



A boriginal Council of Queen's University

2017 Annual Report

Introduction

The Aboriginal Council of Queen's University (ACQU) provides advice to the university and is mandated to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal programs and services at Queen's.

In 2017, Council continued to be engaged in the work of the university's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Task Force, and several members attended the March campus event marking the release of the task force report. Council was also consulted on how to position the value of self-identification to students, how to integrate territorial acknowledgement at campus events and gatherings, and on the university's approach t

Dr. Vorano also

Release of the TRC Task Force Report

On March 21 2017, Queen's marked the release of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Task Force Final Report](#) with a celebration at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

The event, hosted by Principal Daniel Woolf, brought together Queen's and Kingston community members, as well as Indigenous partners, including members of the ACQU. In his remarks, the Principal announced the creation of an Office of Indigenous Initiatives that will facilitate and coordinate university-wide initiatives in support of the TRC Task Force's recommendations.

May 1, 2017 Aboriginal Caucus and Council meeting, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory

Council's Aboriginal Caucus met prior to the Council meeting.

At Council, the Provost gratefully acknowledged the significant role of Aboriginal Council in building the path to the university's TRC Task Force and Final Report. He noted progress made to date to advance the Indigenous presence and Indigenous learning at Queen's with much more to come to enhance the visibility of the Indigenous community across campus. The Provost said diversity and inclusivity has been a theme that has defined the year for the university, with the completion of the TRC Task Force's work, and the report of the Principal's Implementation Committee on Racism, Diversity and Inclusion, released in April 2017. He said this focus has opened many doors and possibilities for the future. He noted the appointment of Deputy Provost Teri Shearer as senior lead for equity and diversity at Queen's, who will have responsibility for the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

TRC Task Force Co-Chair 11.04RF JIity ett3(ck-4(ci)7d 1(r)-6(o)13k Gr)-6(u4)-2(a t)JETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 rev

"I congratulate Jan on this new role, and I look forward to the opportunities for growth and reconciliation we are setting in motion," said Principal and Vice-Chancellor Daniel Woolf. "This appointment recognizes her deep and long-standing commitment to promoting Indigenous cultures and traditions, including her efforts at Queen's. Her student-centred approach and passion for teaching and learning are an example to us all."



Ms. Hill has served as the Director of the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre since 2010. She has been actively involved in facilitating Indigenous initiatives throughout the university, including coordinating the revitalization of the Aboriginal Council and serving as its secretary, supporting the development of the Indigenous Studies Minor, and serving as an integral member of Queen's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Task Force. Ms. Hill is also deeply engaged in Indigenous education through many different provincial and national organizations. Learn more about Ms. Hill in [this Gazette profile](#).

October 10, 2017 Aboriginal Caucus and Council meeting, Queen's Campus

The Council's Aboriginal Caucus, led by Council Co-Chair Marlene Brant Castellano, met prior to the full Council meeting.

Council Co-Chairs Marlene Brant Castellano and Ann Tierney introduced the new roster of members for 2017-18. They also presented the nominating committee's recommendations for the staggering of university community members over time, and a presentation schedule to provide opportunities for university and community representatives to talk about priorities, programs, challenges, and ideas for collaborative initiatives.

Co-Chair Brant Castellano advised Council that this would be her last year serving on Council. The nominating committee recommends that both co-chair positions operate as follows: Incoming Co-Chair (1 year); Co-Chair (2 years), and Past Co-Chair (1 year) to support continuity and provide guidance. Once all Council member acceptances are finalized, the Caucus will be engaged to select the incoming Co-Chair; the university senior administration will do the same for the university position.

In his remarks, Provost Bacon led Council's congratulations to Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) on her appointment as Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, and said that he and Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Inclusion) Teri Shearer are looking forward to working with her, and learning from her in the years ahead.

He reported that first-year self-identified Indigenous applications and offers continue to rise, and first-year enrolment has remained relatively stable. He highlighted an increase in faculty

The university has engaged Two Row Architect, a firm based in Six Nations that has worked on many post-secondary campuses to design renovations to both buildings. Consultations with students, staff, faculty, and community members took place over the summer to identify values, goals, and aspirations for the new facility. These include learning, inclusivity, the presence of craft, the importance of food, connection to the earth, and the integration of natural materials, natural light, and views.

Co-Chair Brant Castellano updated Council on the work of the Committee on Research Collaboration that was starting with the upcoming [Indigenous Research Collaboration Seminar](#) being held in conjunction with the 19th Annual Symposium on Indigenous Knowledge hosted by Four Directions.



The workshop included a keynote by Queen's honorary degree recipient Alex McComber (above) on community-university partnerships. Participation and feedback from the workshop will provide guidance to the planning committee for future initiatives.

2018 Meetings: The first two 2018 Council meeting dates are January 22, 2018 at Queen's and April 30, 2018 at Tyendinaga.

2017 Queen's Gazette news stories
featuring Indigenous students, faculty, staff, initiatives and events

[New support for Indigenous students near and far](#), December 18, 2017

[Building momentum](#), December 18, 2017

