

Memorandum

Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Christopher Manfredi, Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

SUBJECT: Update on Responses to the Calls to Action of the Report of the Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education

DATE: February 20, 2018

DOCUMENT #: D18-44

ACTION REQUIRED: ☒ INFORMATION ☐ APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE	An update on steps taken thus far to respond to the calls to action in the Final Report of the Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education is presented for information.
BACKGROUND & RATIONALE	<p>The Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) created the Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education in 2016 to “explore and advance ideas, initiatives and plans that will embed Indigeneity in the life and activities of the University while seeking to enhance the presence and success of Indigenous students, faculty and staff at McGill.”</p> <p>The Final Report of the Task Force, which was submitted in June 2017 and presented to Senate on September 19, 2017, articulated 52 Calls to Action, focused on five core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Recruitment and Retention• Physical Representation and Symbolic Recognition• Academic Programs and Curriculum• Research and Academic Complement• Building Capacity and Human Resources
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Efforts to respond to the calls to action have involved broad consultation and collaboration among students, faculty and staff across the university and between the university and Indigenous communities.
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	The calls to action themselves include consideration for sustainable practice and the responses thereto are likewise sensitive to the need to implement sustainable solutions.
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	Work toward achieving stated goals is necessarily ongoing. Future progress will be reported at a later date.
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	This item is presented for information.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Responding to the Calls to Action of the Task Force on
Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education presentation

Responding to the Calls to Action of the Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education

Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

February 2019



McGill



Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education

- The Task Force was created in 2016; membership included students, faculty and staff from across the University
- The Final Report of the Task Force was presented to the Provost in June 2017
- The **52 calls to action** articulated in the Final Report focused on **5 core themes**:
 - **Student Recruitment and Retention**
 - **Physical Representation and Symbolic Recognition**
 - **Academic Programs and Curriculum**
 - **Research and Academic Complement**
 - **Building Capacity and Human Resources**



Student Recruitment and Retention

- Two full-time positions in Enrolment Services dedicated to fostering relationships with Indigenous communities and recruiting new Indigenous students; augmented budget
- New partnership with INDSPIRE to provide \$500,000 in financial support to Indigenous students over two years
- Provost's Indigenous Achievement Award will provide \$5,000 each to two incoming students each year, renewable in each subsequent year
- Enhanced student mentorship programs across the University, including the new Indigenous Health Professions Program (2018) in the Faculty of Medicine



Physical Representation and Symbolic Recognition

- Incorporation of Elder participation in multiple landmark and milestone University celebrations, e.g., Convocations, welcoming of new faculty
- Hiawatha Wampum Belt Flag of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy raised over the Arts Building on National Indigenous Peoples' Day (21 June 2018) and during the McGill University Pow-Wow (21 September 2018); flags will again be flown in subsequent years to mark these occasions.



Physical Representation and Symbolic Recognition

- Campus Space and Planning is exploring options to integrate Indigenous-designed spaces into future developments on the main campus and/or former Royal Victoria Hospital site.
- Bicentennial planning will seek to include commissioning of a special project by an Indigenous artist, to remain on campus following the celebrations.



Academic Programs and Curriculum

- Winter 2018 Symposium on the Role of the University in Supporting Indigenous Languages. Organized by OFNIE and Dept. of Linguistics, on campus and in Kahnawake
- March 2019 conference of the Canadian Region of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society at McGill
- Partnership with Vancouver Island University to foster collaborative teaching and research
- New BEd program in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, following successful BEd program in Listuguj; delivered in community, for Indigenous learners and in the languages of Indigenous partner communities



Academic Programs and Curriculum

- Expanded course offerings in Indigenous Studies Minor, including opportunity for land-based learning
- School of Continuing Studies offers online certificate programs in entrepreneurship and information systems tailored specifically for learners in Indigenous communities; most recent addition is a Certificate in Public Administration and Governance
- New courses in Indigenous legal traditions and Indigenous constitutionalism in the Faculty of Law
- Collaboration with Youth Fusion to support internships with Indigenous communities



Research and Academic Complement

- Nine active searches for tenure-track positions in Indigenous Studies in the Faculties of AES, Arts, Education, and Medicine
- Additional positions recently filled in the Faculties of AES, Arts, Education, Law, Science, and Continuing Studies
- Indigenous search advisory committee and additional funding available to support recruitment in Indigenous Studies
- Express commitment to recognizing and supporting a more inclusive scope of scholarly activity that encompasses land-based and community-engaged research and teaching
- Dedicated start-up support for new faculty



Building Capacity and Human Resources

- Indigenous Initiatives team in the Office of the Provost and Vice Principal (Academic) now includes:
 - Special Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives (Kakwiranó:ron Cook)
 - Indigenous Education Advisor (Janelle Kasperski)
 - Administrator (Larissa States)