

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

Committee type: Standing Committee

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

Approval: OVPIE

Date: November 14, 2022

The land is acknowledged as our Mother, the Earth. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to honor and support the *Indigenous peoples, Indigenous cultures, Indigenous values, and Indigenous languages that belong to the land of Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to working towards mending colonized lands and protecting the land in a way that demonstrates respect and love. The University of Saskatchewan extends this commitment to the lands and Treaty territories (Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10) that constitute kisiskâciwan ([Saskatchewan], “the swift current”, Cree/Saulteaux), 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 University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors July 8, 2022. The policy will guide the continued work in leading the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in navigating Indigenous membership/citizenship verification with documentation. We have the responsibility to act on and respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, ohpahotān | oohpaaahotaan: Indigenous Strategy, and the University of Saskatchewan Truth Telling Report of 2021 with regard to Indigenous membership/citizenship 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 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 USask in November 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* / *taapwaywin* / *tapwewin* 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 implement 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 including, but not limited to, the seven fundamental commitments of the *ohpahotân* | *oohpaahotaan* which was gifted to the University of Saskatchewan August 20, 2021. The commitments of Safety, Wellness, Stewardship, Representation, Right Relations, Creation, and Renewal will guide USask in becoming not only *the University the world needs*, but also embraces *nīkānītān manācihitowinihk* | *ni manachīhitoonaan* (Let us lead with respect) as outlined in the University Plan 2025.

ROLE AND MANDATE

The *deybwewin* / *taapwaywin* / *tapwewin* Standing Committee will 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 artistic scholarly work, scholarships and awards, etc. In doing so, the 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/citizenship verification with documentation at USask.
3. Review and guide 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:

- Adjudicate the identity of Indigenous people

- 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. The Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement will chair the Standing Committee.

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 14, 2022), which is at the discretion of and led by the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement:

- 3 faculty members
- 2 staff members
- 2 Elders/Knowledge Keepers
- Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement:
 - Vice-Provost (Chair)
 - Implementation Coordinator
 - 2 members of the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement as appointed by the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement

TERM LENGTH

The Standing Committee will be constituted as of November 14, 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, defined, implemented, and complete), 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.

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	Approval of Terms of Reference & establish the way in which the Standing Committee will complete the work collaboratively
January 2023	Ongoing work to implement the policy