

Report of the Indigenous Affairs Committee
April 6, 2021

Overview:

The Indigenous Affairs Committee is responsible for increasing visibility and advocating for increased representation and services for Indigenous students.

The Indigenous Affairs Committee works to enforce the SSMU Indigenous Solidarity Policy, while coordinating with Indigenous student groups to meet the needs of the Indigenous student community.

Membership:

The Indigenous Affairs Committee serves as a representative body of the Indigenous student community, with representatives from each Indigenous student group on campus. Non-Indigenous members-at-large provide allyship and aid in the mobilization of the Indigenous Affairs Committee.

Jocelyne Couture, Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, Chair of the Indigenous Affairs Committee
Félix Apaulu, Desautels Indigenous Business Society Representative
Simon Filiatreault, Indigenous Law Association Representative
Vanessa Racine, Indigenous Students Alliance Representative
Anneka Anderson, Indigenous Students Alliance Representative
Catie Galbraith, Indigenous Students Alliance, Member-At-Large
Jonas Hendersen, McGill Chapter of the American Science and Engineering Society, Representative
Joel Grant, McGill Chapter of the American Science and Engineering Society, Member-At-Large
Jo Roy, Social Work Representative, Member-At-Large

The membership of the Indigenous Affairs Committee provides consultation to the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner. The Committee also acts as a body which mobilizes with the support of members-at-large.

Meeting format:

To make the best use of members' time, the meeting format has taken the format of an e-newsletter in Google Docs to provide updates and solicit member feedback. Updates are posted regularly and members are heavily encouraged to leave comments and feedback.

This semester's activities:

- Postering campaign to increase awareness of mental health resources available on campus and in the Montreal community
- Arrange subsidy in partnership with the Office for Students with Disabilities to restore note-taking services for Indigenous users
- Establish bursary for Indigenous students experiencing financial difficulties towards the end of the semester
- Collaborate with First Peoples' House on COVID-19 care packages for Indigenous Students
- Participation in Board Ad-Hoc Committee on Naming (BACoN): name selection and consultations with former Indigenous Affairs Commissioners, McGill Indigenous staff, and attempted consultations with Indigenous community groups (FPJCM and NWSM were overwhelmed dealing with COVID-19 homelessness crisis) carried out
- Participation in the User Services Functional Planning Group for Fiat Lux project, an advisory group for a project aimed at redesigning the Redpath-McLennan Library
- Participation in the Indigenous Inclusion Committee, whose mandate is to increase Indigenous visibility and representation within McGill's Faculty of Engineering
- Co-hosted Art Night, a Bicentennial event celebrating Indigenous student talent
- Participate in the creation of [Forgotten Names video and report](#) documentary about James McGill's involvement in the slave trade
- Design plan for future Indigenous Affairs team comprised of six Indigenous student positions
- Undertake hiring for new Indigenous Equity Researcher and Indigenous Affairs Secretary General

- Work on collaborative mural project within SSMU building with Black Affairs Commissioner Paige Keleher
- Participate in the First Peoples' Justice Centre of Montreal's (FPJCM) board of directors as community outreach initiative; attended virtual board meetings

Respectfully submitted by

Jocelyne Couture
Indigenous Affairs Commissioner