke
Sidney Leggett – Indigenous Student representative
Mike Auksi – Indigenous Student representative
Hannah Martin - Associate, First Peoples Group
Ally Freedman – Associate, First Peoples Group
Heather Watts – President, First Peoples Group

Regrets:

Pat Oakes, community representative
Mavis Poucachiche – student representative
Treena Delormier, Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment (CINE) representative
Veldon Coburn, Indigenous Relations Initiative (IR) representative, School of Continuing Studies
Sarah Rourke, Indigenous Health Professions Program (IHHP)

The meeting opened with discussion of issues related to the committee composition.

The Steering Committee Terms of Reference was presented, a background on the work leading to its present version was provided and a line-by-line read through was conducted.

Questions were raised by a committee member about the composition of the Steering Committee and a general discussion ensued, leading to the decision that information regarding Indigenous focused programs (majors and minors) will be collected and reported back at the next meeting for further discussion.

Priority tasks were identified to support the goal of producing the draft terms of reference for the IAC by May 2024, including a review of IAC Terms of reference documents from other institutions.

Further discussion was had on the question of Indigenous leaders’ input into the design of the IAC, its mandate and questions around Indigenous community representation with the goals of the IAC in relation to ensuring McGill’s accountability to communities.

The meeting concluded with a discussion and general agreement on several administrative, technical support and scheduling matters.