



# Indigenization and Reconciliation at the University of Waterloo Libraries

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University of Waterloo Library



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WATERLOO**



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*The University of Regina is predominately situated in Treaty 4 Territory with a presences in Treaty 6 Territory. Treaty 4 is the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota and Dakota peoples, and is the homeland of the Métis People.*

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*We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.*

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# Haldimand Treaty

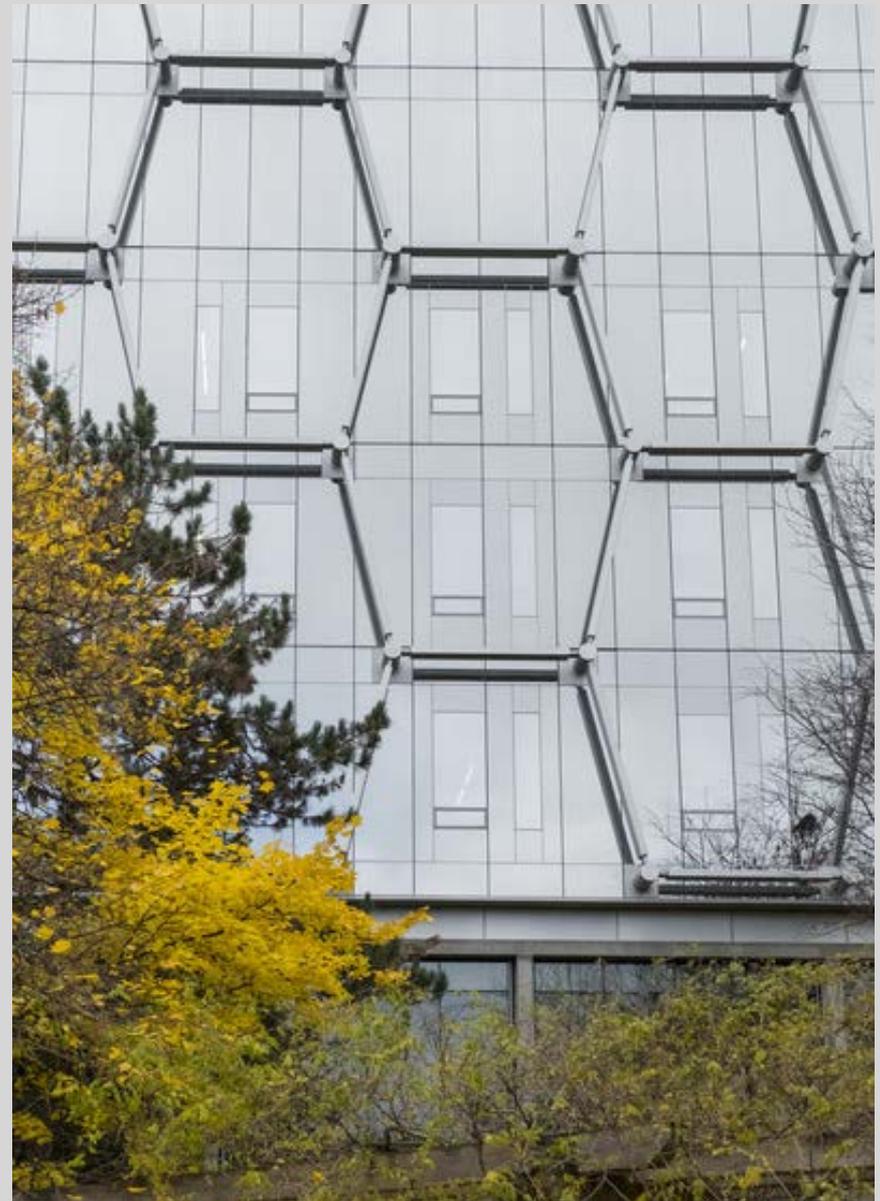
- Signed October 25, 1784
  - Granted as compensation to lands lost during the American revolution to Indigenous groups that supported the British
- Non-Indigenous settlers began living in the area in 1798
- Currently Six Nations of the Grand River live on 45,000 acres
  - 5% of the original land



Source:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/six-nations-grand-river>

# UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

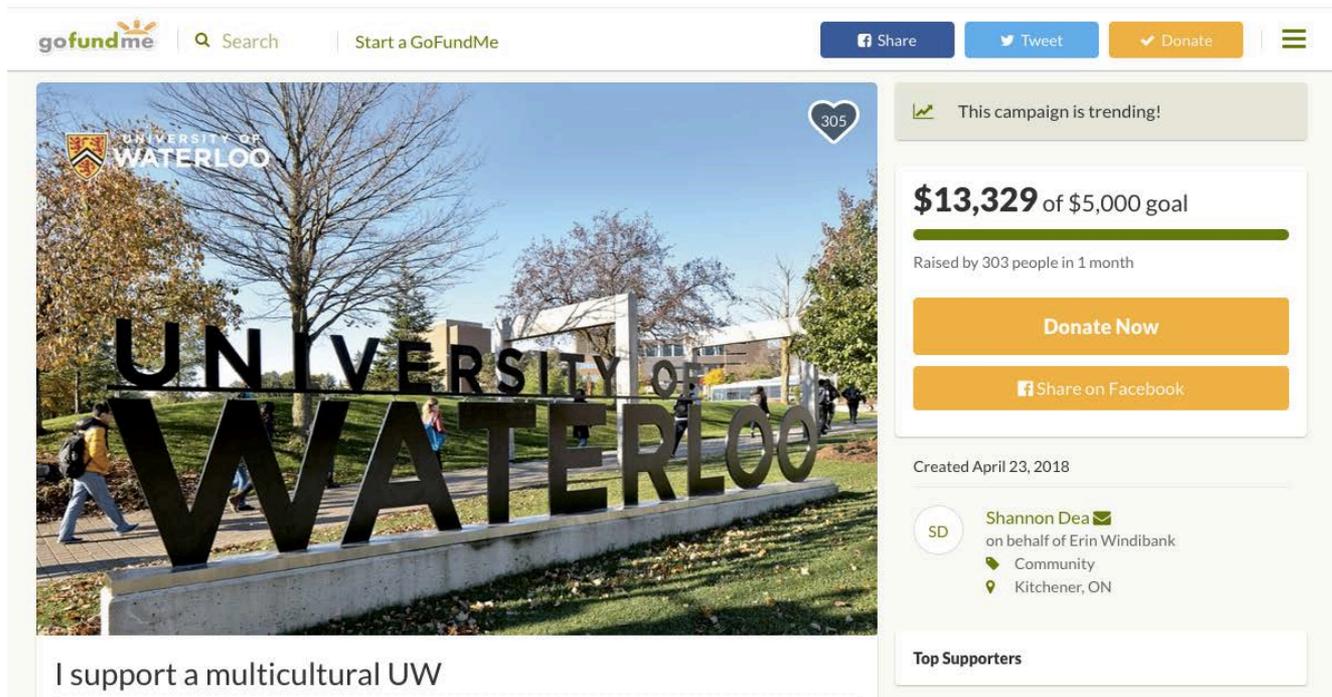
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- **Founded in 1957**
  - **Is located 5 km from the Grand River on a former settler farm**
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# Current Political Climate

## Justice for Colten Open Letter from Indigenous Faculty and Allies

## Laurier Society for Open Inquiry speakers



The screenshot shows a GoFundMe campaign page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the GoFundMe logo, a search bar, and a 'Start a GoFundMe' button. Below this are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and a 'Donate' button. The main content area features a large image of the University of Waterloo's 'UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO' sign. To the right of the image is a heart icon with the number '305'. Below the image is the text 'I support a multicultural UW'. To the right of the image, there is a summary box with a green bar indicating the campaign is trending. The summary box displays '\$13,329 of \$5,000 goal' and 'Raised by 303 people in 1 month'. Below this are buttons for 'Donate Now' and 'Share on Facebook'. At the bottom of the summary box, it says 'Created April 23, 2018'. Below the summary box is the name 'Shannon Dea' with a verified checkmark, followed by 'on behalf of Erin Windibank'. Below this is the category 'Community' and the location 'Kitchener, ON'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section for 'Top Supporters'.

# Indigenization at UWaterloo

- Steering Committee with five working groups
- Chaired by Diana Parry, Associate Vice-President, Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion.
- Groups include: Academic Programming, Research, Student Experience, Community Engagement, Policies & Procedures



Photo: Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre Pow Wow. Brianna Boulton

# Curriculum and Academic Programming

# Curriculum and Academic Programming Working Group

**Mandate: make recommendations for institutional initiatives that will be widely applicable and relevant to all instructors and students, regardless of where they teach or study.**

- Decentralized institution
- Short term and long term planning
- ...ambitious and sustainable, and they will strengthen our reputation as an institution known for its creativity, impact and reach.

