



McGill



Office of  
Indigenous  
Initiatives

# Supporting Indigenous excellence

Make *your* mark

“Education is what got us into this mess – the use of education at least in terms of residential schools – but education is the key to reconciliation.”

– Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair,  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

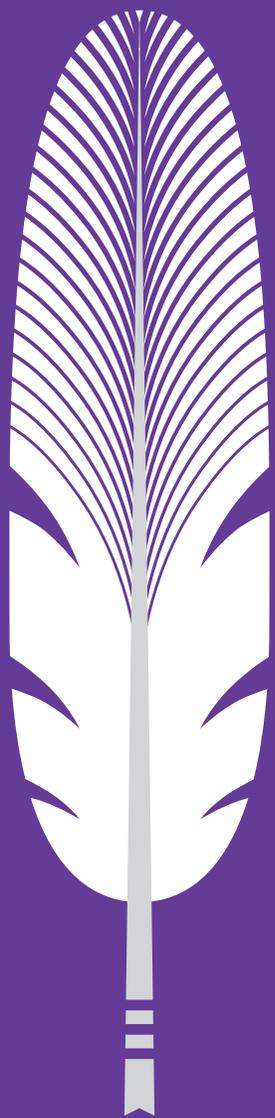
Residential schools were a major part of Canada’s assimilationist policies and have left a destructive impact on Indigenous peoples.

It will take time to heal and bridge the major gaps that exist due to the detrimental effects of colonial policies on Indigenous peoples’ health, education, culture and rights.

**We owe it to the next seven generations to do better and to get it right.**



McGill aims to ensure consistent  
**respect for, inclusion of and openness to**  
Indigenous peoples and their knowledges.



## How will we achieve this?

By acknowledging past wrongs, committing to repair, and making a collective effort to celebrate and support the resurgence of Indigenous knowledges, traditions, languages and histories.

And by making a full commitment to connecting Indigenization efforts to the project of truth and reconciliation, which requires enthusiasm, courage and humility.

# Our Calls to Action

Following the 2015 release of the TRC's final report and Calls to Action, McGill's **Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education** set out 52 [Calls to Action](#) to guide McGill's own project of recognition and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These include:

- Augmenting recruitment and retention of Indigenous students
- Increasing the visibility and presence of Indigenous peoples and their cultures through physical representation and symbolic recognition
- Rethinking the development and delivery of academic programs and curriculum to support deeper and more meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities
- Reviewing and adapting Indigeneity in research and across the academic spectrum
- Building capacity and human resources to support the transformative work of truth and reconciliation and Indigenization
- Being accountable to Indigenous communities through increased partnerships and enhanced communication

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# Make *your* mark

Supporting Indigenous excellence:  
Our commitment to truth and reconciliation

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# Opportunities for philanthropic support

- 1 Giving strategically: The Indigenous Excellence Fund

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- 2 Advancing Indigenous student success
- 3 Strengthening Indigeneity in the academy
- 4 Creating an Indigenous learning and sharing space



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# Giving strategically

## The Indigenous Excellence Fund

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**Philanthropy is critical for reconciliation.**

McGill is committed to ensuring that the next seven generations will continue to learn, exchange and grow through Indigenous worldviews, traditions, languages and histories that contribute to our holistic understanding of excellence.



To this end, we particularly welcome flexible, unrestricted philanthropic gifts. This kind of funding will help the University sustain its high standards, stay agile, and address the evolving needs of Indigenous communities.

**Giving through the McGill Indigenous Excellence Fund is one of the most impactful ways to make a difference with your donation,** enabling us to both advance our strategic priorities and respond quickly to other emerging needs and opportunities.

*This artwork, completed by Haudenosaunee artist Alanah Jewell, was a collaboration between cultural advisors, faithkeepers and artists from five regional Indigenous Nations (including Kahnawake, Kanesatake and Akwesasne). It features at the Y-intersection on McGill's downtown campus.*

# 2

## Advancing Indigenous student success

Support Indigenous student recruitment and retention

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### The groundwork

Over the past decade, McGill has made significant strides in advancing Indigenous student recruitment and retention with initiatives that span the student journey. This includes “pathways” programs that help welcome and support Indigenous applicants to McGill, the [Indigenous Tuition Initiative](#) and dedicated support services both on and off campus.





## Your impact

Your gift will help remove barriers to higher education and enhance Indigenous student success throughout the academic journey.

