

TERMS OF REFERENCE
2018



Sheridan

| Indigenous
Education Council

THE SHERIDAN COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND
ADVANCED LEARNING

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNING AND SUPPORT



OVERVIEW

Founded in 2017, the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) has the collective responsibility to advise the college on Indigenous education and provide strategic direction for the success, attainment, and retention of Indigenous learners at Sheridan.

Through open dialogue and ongoing collaboration, Sheridan's IEC will provide cultural and educational expertise on the interpretation of the Ontario government's policy direction, namely the Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and Colleges and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol.

The IEC reports directly to the Vice President, Student Experience and Enrollment Management, and through the Vice President, to the colleges President & Vice Chancellor, Board of Governors and Senate regarding Indigenous education. The IEC will work closely with the Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support (CILS) in guiding institutional planning and visioning.

VISION

The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) recognizes the importance of educational outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples regardless of status. IEC exists to support initiatives to improve academic programming and planning that will meet the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action and the seven principles of the Colleges and Institutes Canada's Indigenous Education Protocol.

PURPOSE

The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is committed to ensuring Indigenous education is developed, implemented and improved at Sheridan. The IEC will advise on institutional (academic and administrative) policies, practices, procedures, and programs to ensure it is reflective of Indigenous world views. The IEC will address the needs of both prospective and current students by providing strategic directions for enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. The Council will work in collaborative efforts with the institution to provide practical tools and opportunities for faculty and staff to improve growth opportunities.

The IEC will uphold the following values;

1. Keeping a good mind
2. Accountability
3. Transparency
4. Equity, inclusion, and respect for diversity
5. Cooperation and shared responsibility for higher education
6. Respect for Indigenous ways of knowing, treaty rights, languages, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.



The responsibility of the IEC will include:

1. Develop and maintain a five-year strategy and review the plan on an annual basis.
2. Promote and cultivate an atmosphere in which Indigenous histories, values, knowledge, and traditions are respected within Sheridan.
3. Make recommendations on strategies for curriculum development, recruitment, admissions, retention and graduation of Indigenous learners.
4. Engage with Sheridan's various departments, services, administration, and the CILS on any initiatives relating to Indigenous education.
5. Provide advice to the College on any systemic oppression, racism, or structural issues that may impede such initiatives for the advancement and success of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty.
6. Advise Sheridan on the development of new policies and programs that enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of college life.
7. Maintain a relationship with the broader Indigenous communities within Oakville, Mississauga, and Brampton.
8. Review Sheridan's implementation of the Indigenous Education Protocol for College and Institutes Canada seven principles:
 - i. Commit to making Indigenous education a priority.
 - ii. Ensure governance structures recognize and respect Indigenous peoples.
 - iii. Implement intellectual and cultural traditions of Indigenous peoples through curriculum and learning approaches relevant to learners and communities.
 - iv. Support students and employees to increase understanding and reciprocity among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
 - v. Commit to increasing the number of Indigenous employees with ongoing appointments, throughout the institution, including Indigenous senior administrators.
 - vi. Establish Indigenous-centered holistic services and learning environments for learner success.
 - vii. Build relationships and be accountable to Indigenous communities in support of self-determination through education, training, and applied research.



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETINGS/MEMBERSHIP

The Indigenous Education Council will meet, at a minimum, once per academic term, including an annual visioning session. Other meetings (subcommittees) will be scheduled as deemed necessary. Notification of meetings must be given within two weeks of meeting date. The IEC will reflect a broad representation of members from Indigenous organizations, communities, Elders, students, and institutional representatives.

The Indigenous Education Council structure

- Elder in Residence
- Office of the Vice President, Student Experience & Enrollment Management
- Centre for Teaching and Learning representative
- Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support representative
- Indigenous Student Representative
- Sheridan Student Union representative
- Indigenous Faculty representative
- Staff representatives
- Indigenous community representatives

Members are appointed for a term of two years, subject to renewal. Membership is based on appointment and term of membership is subject to change.

Roles of Members

Co-Chairs: The Co-Chairs will be the Vice President, Student Experience and Enrollment Management and one Indigenous Community member appointed each September. The Vice President, Student Experience and Enrollment Management will maintain the administrative duties of the council. The Co-Chairs will rotate as deemed necessary. The Co-Chairs will ensure the moral, legal, ethical, and prudent obligations of the Council and are responsible for:

- Championing the goals and vision of the Council.
- Actively seeking out new members where necessary.
- Facilitating meaningful discussion at each meeting according to the agenda priorities.
- Acting as signing authority for any government or institutional related documents.



Elders: Elders maintain the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual balance of the Council. Elders will provide a foundation of traditional knowledge and experience to help guide the development and operation of college programs and services. Elders give guidance in creating the space in which all Council members engage the work with good hearts and minds in the collective work of the Council.

Community: Community members remind the institution and hold it accountable to the needs of Indigenous students and communities.

Institutional: College representatives are responsible for ensuring that tangible measure is taken to reach the mandate of the Council, within the scope of their respective goals at the institution. Institutional representatives also guide Council initiatives and recommendations through the appropriate college approval and review channels

Resource: Resource members are non-voting members of IEC. They actively support the Council by providing support and guidance in realizing the goals and vision of the IEC.

CONSENSUS

Decisions will be made by building consensus. To identify consensus, the Co-Chairs will state the decision as they understand it for the record. In the case where there is not clear consensus, all members in attendance will be asked to state their opinions on the subject at hand. If no consensus exists, the Co-Chairs may table the decision until the next meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Council members will maintain the confidentiality of any and all information, discussions, or proceedings taking place.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Council members will act with honesty, in good faith, and in the best interest of the Indigenous Education Council. If a conflict of interest arises, the member will declare the conflict in advance of the meeting/action or as soon as reasonably possible and remove him/herself from all proceedings related to the conflict.