

OCUL Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Terms of Reference

Background

OCUL is committed to supporting its member institutions in the ongoing work to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action. OCUL acknowledges the importance of this work as being local, iterative and in partnership with local Indigenous communities. “Nothing about us without us.”

At the fall 2018 Directors Meeting, OCUL members agreed that a director-level working group should be formed to explore how OCUL could support member libraries’ efforts towards Indigenization, decolonization, reconciliation and supporting Indigenous education.

OCUL Directors Meeting (2018-11-29 Item 01.14.29) MOTION: Move that OCUL establish a working group of Directors to identify strategies that will effectively support individual member responses to the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) and [Universities Canada 13 Principles on Indigenous Education](#).

In spring 2022, following the completion of the first phase of work of the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, OCUL Directors supported the motion that an ongoing standing committee should be formed in place of the limited term working group.

Purpose

The Committee will serve to identify potential strategies and initiatives in consultation with key stakeholders that will support collective and individual OCUL member responses to the TRC Calls to Action and Universities Canada’s 13 Principles on Indigenous Education.

The Committee will identify areas where collective action at the provincial level can help OCUL and our member libraries and communities move forward.

Duties

Informed by decolonization and Truth and Reconciliation work across Ontario and Canadian libraries and consortia, including organizations such as the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance (NIKLA) and in partnership with members and local Indigenous communities, the Committee’s focus includes:

- Identifying opportunities for professional development and shared learning for employees of OCUL member institutions.

- Developing a collective approach to support for recruitment/professional support of Indigenous members of the library organization.
- Identifying opportunities for enhancing spaces and services for Indigenous students and researchers.
- Collaborating with and providing support for the work of groups and organizations working on transformative change in libraries, higher education and the knowledge sector.
- Exploring how OCUL might engage with, promote, and/or apply frameworks for Indigenous research and information governance, including:
 - [USAI Research Framework](#) developed by Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
 - [First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#)

These duties were identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group as a starting point for the work of the Committee.

Decision-Making Authority/Responsibility

The Committee reports to the OCUL Executive Committee in accordance with the purpose and duties listed above.

Membership

- Chair or Co-Chairs (from within the committee membership)
- 1 Director-at-large
- 2-4 representatives from OCUL member libraries
- OCUL Executive Director or designate (*ex officio*)
- Designate from OCUL Executive Committee (*ex officio*)
- Scholars Portal Director or designate (*ex officio*)
- Advisor(s) from Indigenous community/communities

Indigenous individuals or those with experience working with Indigenous communities are particularly encouraged to volunteer.

Appointment Process

- Membership shall be determined by the OCUL Executive Committee following a call for nominations from the OCUL Directors.
- The standing committee will comprise members with expertise drawn from a broad range of OCUL member libraries.

Term

2 years staggered, with possibility of one term renewal.

Chair

A chair for the Committee shall be recommended from among the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee or by the OCUL Executive Committee. A co-chair may be appointed from the membership at the discretion of the Committee and with the agreement of the OCUL Executive.

Meetings

- A minimum of 1, one-hour meeting per month.
- Meetings will take place via video or teleconference.
- Between meetings, committee members will undertake specific work tasks related to the duties and purpose of the group.
- Committee members will consult between meetings, by telephone or email.

Lines of Accountability and Communication

- The Committee will provide updates and reports to OCUL Executive Committee as needed.
- The committee chair or designate will distribute meeting minutes and documents to the committee membership to ensure accurate and consistent information and sharing.
- Minutes and documents of the Committee are posted to the committee shared drive (NextCloud) or SPOTDocs.

Financial and Administrative Policies

- Travel and meeting expenses for committee members are reimbursed according to the travel and expense policies of their home institution.
- Committee members will comply with their respective home institution's appropriate governance and organizational policies, including *code of conduct and conflict of interest policies*.

Approved by: OCUL Executive Committee

Approved: March 2023