



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

October 16, 2023

5:30 PM

Google Meet

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciswaskahikan (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 Thomson (Chair)		Y
Noor Abdelwahab		Y
Lexi House		Y
Marc Doire		Y
Levi Flaman		N
Michael Griffiths		Y
Brooklynn Halfe		Y
Elizah McColl		N
Mason Pich		Y

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

MINUTES (ARRC-2023-03-M)

2023-03/1

INTRODUCTION

2023-03/1a

Call to Order

THOMSON called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

2023-03/1b

Approval of Agenda

ABDELWAHAB/DOIRE MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-03/1c

Approval of Minutes

DOIRE/HALFE MOVE TO approve the minutes
CARRIED

2023-03/1d

Chair's Business

THOMSON: Got back from the Chair's Committee, not much to report as the focus is currently on midterms. Discussed what was spoken about last time.

2023-03/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

THOMSON: Indigenous Celebration week is upcoming, and the committee can begin to prepare for it.

GRAHAM: Will assist and help with Danni.

2023-03/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2023-03/3a

Brainstorming/reflection

THOMSON: During the last meeting, the committee was asked to read or look at two reports. Do any of the members have any ideas for how what they read applies to this committee?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People was pulled up by THOMSON.

The first five items reiterate human rights with an Indigenous lens. Article 14 refers to education. Article 26 Amendment 1 (Article 26 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired) is interesting to THOMSON. UNDA is the document the Canadian Government uses and THOMSON shows UNDA.

The first charter is especially important to ARRC, and it's important for the committee to remember that Indigenous people are not a monolith. The report is interesting, but as it's mostly for government recommendations, it might not be as useful.

THOMSON pulls up the TRC report.

2023-03/4

What to come this year

THOMSON: Was looking at the reports, and thinks that a ceremonial grounds could be created for Indigenous students on the university campus.

GRIFFITHS: Sent a link to the 2019 ARRC report.

THOMSON: Maskwa House is continually brought up, and the U of A has said that it's converting an old library into the new Maskwa House (to be completed in 2026). Supports having a mandatory native studies class as a university requirement.

DOIRE: On the topic of the 2019 ARRC report, what if ARRC looked at the categories and recommendations, and attempted to think of how they could be completed?

THOMSON: Apparently there are a lot of items that are substantially complete. Shows the 2019 ARRC report. Lots of the Operational items are essentially complete. In Advocacy, a lot of the items would be ideal to have implemented, but they are also very slow-going. Would like to see more art by Indigenous artists on campus. There should be a pronunciation guide for traditional names, as otherwise it might seem less sincere. The pronunciation guide could be improved by having a wider information guide with examples of pronunciation, such as a YouTube video or online dictionary.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Links that were of interest to the committee:

<https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/ah/pdf/unda-action-plan-digital-eng.pdf>

https://su.ualberta.ca/media/uploads/1169/ARRC_Report_2019.pdf

<https://su.ualberta.ca/about/arrcrecommendations/>

<https://www.ualberta.ca/media-library/indigenous-excellence/indigenous-student-success-survey-report.pdf>

<https://www.su.ualberta.ca/media/uploads/113/StudentsCouncilHandbook202324.pdf>

2023-03/5

ADJOURNMENT

THOMSON adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, October 23rd at 5:30 P.M.