

# Indigenous Education Senate Sub-Committee

## Terms of Reference

### Preamble

On December 18, 2015, Manitoba's post-Secondary Institutions and school boards/divisions signed an Indigenous Education Blueprint. The Blueprint represented the outcome of a working group established by the Council of Presidents of Universities of Manitoba (COPUM) and the collaboration across the entire education system within Manitoba (see Appendix A). The Blueprint reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and advancing Indigenous education and supporting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (TRC) Calls to Action (<http://nctr.ca/reports.php>). In fact, the TRC Calls to Action was released on June 2, 2015 with specific language pertaining to education. Additionally, members of COPUM have also signed on to the Canadians for a New Partnership Declaration committing to building relations and supporting outcomes that foster "a new partnership between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples of this country" (source: <http://www.cfnp.ca/declaration/>).

At Brandon University, there is a longstanding tradition of Indigenous Education initiatives and programs offered by the institution. In 1971, the Program for the Education of Native Teachers (PENT) was established and over the decades nearly 600 teachers have graduated from this program working in Indigenous, Northern and other communities across the province as well as in Saskatchewan and Ontario. In 1975, the Native Studies Department was established as the first such department in Western Canada and the second established in the country. The 1994 Study of Cultural Adaptations in the Prairie Ecozone, through a SSHRC funded project by Professor Nicholson, contributed to an understanding of the history of Manitoba and the region dating back thousands of years. Today, Brandon University is home to the Canadian Journal of Native Studies, the Indigenous Peoples' Centre, the Native Studies Department, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health and Law, PENT, Aboriginal Arts courses through the Fine Arts Department, Aboriginal Languages (Cree, Ojibway, and Dakota), Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies (BU CARES) and the He Oyate Tawapi (Ceremony Room). Additionally, Brandon University is actively engaged as a member on the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council (sub-committee of City Council) and has membership with the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce for Manitoba.

The new Indigenous Education Sub-Committee of Senate (standing) will, first, review the existing academic programs, services, and institutional initiatives conducted in support of Indigenous Education within the context of the ten point commitment in the Indigenous Education Blueprint recently signed and assisting the university to fulfill its Academic Vision pertaining to engaged citizenship and leadership through enhancing the understanding and knowledge for all students, faculty, and staff about the role, history, knowledge and contributions of Indigenous communities in shaping Canada today and in the future. Furthermore, it will continue on an on-going basis to monitor our efforts and on these same matters.

## **The mandate of the Sub-Committee is as follows:**

1. To recommend to Senate the key academic priorities and strategic direction for Brandon University in fulfillment of its commitments within the Indigenous Education Blueprint;
2. To create and oversee the work of a series of targeted working groups as needed and tasked with the following objectives:
  - i** - To establish an inventory and to complete an institutional self-assessment and review of the existing Indigenous Education initiatives, programs, research, scholarly and creative activities, community engagement, and services at Brandon University with reference to the Indigenous Education Blueprint document;
  - ii** - To conduct a review of Indigenous Education practices across Canada (and beyond) in order to identify promising approaches for consideration within a university setting;
  - iii** - To find opportunities to pursue and actions to be taken to enhance our existing Indigenous Education initiatives, teaching approaches, programs, faculty development, research, scholarly and creative activities, community engagement, and services to build engaged citizenship and institutional capacity for the implementation of the Blueprint;
  - iv** - To determine the kinds of learning and awareness that we might expect all students to attain, and to set benchmarks for the recruitment, retention and graduation outcomes for Indigenous students at BU within the context of the Blueprint;
  - v** - To prioritize a range of institutional changes to programs, research, scholarly and creative activities, community engagement, services and partnerships that can benefit the BU community in support of the Blueprint.

## **Governance**

The Indigenous Education Committee is a Sub-Committee of Senate.

## **Committee Membership (revised by Senate – March 13, 2018)**

The Sub-Committee is to be comprised of members from the following categories:

1. Three members of Senate, including a BUSU representative;
2. One member elected by and from each of the five academic Faculty/School Councils;
3. The Dean of Students;
4. The University Librarian;
5. Five Indigenous Students;
6. The Director of the Indigenous Peoples' Centre;
7. One member from PENT (faculty);
8. One member from the Department of Native Studies;

9. One member from the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council;
10. Indigenous Representative from the Brandon School Division Administration;
11. Indigenous Representative from the Manitoba Métis Federation;
12. Indigenous Representative from Assiniboine Community College;
13. Anishanabek Knowledge Keeper;
14. Dakota Knowledge Keeper;
15. Inuit Knowledge Keeper;
16. Métis Knowledge Keeper;
17. Cree Knowledge Keeper; and
18. The Vice-President Academic (Academic & Provost).

Two co-chairs shall be elected by and from the Committee.

## **Report**

The Committee will report regularly on its progress to Senate. It will present an interim report to Senate in September of 2016 and a set of recommendations for review and approval no later than December 2016.

## **Reference**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report

<http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

TRC Calls to Action

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls to Action English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls%20to%20Action%20English2.pdf)

Canadians for a New Partnership Declaration

<http://www.cfnp.ca/declaration/>

## **Appendix A:**

Indigenous Education Blueprint

*Revised by Senate – March 13, 2018*