# Focus Areas

- Opportunities for undergraduate students
- Opportunities for graduate students
- What are our U-15 partners doing
- Funding

# Challenges

- **University's response to issues that effect Indigenous folx on campus**
  - Seen as a lack of sincerity and commitment to the case – Indigenization is lip service.
- **Unfair amount of labour taken on by Indigenous students**
  - Not being paid to be on the working groups like faculty/staff, called upon for ad hoc teaching during meetings

# Research Working Group

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*The mandate of the Indigenization strategy research working group is to make recommendations to broaden and deepen research practices at Waterloo – to familiarize faculty with an Indigenous paradigm and practices which might differ from those normally pursued across the University.*

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Dr. Bruce Muirhead, Associate VP of External Research

# Research Working Group

**Mission: Make recommendations to broaden and deepen research practices at Waterloo**

***In order to do so...***

- The Working Group will consult extensively with the Indigenous community to more accurately reflect its values and culture
- Broadening and deepening research practices means becoming more respectful of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and cultural protocols and how they must, in certain cases inform research practices at Waterloo
- It also means encouraging more robust collaboration with Indigenous communities with respect to research, based on mutually-beneficial exchange
- Where appropriate, an enhanced concentration on Indigenous topics is needed

Source: *Dr. Bruce Muirhead, Research Working Group*

# Focus Areas

- **Supporting Indigenous researchers**
  - Funding and role creation opportunities (tenure track) and looking at other U15 schools
- **Supporting Indigenous students**
  - Funding and grant opportunities, including a scan of opportunities at the U15 schools
- **Taking stock of Indigenous research areas**
  - Existing at University of Waterloo and emerging
- **Strengthening Digital and Physical Assets that support Indigenous research**

# University of Waterloo Library

## **Addressing physical and digital assets to support Indigenous knowledge and research on Campus**

### ***Areas to look at***

- Physical Assets that support Indigenous Research
- Digital Subscriptions and accessibility to Indigenous Research
- Research areas on campus
- Data sets, maps and archives
- Collection Development funding and planning

# Keep in mind...

**“Library collection development strategies should not rely solely on major vendors and conventional collection development tools; as disciplinary structures these tools will be inadequate because they fail to capture or handle the variety of resources that are core to IS: oral histories, non-print objects, and community-created content.”**

*Source: Jessie Loyer “Supporting Indigenous Studies Programs through Sustainable Budget Allocation” (2017)*

# Collection Development Project

- A one time collection development project, \$5,000 in special funding to purchase physical assets to support Indigenous research on campus
- A great opportunity to share with Research Group members resulting in a list of over 60 titles to submit
- Worked with a liaison librarian

## **Indigenous studies is an academic discipline...**

**“That disrupts the certainty of disciplinary knowledge produced in the twentieth century, when the study of Indigenous peoples was largely the knowledge/power domain of non-Indigenous scholars”**

*Source: Aileen Moreton-Robinson “Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations” (2016)*

**“While many materials are published with Indigenous content ‘about Indigenous people’, few are concerned with Indigenous peoples as their audience ‘for Indigenous people’ and fewer still are written by Indigenous authors ‘by Indigenous people’”**

*Source: Jessie Loyer “Supporting Indigenous Studies Programs through Sustainable Budget Allocation” (2017)*

# Findings – Digital Assets

- **The University of Waterloo is the only Anglophone U15 school without a library-centered Indigenous studies research guide**
  - **Research guides typically link to journals, books, definitions for indigenous knowledge, treaty information, treaty timelines, links to archive searches, local collections, newspapers, images, theses & dissertations, statistics & data (health data, statistics on residential schools, census data, etc.).**
- **There are open-access journals that could be linked to from an Indigenous research guide**
- **The Library's existing subscriptions contain journals with indigenous research, but are not linked by a central research guide**

# Recommendations

1

FOLLOW STRATEGY  
GROUPS LEAD

The Library prioritized following the Indigenization Strategy's recommendations

2

INDIGENOUS  
RESEARCH AREAS

The Library should liaise with researchers already conducting Indigenous research areas and look at emerging areas

3

PHYSICAL ASSETS

The Library should look at physical assets in its holdings, keeping in mind Indigenous titles by Indigenous peoples, about Indigenous peoples

# Recommendations

4

## DIGITAL ASSETS

There are a number of open-access materials available for the Library to get started. Start linking!

5

## RESEARCH GUIDE

Waterloo is far behind other institutions by not having an Indigenous Studies research guide. This should be remedied as soon as possible

6

## DEDICATED LIBRARIAN

The Library can further support Indigenous Studies at the University of Waterloo through the creation of an Indigenous Studies Librarian role

# Recommendations

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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Do our primary source materials show the history of the region including Indigenous settlement

8

## INSTRUCTION

Opportunities to co-teach with staff at SNP, develop instruction with Woodland Cultural Centre

9

## VISTING RESEARCHER

Much focus has been on how to attract Indigenous students to Waterloo. Support Indigenous scholars.

