



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

January 15, 2024

5:00 pm

Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacišwāskahikan (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 nēhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dēnesųliné (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 Thompson (Chair)		Y
Noor Abdelwahab		Y
Marc Jr. Doire		Y
Levi Flaman		Y
Michael Griffiths		Y
Brooklynn Halfe		Y
Elizah McColl		Y
Mason Pich		Y
Muneeba Qadir		Y

Courtney Graham		N/A
Racquel Araujo		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC-2023-06-M)

2023-06/1

INTRODUCTION

2023-06/1a

Call to Order

2023-06/1b

THOMSON called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM

Approval of Agenda

GRIFFITHS/PICH MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-06/1c

Approval of Minutes

GRIFFITHS/PICH MOVE TO approve the minutes
CARRIED

2023-06/1d

Chair's Business

2023-06/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2023-06/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2023-06/3a

Brainstorming/Reflection

2023-06/3b

Treaty 6 Flag Ceremony/ Metis Nation Flag

THOMSON: This topic was discussed last meeting.

2023-06/4

What to come this year

THOMSON: Would like the full pronunciation guide to be done, ideally by the meeting after next. Would like to lay the groundwork for the medicine garden by the end of the year.

2023-06/5

INFORMATION ITEMS

Upcoming talk hosted by Frances Widdowson and the controversy

THOMSON: There is supposed to be a talk by a controversial figure this Thursday, and the Indigenous Grad and Indigenous Student Association have organised a counter event. It would be great to see some Students'

Council members there. Refreshments will be provided.

MCCOLL: There's a speaker coming, and her past is controversial. She has denied residential schools, and has said hateful things regarding black and Indigenous communities. There are safety concerns, as her audience is radicalised. The ISU cannot prevent attendance, but the ISU encourages anyone who can come to the counterprotest to come. The speaker (Frances Widdowson) believes people are impeding her free speech, but in reality she is using hate speech.

THOMSON: The speaker is also known to enjoy controversy when it comes to opposing her. For anyone curious to know more about the background of the speaker and who invited the speaker, google Dr Catherine Laurie and Frances Widdowson. Would love to collaborate with the ISU regarding the medicine garden.

2023-06/6

ADJOURNMENT

THOMSON adjourned the meeting at 5:30 P.M.