With your support, we can:

- Broaden the [Indigenous Tuition Initiative](#) to eventually provide tuition-free education to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada
- Increase access to remote learning options in collaboration with the School of Continuing Studies
- Strengthen programs that create pathways to a McGill education
- Enhance cultural and living spaces for Indigenous students, including renovating First Peoples' House to increase its residential capacity
- Create a comprehensive support system that includes tailored health and wellness services through a Local Wellness Advisor, experiential learning and mentorship opportunities, and travel awards

# 3

## Strengthening Indigeneity in the academy

Help embed Indigenous excellence throughout McGill's research and teaching activities

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### The groundwork

We have made a concerted effort to expand the Indigenous faculty and staff complement at McGill and better support Indigenous academics in their research. This has strengthened knowledge of Indigenous cultures, languages, histories and ways of life across the University, and facilitated the incorporation of culturally appropriate content into a range of academic subjects for all McGill students.



## Your impact

Our goal is to create rich and varied curricula that allow all McGill students to learn about Indigenous histories, languages and ways of knowing. This work must be grounded in close and respectful relationships with local and regional Indigenous communities.

With your support, we can:

- Enhance the **Indigenous Knowledges and Community Relations Program**, which supports the respectful and culturally relevant inclusion of Indigenous knowledges through initiatives like visiting Indigenous scholars, artists and community leaders
- Enhance the **Elders/Cultural Knowledge Holders Program**, which creates a welcoming environment for Indigenous Elders and Cultural Knowledge Keepers to share their lived experiences and traditional teachings at McGill, which is central to Indigenous student success
- Increase **Indigenous physical representation and symbolic recognition** on our campuses
- Further develop **Indigenous academic programs** in collaboration with Indigenous communities

# 4

## Creating an Indigenous learning and sharing space

Help us realize our ambitious vision for the future

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### The groundwork

A campus environment supportive of students' physical, mental and social health and well-being is critical to student success. Many of McGill's Calls to Action relate to the need for space that can serve the needs of Indigenous members of our community in a holistic and inclusive way.





The First Peoples' House is currently the only dedicated cultural and living space for Indigenous community members on campus.

As the Indigenous community at McGill grows and we work towards fulfilling the Calls to Action related to Indigenous spaces, we have identified an urgent need to update this space so that it continues to meet the evolving needs of Indigenous students, faculty and staff at the University.



## Co-creating the future

Envisioned as a holistic living and learning hub, the **Indigenous Learning and Sharing Space (ILSS)** would help promote Indigenous cultural and knowledge exchange among students, faculty, staff and communities, and foster overall inclusion for the Indigenous community at McGill.

The ILSS could include:

- Indigenous workspaces, including individual and common areas
- A ceremonial gathering space that could accommodate approximately 120 people
- Space for programming by the Faculty of Education's [Office of First Nations and Inuit Education](#), including classrooms and research spaces

Ideation on the proposed ILSS will be co-led by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Faculty of Education, with input from Indigenous community partners. **Philanthropic support will be critical to the launch, sustainability, and long-term impact of the ILSS.**

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# The result

Partnering for impact

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Your gift will:

- **Help close the education gap** by enhancing support services and lowering the barriers to higher education for Indigenous students
- **Ensure better knowledge, representation and inclusion of Indigenous experts** in academic and administrative decision-making processes
- **Preserve and promote Indigenous cultures and languages**
- **Improve the health and well-being** of Indigenous students, faculty and their communities
- **Build stronger partnerships with Indigenous communities** and develop co-created programming that addresses community needs, fosters empowerment and influences public policies and practices, all of which will contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation



# With your philanthropic support, we can create:

## **Opportunities** that open doors

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Ensuring that no qualified student is denied a McGill education for financial reasons, while expanding the range of perspectives on campus.

## **Research** that changes lives

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Pushing the boundaries of knowledge and collaborating at the intersection of disciplines where solutions to global challenges will emerge.

## **Innovation** that drives progress

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Building a vibrant innovation ecosystem that brings creative ideas from the classroom or the lab to the marketplace and the community.

## **Education** that shapes future-ready students

Training students to thrive as engaged citizens and leaders, while making a positive impact on the world around us.

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McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations.

We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

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Make *your mark* today.



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Indigenous  
Initiatives

[giving.mcgill.ca/indigenous-excellence](https://giving.mcgill.ca/indigenous-excellence)