

Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Declaration Statement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation. The Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Council affirms the distinct cultural identities, values and traditions of Canada's Indigenous peoples and acknowledges the significance of their collective cultural contributions to Canadian life. Council members also support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Vision: Through purposeful action towards reconciliation, Gaa wii ji'i diyaang affirms the reclamation on Indigenous identities, values and traditions and nurtures the spirits, hearts, bodies and minds of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Mission: As Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples walking together and helping each other to create a just UM community through relationship building, education, advocacy and action in support of Indigenous Achievement.

Statement of Purpose for Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Council:

As Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and students, we commit to actively creating an environment at the University of Manitoba that nurtures Indigenous Achievement in the spirit of reconciliation. Our guiding principles are based on the Seven Sacred Teachings - love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility, and truth - as determined by the Indigenous community on campus.

Collectively, members of the Gaa wii ji'i diyaang Council and membership:

- Create a foundation for learning that will help support Indigenous leaders and non-Indigenous allies as they begin the conversations necessary for reconciliation.
- *Build new relationships between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples – relationships built on a foundation of openness, dignity, respect, understanding, and hope, as well as on the mutual recognition that the journey to reconciliation requires personal introspection and courage to explore emotional and spiritual aspects of being.*
- *Initiate and support efforts to weave Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditions into the fabric of our University, as well as become fully grounded in their own cultural history and understand how it relates to colonialism and reconciliation.*
- *Develop a culture of continuous dialogue, collaboration, and consensus building to improve communication and inform institutional development. Practice the ways of the Sacred Circle to really listen to each other and support each other in a good way.*
- *Publically and openly acknowledge that societal inequities exist and are rooted in social, legal, economic, and historical contexts related to colonization and privilege. Commit to taking action to address our own discrimination, the discrimination of other people, and the discrimination embedded in our institutions.*

- Support Indigenous peoples as they advocate for full access to all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to challenge the oppressive power systems and structures that serve to privilege some groups and marginalize others.
- *Work to eliminate all forms of racism and discrimination so people can work and learn in a culturally safe environment. Recognize our individual and collective responsibility in moving together towards peace, safety, and solidarity.*
- Support educational and professional development initiatives to teach about the history of Indigenous peoples.

We invite you to walk with us as we work to create a culture of reconciliation and respect for all peoples.