



Calls to Action

Indigenous Design and Planning Student Association (IDPSA)
Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba

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INTRODUCTION

With the rise of Indigenous student enrollment, and increased representation in the design profession, and commitments made by the design professional associations, we believe that design education should be at the forefront of inclusion and understanding of alternative perspectives in teaching design.

With the release of this report illustrating Calls to Action that we believe, as Indigenous students in the Faculty of Architecture, are important to advancing the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in design education. In an effort to uphold the commitment from the University of Manitoba's land acknowledgement to respect the Treaties that were

made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and to dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

The significance of the University of Manitoba and its position in the story of Reconciliation should not be overlooked. As we have acknowledged at several public lectures, we acknowledge that the land on which we learn from is Treaty One Territory, the Homeland of the Métis Nation, and as an important hub for Inuit outside of Inuit Nunangat.

Nation-to-Nation: Conversation on Indigenous Principles, Perspectives, Practices in Shaping Canada's Architecture. February 2020. Image courtesy of Dylan Hewlett



PART 1: RECRUITMENT

The *Recruitment* Calls to Action (#1-3) deal with the aspects of enrollment and retention in the student sectors, to be a reflection of Manitoba's diverse surrounding population of Indigenous peoples.

1

INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

We call upon recruitment staff to collaborate with the Indigenous Student Centre and Migizii Agamik **for Indigenous youth engagement.**

2

RETENTION

We call upon the Faculty to **improve retention and acceptance** in the area of recruitment for Indigenous students.

3

OUTREACH

We call upon FAUM to **actively engage with Indigenous communities** (both rural and urban) to build meaningful relationships, and collaboration within each department.

PART 2: REPRESENTATION

The *Representation* Calls to Action (#4-5) reference the importance for Indigenous students to see themselves in their department, faculty, and school. Indigenous perspectives are imperative to learning and understanding in an Canadian context, and are to be integrated in each department's course curriculum.

4

INDIGENOUS CONTENT STEERING COMMITTEE

We call upon FAUM to establish an ***Indigenous Content Steering Committee***.

- The purpose of this committee will be to ensure that all departments commit to including culturally relevant content in each year of study throughout the Bachelor of Environmental Design Program in all streams (Architecture, Landscape + Urbanism and Interior Environments).
- The committee will serve as an accountability agent to all departments to ensure that Indigenous content is being implemented.
- This committee should be made up of a diverse group of people in the faculty, and include at least three to four faculty members, at least one graduate student and one undergraduate student. Preference should be given to an Indigenous student enrolled in FAUM.

5

EVENTS

We call upon the Cultural Events Committee and Partners Program to have ***representation of one or more Canadian Indigenous speakers*** per year.

PART 3: ADVOCACY



The *Advocacy* Calls to Action (#6-7) are to seek active and meaningful participation of the greater faculty in designated days of observance and advocacy on Indigenous issues.

6

DAYS OF AWARENESS

We call upon FAUM to **actively engage** in Indigenous issues through meaningful dialogue and acknowledging days of awareness on the real and current issues within our city. Such as, but not limited to:

- Orange Shirt Day, Legacy of Residential Schools
- National Day for MMIWG2S+
- Indigenous History Month
- National Indigenous Peoples Day

7

CURRENT AND ONGOING ISSUES

We call upon FAUM to **have discussions and implement** current and ongoing issues that Indigenous peoples in Canada face, into the studies at FAUM. The importance of this is to build informed awareness on the land we design for, to become advocates of the land, water, animals and its first inhabitants.

PART 4: FOUNDATION



The *Foundation* Calls to Action (#8-9) speaks on the requirement for both students and staff to have a mandatory course and understanding on the historical and present-day realities of residential schools, and the greater Indigenous community/population.

8

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING: STUDENTS

We call upon FAUM to implement a ***mandatory introductory course for students*** entering the Faculty of Architecture on Indigenous awareness, either included in the Urban Media Lab or a University 1 requirement.

The first and foundation year for students entering the Faculty of Architecture, is a period for critical content. Although the implemented Cultural Awareness Session in Fall 2019, was met with great support, it was still a condensed version of the wide content of Indigenous matters. ***All students who come into the program should have understanding of Indigenous implications to design.***

9

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING: STAFF

We call upon FAUM to ***ensure that all staff are informed*** (and have a complete understanding) of Indigenous knowledge and connection to land, including both historical and contemporary challenges.

We call upon FAUM to require all staff to undertake a cultural awareness training course/or facilitated workshop session. Including the dean's office, professors, assistant professors and sessional instructors.

