

Indigenous Solidarity

E-02, U-02, N-02

LONG TITLE	Indigenous Solidarity Policy	DATE OF ENACTMENT	4 April 2022
		LAST AMENDED	4 August 2025
REFERENCE No.	E-02, U-02, N-02	NEXT REVIEW	4 April 2027
CATEGORY	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	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 that many Indigenous students face, while also setting up frameworks and strategies to help dismantle those barriers. 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'."
3. This policy applies to all CUSA spaces including but not limited to: office spaces, businesses, service centres, online and in-person events, and to all CUSA staff including but not limited to: executive, full-time, part-time and volunteer.

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.

POLICY

10. CUSA commits to providing solidarity and allyship to Indigenous students, activists, and leaders.
11. 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 wellbeing 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.

