



SSMU  
**INDIGENOUS  
AFFAIRS**

# The Indigenous Affairs Committee

## Composition:

- Representatives of Indigenous student organizations
  - Indigenous Students Alliance
  - American Indian Science and Engineering Society
  - Indigenous Law Association de Droit Autochtone
  - Indigenous Health Professionals
- Allies and Representatives

# Mandate of the Committee

- Organization of events and programming
- Facilitating collaboration with student and community organizations
- Consultative body for the purposes of
  - Actions on the part of the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner
  - Initiatives the Executive may initiate
  - Collaborate on events with student groups/clubs/services
- Act as an opportunity for networking within SSMU without forcing emotional or unnecessary labour on Indigenous peoples in other capacities

# The Indigenous Community at McGill

- Indigenous Students Alliance/ Indigenous student groups
- First Peoples' House
- Indigenous Education Program
- SEDE Indigenous Pathways Initiative
- Cousins Peer Mentorship
- Indigenous Studies Program
- SSMU Indigenous Affairs
- Indigenous Health Professions Program

# Change the Name Campaign

- Research began in May 2018
- Launched publicly mid October
  - Rally- October 31st
  - Ground Campaign
  - Fall Referendum
  - Letter Campaign
  - Next Steps



This campaign serves as an opportunity to dismantle a symbol of colonialism and dispossession, but also as an opportunity for the empowerment of other initiatives on campus, such as tackling the Task Force of Indigenous Education and Indigenous Studies calls to action.

# Project- Indigeneity and Solidarity Event Series

- Understanding the place of Indigenous knowledge and epistemology and then addressing its underrepresentation with the academy and specific nodes of academia.
- Addressing nodes of intersectional oppression within McGill by providing a platform for epistemological knowledge transfer as permitted by Indigenous knowledge holders

SSMU  
INDIGENOUS  
AFFAIRS

# INDIGENEITY - & - SOLIDARITY WEEK

MARCH 13-18

A weeklong event of panels, round table discussions, and presentations featuring:



**KANEN'TÓ:KON HEMLOCK**  
is a Kahnawake bear clan chief, Associate Principal at Kahnawake Survival School, coach, and has represented the Mohawk Nation at UN meetings. His presentation focuses on historical and modern acts of sovereignty by the Haudenosaunee, and the ways that the Haudenosaunee have pushed back against colonialism



**CINDY BLACKSTOCK**  
is the executive director of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada and a professor at the School of Social Work at McGill University. Their master class on mosquito advocacy provides Social Work, Law, and other advocacy-minded students with practical low cost strategies on how small groups and individuals can implement evidence based solutions in change resistant environments



**KYLE T. MAYS**  
is a Black/Saginaw Anishinaabe, and is a transdisciplinary scholar of urban Indigenous history, Indigenous popular culture, and Afro-Indigenous studies. His presentation analyzes the history of Afro-Indigenous people across Turtle Island, and how we might imagine a decolonial future based on solidarity between Indigenous people and people of African descent

*Montreal and McGill University are situated on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations*

# Open Door Homeless Shelter

- Homeless Shelter moving into the Milton-Parc community
  - Serves a primarily Inuit population
    - This exists as a result of neo-colonial policies that have resulted in
      - Cyclical repetition of violence, drug addiction, and a reliance of substances
      - Lack of connection to traditional epistemologies resulting in a loss sense of self which can contribute to higher rates of incarceration and homelessness
      - Inherited and intergenerational trauma.
- Volunteering opportunities offered with cultural workshops in order to welcome new members of our community, in addition to easing the transition. This project will be offered over Spring Break, with a similar project happening in collaboration with Native Montreal.

# Indigenous Awareness Weeks

September 17-31

- 14 events, with a variety of Indigenous knowledge holders and elders presenting knowledge on a wide diversity of issues
- Offered in collaboration with SEDE's Indigenous Education Advisor, the First Peoples' House, and the Indigenous Education Program

Specific events included the Annual First Peoples' House Powwow, Silk Screening Workshop, and a number of initiatives aimed at educating non-Indigenous peoples' on the intersectional oppression of two-spirited folk and Indigenous women.



# Minor Projects

Updating SSMU's Indigenous Solidarity Policy

Working to support other Indigenous initiatives on campus

Working with ILADA to provide GLADUE training

Providing cultural sensitivity training

Workshops surrounding solidarity events

Consultation with student groups