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
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