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*It is so important to know who you are and where you come from, and to know who the original inhabitants are of the territory that we currently have the privilege to live, work and play on. Our relationship to place contributes to positive sense of culture and identity both as Indigenous peoples and as settler nations.*

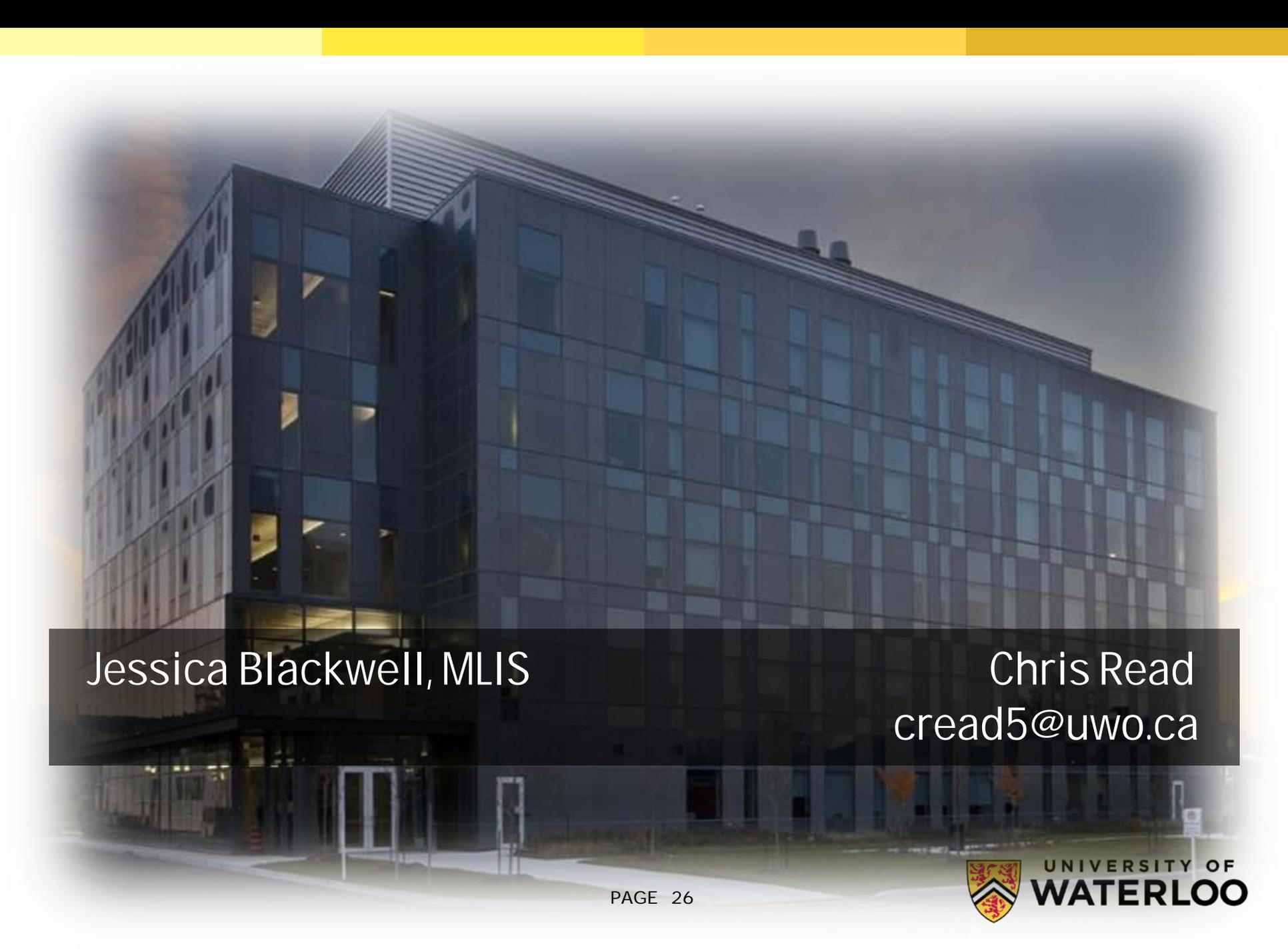
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Lori ACR Campbell, Director, Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Indigenizing a library takes place in increments and requires commitment to the process over time
- Funding is a challenge
- Ask, learn, adjust, repeat





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