***Refer to appendix for suggestions of programs/courses.*



PART 5: RESOURCES

The *Resources* Calls to Action (#10-11) are to resolve the areas of health, wellness, and scholarship for Indigenous students who are under stress of Intergenerational trauma and adverse circumstances.

10 SCHOLARSHIPS

We call upon FAUM to include criteria that requires proof of **connection** to an Indigenous community for any scholarship that is intended specifically for Indigenous students at FAUM.

11 SUPPORTS

We call upon FAUM to have **culturally safe mental health supports** made easily available for Indigenous students.

PART 6: STUDENT BODIES

The *Student Bodies* Calls to Action (#12) deals with the carrying out of IDPSA goals and understanding on the student level.

12 ORGANIZATIONS

We call upon student organizations in FAUM to **advocate for the goals of IDPSA** in the areas of retention, representation, and implementation, to be shared with their respective departments.

CONCLUSION

These Calls to Action are intended to be used as a guide to implement true action within the Faculty of Architecture, which shapes the minds of future designers, architects, and planners who will practice on Indigenous lands.

The design profession and design education should be at the forefront of inclusion and understanding of Indigenous perspectives, history, and practices. As individuals a part of a profession that leads our built environment, it is crucial to have the voices of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples be heard, advocated for, and represented. We believe that the FAUM should actively seek meaningful participation on Indigenous issues. While concurrently, strive to have a comprehensive understanding of these issues and dismantle historically oppressive methods of

planning and design through mandatory course requirements. With this, the FAUM should invest in developing support in place for Indigenous students in the areas of health and wellness.

The future of design education should reflect the diverse population of surrounding Indigenous communities, and align with the practices of Indigenous cultures in design. These conversations should not just start and be advocated for by Indigenous peoples. The hope with this report is to encourage non-Indigenous students to take on an informed role in allyship. As a true ally, individuals should carry the responsibility, and implement these items. ***We ask you to share our responsibility to restore what was lost, reclaim what was taken and help us fight for what is to come.***

APPENDIX

Suggested programs/courses to consider in “Call to Action #10: Cultural Awareness Session STAFF”:

Indigenous Canada

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Indigenous Canada is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Indigenous Canada is for students from faculties outside the Faculty of Native Studies with an interest in acquiring a basic familiarity with Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationships.
- **Delivery:** Online
- **Level:** Beginner
- **Commitment:** 12 weeks of study, 2—3 hours/week
- This course consists of twelve modules, each with a series of: video lectures, a set of course notes and course glossary, and required and recommended readings.
- **More Information:** <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>

The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada™ is a series of five online modules or a full-day in-person or 6-hour virtual classroom course.
- **Topics include:** the cultural and historical differences between First Nations, Inuit, and Métis; the evolution of the relationship between Canada and Indigenous people from pre-contact to yesterday’s headlines; stories of social and economic success, reconciliation and resilience; understanding intercultural communication in the workplace; and much more.
- With videos, quizzes, music and animation, The Path is lively and engaging.
- **Delivery:** Online, In-Person Facilitation, or Hybrid Model
- **Level:** Beginner - Moderate
- **Commitment:** Varies from .5 day session to 2 full days
- It should also be noted that this course will be offered by the RAIC in the Summer of 2021 and the CSLA is currently offering this session to each of the component associations. As such, specific modules related to architecture and design have already been created
- **More Information:** thepath@nvisiongroup.ca or 613-237-3613 ext 227.

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Suggested programs/courses to consider in “Call to Action #10: Cultural Awareness Session STAFF”:

Cedar Lake Ranch: Cultural Awareness Session

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Cultural Awareness Workshop is dedicated to helping our non-Indigenous friends to understand the historical trauma, oppression, racism and cultural insensitivity that Indigenous people have been subjected to for over 150 years. In this workshop we will demystify some myths and misconceptions of Indigenous people, discuss traditional Indigenous worldviews, spiritualities, relationships with the land, and beliefs vs. religion, conceptualize a timeline of European contact to the present, and reflect on the effects & impacts of the Indian Residential Schools. We will also delve into some sensitive subjects on reclaiming Indigenous cultural identity, cultural oversensitivity and defensiveness, and discuss the harm in cultural appropriation.
- **Delivery:** In-person (Location Cedar Lake Ranch, Anola, Manitoba)
- **Level:** Beginner
- **Commitment:** 1-2 full day workshop
- **More information:** <https://www.cedarlakeranch.ca/workshops>