

Title: deybwewin (Saulteaux) | taapwaywin (Michif) | tapwewin (Cree)

Committee type: Standing Committee

Responsibility: Office of the Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement (OVPIE)

Approval: OVPIE /Provost

Date: November 1, 2022

The land is acknowledged as our Mother, the Earth. USask is committed to upholding the *Indigenous peoples, cultures, values, and languages that belong to the land of Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis. USask is committed to working towards mending colonized lands and protecting the land in a way that demonstrates honor, respect, and love. USask extends this commitment to the lands and Treaty territories (Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6,7,8, 10) that constitute kisiskâciwan (Saskatchewan), and all Indigenous people that call kisiskâciwan home. We are born to the land and the land claims us.

CONTEXT

The deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth Policy was the result of ground-breaking work by the task force that was led by Indigenous Elders and leaders and was approved by the Board of Governors July 8, 2022. The policy will guide the continued work in leading the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in navigating Indigenous membership and citizenship verification with documentation. We have the responsibility to act on and respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, our own ohpahotân | oohpaaahotaan Indigenous strategy, and the University of Saskatchewan Truth Telling Report of 2021 with regards to Indigenous membership verification with documentation. We look to these guiding documents as well as the MOU's USask has signed with Indigenous governments, created with and for Indigenous people, to steer us in creating a safe and professionally transparent environment for Indigenous students and all employees at the University of Saskatchewan.

The Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement, proposed assembling a Standing Committee to continue in guiding the way forward for the University of Saskatchewan in June 2022. In an effort to ensure space (e.g. Indigenous specific positions, funding, scholarships, etc.) for Indigenous people at USask is protected and the policy is utilized in the way in which it was intended, the Standing Committee will lead the work of education, process, and implementation.

These Terms of Reference outline the role of the *deybwewin (Saulteaux) | taapwaywin (Michif) | tapwewin (Cree) Standing Committee*, to formalize and define their purpose, mandate, authority, and composition.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *deybwewin (Saulteaux) | taapwaywin (Michif) | tapwewin (Cree) Standing Committee* is to ensure USask has a respectful process to the *deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin*: Indigenous Truth Policy to safeguard space intended for Indigenous people.

PRINCIPLES & GUIDING FOUNDATION

The work of the *deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin Standing Committee* will be guided by the same principles that the policy was created on, the seven fundamental commitments of the *ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan* (Let's fly up together). The Indigenous Strategy was gifted to the University of Saskatchewan August 20, 2021. The commitments of Safety, Wellness, Stewardship, Representation, Right Relations, Creation, and Renewal will guide the University of Saskatchewan in becoming not only the University the World Needs, but also embraces *nîkânîtân manâcihitowinihk | ni manachîhitoonaan* (Let us lead with respect).

ROLE AND MANDATE

The *deybwewin (Saulteaux) | taapwaywin (Michif) | tapwewin (Cree) Standing Committee* will lead and guide the USask community in utilizing the policy in an appropriate, informed, and Indigenous-led manner. The procedures developed will inform decision-making across multiple contexts including, but not limited to, admissions, human resources activities (recruitment, promotion, and retention decisions, etc.), research and scholarly and artistic work, scholarships and awards, etc. In doing so, the Standing Committee's work will contribute to securing and ensuring that space intended for Indigenous people, is protected and secured for Indigenous people.

The Standing Committee *will* be asked to:

1. Share, synthesize, and apply traditional knowledges, relevant experiences, and insights to inform and guide the group toward fulfilment of its mandate.
2. Co-create procedures to direct Indigenous membership and citizenship verification with documentation at USask.
3. Endorse key verification documents before they are submitted for additional review or approval.
4. Dedicate significant time to preparing for and participating in meetings, whether as a group or as requested by the OVPIE.

The Standing Committee *will not* be asked to:

1. Adjudicate the identity of Indigenous people.
2. Refer to individual members of the USask community and their claims of membership to Indigenous communities.

AUTHORITY

The deybwewin (Saulteaux) | taapwaywin (Michif) | tapwewin (Cree) Standing Committee has a guiding and decision-making role as it pertains to the fulfilment of its purpose and scope. Its authority is vested from within the Office of the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

Input, feedback, and support for the outcomes will be sought from stakeholders and other senior leaders as appropriate. Approval/support, whether formal or in principle, may also be sought by the Standing Committee for plans or actions from the Provost and regular communication between these bodies should be maintained. Where other approvals/support are sought or desired, the Standing Committee (as represented by the OVPIE) may engage members of the Standing Committee or other stakeholders as needed to enable those pathways.

All members of the Standing Committee will participate in decision making, which is sought by consensus. Should a formal motion be tabled, all members hold equal voting rights.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Standing Committee will be comprised of the following (see Appendix A for named membership as of November 1, 2022), which is at the discretion of and led by the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement:

- 2 faculty members
- 2 Staff members
- 3 Elders/Knowledge Keepers
- Office of the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement:
 - Vice Provost (Chair)
 - Cultural Coordinator
 - Implementation Coordinator
 - Sr. Strategic Officer

TERM LENGTH

The Standing Committee will be constituted as of November 1, 2022 by the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement. It will remain active until the Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement determines that the Standing Committee's work has been completed (e.g., the systems and processes are clearly developed and defined), at which time it will be dissolved. Term length for all members is at the discretion of the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Standing Committee are anticipated to occur monthly for 1-2 hours per meeting. Meetings will be chaired by the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

Support for the work (including research, record keeping, consultation, writing, event planning, etc.) will be provided by the Office of the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement and a specially appointed note-taker.

SCOPE OF WORK

The table below provides a general overview of deliverables and targeted timelines:

Date	Deliverable
November 2022	Ceremony to start work in a good way
December 2022	Approval of Terms of Reference & establish the way in which the Standing Committee will complete the work collaboratively
December 2022	Review data system Review current processes
January 2022	Ongoing work to implement the policy