



University of Alberta Students' Union

**ABORIGINAL
RELATIONS AND
RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE
(ARRC)**

November 6, 2023

5:30 PM

Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciwaskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dënesųłinê (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Ella Thomson (Chair)		Y
Noor Abdelwahab		Y
Kenton Cardin		N
Marc Jr. Doire		Y
Levi Flaman		Y
Michael Griffiths		Y
Brooklynn Halfe		N
Elizah McColl		Y
Mason Pich		Y

Muneeba Qadir		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Racquel Araujo		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC-2023-04-M)

2023-040/1

INTRODUCTION

2023-040/1a

Call to Order

THOMSON called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

2023-04/1b

Approval of Agenda

DOIRE/PICH MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-04/1c

Approval of Minutes

DOIRE/PICH MOVE TO approve the minutes
CARRIED

2023-04/1d

Chair's Business

THOMSON: Having Danni in the meeting would be great; will speak to the Elders on campus regarding the medicine garden idea. If any other Indigenous students want to join, then that's great. Would like the pronunciation guide to be done within the next few months and will accept help doing it. Or can do it as a committee during a scheduled meeting. Is looking to create an official ARRC pronunciation guide.

2023-04/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

ABDELWAHAB: Bylaw claims to have sent something to ARRC. The current committee is reformatting the bylaws and wants ARRC to know that they're looking over and reformatting some of the policies.

THOMSON: Hasn't received it.

FLAMAN: Bylaw is grouping many policies together, such as the FNMI bylaw. Bylaw 200 will now be grouped under operations, but no wording or effects are being altered.

2023-04/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

THOMSON: The diversity issues in the UCP platform don't necessarily have to become part of their platform, and a lot of the items that were passed are concerning. However, a lot of the topics might not necessarily make it into the UCP agenda or plan. An official statement shouldn't be released, as the statement might not be constructive when this policy hasn't even been ratified.

FLAMAN: There's no imminent danger of anything bad happening in the short term.

2023-04/3a

Treaty 6 Flag Ceremony/ Metis Nation Flag

GRIFFITHS: Currently a Treaty 6 Flag Ceremony/Metis Nation Flag is being planned on being put up. Wants to check how the committee feels about raising the flags during Indigenous Peoples' Week in a ceremony.

THOMSON: It will be important to include someone from Treaty 6 in the ceremony. It's important to invite and include special guests, who can be students and Indigenous people.

GRIFFITHS: Is interested in putting up a Metis Nation of Alberta Flag, should this flag be included as well?

THOMSON: There isn't really a Metis Nation flag, but you're most likely going to fly the blue infinity flag, not the red one. Both the flags should be put up.

2023-04/3b

What's to come this year

THOMSON: Does ARRC have a budget? Would like to set aside \$60 to purchase tobacco for guests.

DOIRE: Recommends that the committee reviews the University of Alberta's Honoraria document for engaging in protocol.

GRIFFITHS: The UASU follows protocol, but will take a look to ensure they're following it.

FLAMAN: There is no standard, but lately when speakers come, they're given cheques. Left up to the department or even asking the people receiving the honoraria what they'd like.

GRAHAM: ARRC has a large budget, and it's a couple thousand dollars that the committee can use for projects and future endeavours. Doesn't know if unspent money in the budget rolls over into the next year.

THOMSON: Wants to have a medicine garden, which will be expensive.

INFORMATION ITEMS

<https://docs.su.ualberta.ca/books/bylaws-excluding-governance-and-elections/page/bylaw-200-fnmi-consultation-and-engagement>

<https://docs.su.ualberta.ca/shelves/students-council-legislation>

2023-04/5

ADJOURNMENT

THOMSON adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.