

Indigenous Solidarity

E-02, U-02, N-02

LONG TITLE Indigenous Solidarity Policy	DATE OF ENACTMENT 4 April 2022
	LAST AMENDED 31 March 2025
REFERENCE No. E-02, U-02, N-02	NEXT REVIEW 31 March 2027
CATEGORY Stances, Equity and Advocacy	COMPETENT CHAMBER Council

PREAMBLE

To outline the measures CUSA will take to demonstrate allyship and solidarity with First Nations, Inuit and Métis students, activists, and elders. The policy outlines and acknowledges barriers many Indigenous students face while that many Indigenous students face, while also setting up frameworks and strategies to help dismantle those barriers. CUSA recognizes that Indigenous students should have equitable access to academic, social and cultural opportunities on campus This Policy shall be reviewed every two years by Council.

INTERPRETATION

1. This Policy may be called the *Indigenous Solidarity Policy*.
2. In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **Solidarity:** “Union or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests, as between members of a group or between classes, peoples, etc.”
 - b) **Allyship:** “The status or role of a person who advocates and actively works for the inclusion of a marginalized or politicized group in all areas of society, not as a member of that group but in solidarity with its struggle and point of view and under its leadership.”
 - c) **Unceded:** “Not yielded or formally surrendered.”
 - d) **Anishinaabe:** “Anishinaabe (other variants include Anishinabe, Anicinape, Nishnaabe, Neshnabé and Anishinabek) refers to a group of culturally and linguistically related First Nations that live in both Canada and the United States, concentrated around the Great Lakes. The Anishinaabeg (plural form of Anishinaabe) live from the Ottawa River Valley west across Northern Ontario and to the plains of Saskatchewan south to the northeast corner of North Dakota, northern Minnesota and Michigan, as well as the northern shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie. The Ojibwe, Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi, Algonquin, Saulteaux, Nipissing and Mississauga First Nations are Anishinaabeg. [...] Anishinaabeg translates to ‘the good humans.’”
 - e) **Decolonization** Decolonization: is about “Indigenous peoples ultimately achieving sovereignty, the right and ability to practice self-determination in all areas of life, through cultural, psychological and economic freedoms. Indigenous peoples have a right to self-determination, and “by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”...decolonization involves actively deconstructing and challenging colonialism and its systems that do not account for the lives of Indigenous peoples)

Reconciliation: “Building a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect and partnership.”

3. This policy applies to all CUSA spaces, including but not limited to: office spaces, businesses, service centres, club spaces, online and in-person events, and to all CUSA staff, including but not limited to: executive, full-time, contract, part-time, seasonal, and volunteers.
4. CUSA acknowledges that Carleton University is located on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe and Algonquin nations.
5. CUSA acknowledges the roles that educational institutions had in the forced assimilation of Indigenous peoples and in the colonization of Canada.
6. CUSA acknowledges that Carleton University has historically failed to respect Indigenous voices.
7. CUSA acknowledges that Indigenous students face unique barriers to opportunities on campus.
8. CUSA acknowledges that good allyship entails centring and amplifying Indigenous voices, and not attempting to speak over them or for them.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

9. The VPSI, in collaboration with the Mawandoseg Centre, has the responsibility of maintaining allyship and solidarity with First Nations, Inuit and Métis students, activists, community members, organizations, and elders. The VPSI and Mawandoseg Centre will work with the Indigenous community both on campus and in the Ottawa community to educate students about Indigenous culture and history in order to work towards dismantling oppressive infrastructure on campus.
10. CUSA shall ensure that all members of the Executive and council receive mandatory training on Indigenous History, cultural competency and impacts of colonization in collaboration with the Mawandoseg Centre or other Indigenous-led organizations
11. Council shall work collaboratively with The Office of The Speaker, to have faculties write their respective land acknowledgments,
 - a. Each faculty shall take turns presenting their land acknowledgement at the start of Council meetings

POLICY

12. CUSA commits to providing solidarity and allyship to Indigenous students, activists, and leaders.
13. CUSA will employ the following strategies to provide solidarity and allyship to Indigenous students, activists and leaders:
 - a. CUSA commits to providing public awareness campaigns to educate the student body on Indigenous history and current barriers.
 - b. CUSA commits to adapting its services to better serve Indigenous students.
 - c. CUSA commits to engaging in continuous consultation with Indigenous students on how CUSA can better represent them and create programming suited to their needs.
 - d. CUSA commits to ensuring the availability of cultural activities and practices conducive to the well-being of Indigenous students.
 - e. CUSA commits to engaging in regular contact with the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives to ensure the wellbeing and representation of Indigenous students is a priority for Carleton University.

- f. CUSA commits to supporting the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives as they advocate for their recommendations laid out in the Kinamagawin Report to be implemented by Carleton University.
- G. CUSA commits to advocating for increased financial aid and scholarships designated for Indigenous students to address economic barriers to education.
- H. CUSA commits to ensuring that Indigenous students are meaningfully included in leadership and decision-making processes within CUSA.
- I. CUSA Commits to ensuring that all CUSA-organized events, campaigns and initiatives are planned with Indigenous perspectives in mind and that Indigenous students can take the lead in culturally significant programming.
- J. CUSA commits to collaborating with Indigenous-led organizations both on and off campus to strengthen Indigenous representation and advocacy within the Carleton community,
- K. CUSA commits to advocating for the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, history, and perspective across academic curricula at Carleton University, ensuring that Indigenous ways of knowing are respected and valued.