



University of Alberta Students' Union

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE (ARRC)

September 25th, 2023
5:30 P.M.
Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (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, Dënesųłiné (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
Noor Abdelwahab		Y
Tamara Belly		N
Levi Flaman		Y
Michael Griffiths		Y
Elizah McColl		Y
Mason Pich	Nathan Thiessen	Y
Muneeba Qadir		Y
Ella Thomson (Chair)		Y
Marc Junior Doire		Y
Brooklynn Halfe		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Aseel Atia		N/A
Racquel Araujo		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC-2023-02-M)

2023-02/1 **INTRODUCTION**

2023-02/1a **Call to Order**

TABLED

2023-02/1b **Approval of Agenda**

TABLED

2023-02/1c **Approval of Minutes**

TABLED

2023-02/1d **Chair's Business**

2023-02/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

The Council members introduced themselves to one another.

2023-02/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2023-02/3a **Brainstorming Session**

THOMSON: Polled the committee: 60% of members were aware of ARRC before joining.

Questions how Counsellors can bring awareness to ARRC and how can resources be made more accessible to Indigenous students?

GRIFFITHS: Once all the student at large member seats have been filled, advertising about ARRC and its services could still continue, so that more students are aware of the committee.

THOMSON: What drew members to ARRC? It is a vehicle in which problems can be solved.

GRIFFITHS: Interested in learning from others and the Indigenous community, and is also required to be part of ARRC as VPSL of the UASU.

THOMSON: Polled the committee: 0% of members read only UNDRIP, 40% of members read only the TRC report, 10% of members read neither, 50% of members read both.

THOMSON: Urged members to read UNDRIP and the TRC report, particularly the non-Indigenous members, before the next ARRC meeting.

2023-02/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2023-02/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

Thomson adjourned the meeting at 6:17 P.M.

Next meeting: Monday, October 9th at 5:30 p.m.

