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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

KINUK

NEWSLETTER

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Introduction

On behalf of Dalhousie University and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations, we are pleased to share the second edition of ***Kinuk*** —meaning "Us" in Mi'kmaw.

Kinuk strengthens connections with L'nu'k and the broader Indigenous community across Mi'kma'ki and the Wabanaki region. Through stories of student success, research, events, and campus initiatives, this newsletter reflects Dalhousie's commitment to moving with intention—listening to Indigenous voices, fostering relationships rooted in the Principles of Peace and Friendship, and honouring our shared understanding that We are All Treaty People.



Mi'kmaq Treaty Day

October 1st marks Treaty Day in Nova Scotia, a day of reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed between the Mi'kmaq and the Crown in the 1700s. These treaties, still living agreements, affirm Mi'kmaq rights to hunt, fish, gather, and live on these lands, and remind us all of our shared responsibilities as Treaty People.

Treaty Day is both a celebration of Mi'kmaw culture and resilience, while calling on all in Mi'kma'ki to honor the strength of Mi'kmaw communities, recognize the ongoing work of upholding treaty relationships, and reflect on what it means to live together in peace and friendship.

Dalhousie acknowledges its place in Mi'kma'ki and is committed to learning alongside Indigenous communities while honouring the spirit of the treaties through relationships, teaching, and research.

This Treaty Day, Dalhousie encourages the community to learn, take part in events, and reflect on our shared responsibility as Treaty People.

A Warm Welcome from Dalhousie's Provost & VP Academic



Wanda M. Costen

Kwe' and welcome back,

As we begin a new academic year, I want to extend my warmest greetings to all Indigenous students returning to campus, and to those joining our community for the first time. Your presence, knowledge, and voices enrich Dalhousie in countless ways, and it is a privilege to walk alongside you on this journey. This is a season of both learning and renewal.

Today we mark **Treaty Day (October 1st)**, a time of reflection and recognition of the Peace and Friendship Treaties. These Treaties, signed between the Mi'kmaq and the Crown, remind us that we are all Treaty people, with shared responsibilities to honour the rights and relationships that continue to this day. Treaty Day is not only a moment to look back, but also to look forward—reaffirming our commitments to work together with respect, trust, and accountability.

At Dalhousie, we continue to take steps to strengthen supports and opportunities for Indigenous students. From long-standing initiatives like the Transition Year Program and the Indigenous Black & Mi'kmaq Initiative, to newer pathways and scholarships designed specifically for Indigenous learners, these programs reflect our shared commitment to access, equity, and success. The Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations plays a vital role in this work, listening to community voices, fostering partnerships, and ensuring Indigenous leadership has a place at the table in shaping the university's future.

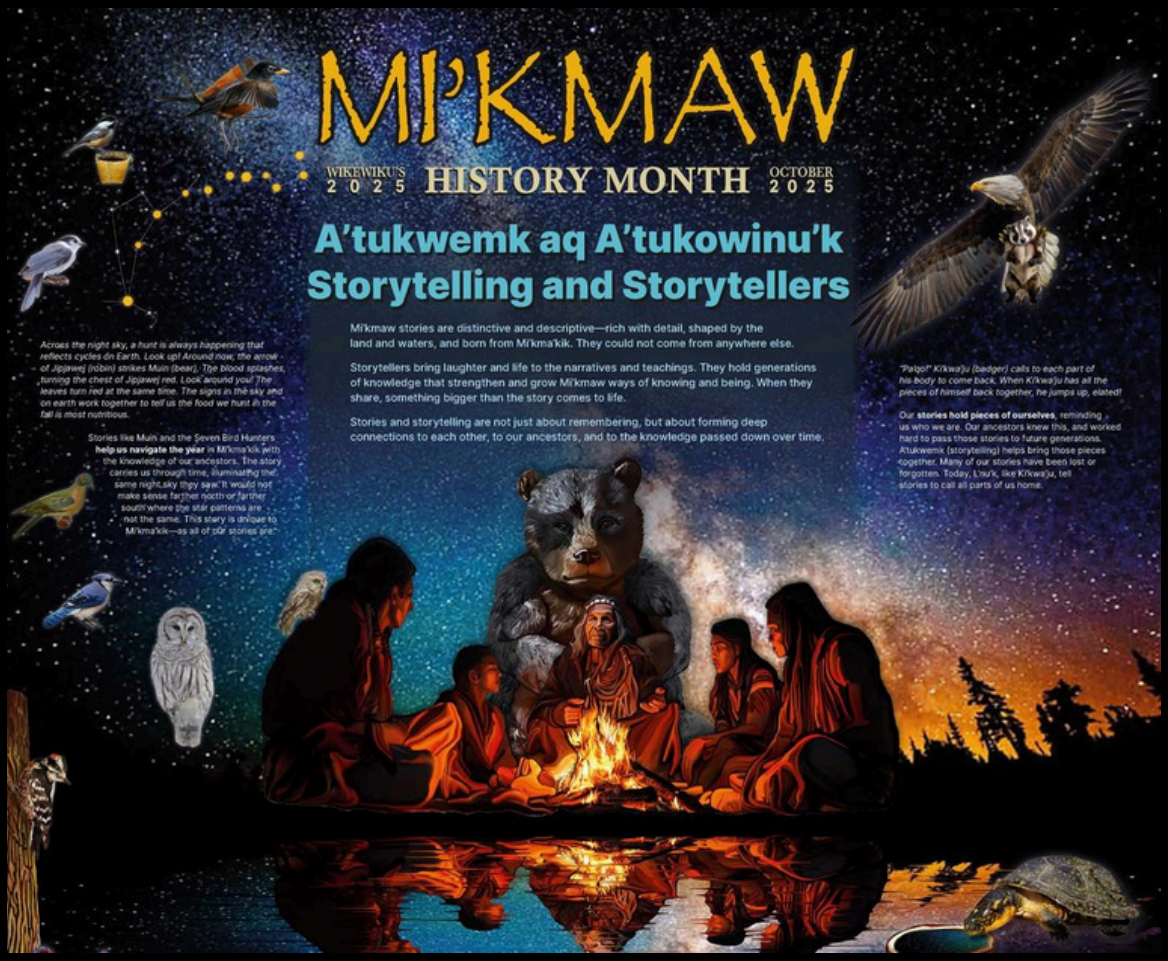
This year, we will continue important conversations around Indigenous membership and citizenship, guided by the principle that policies must reflect community perspectives and values. This work is about more than administration—it is about reconciliation, recognition, and walking together toward a stronger and more inclusive future.

To all Indigenous students: know that you belong here. Your goals, dreams, and well-being matter deeply to us. May this semester bring you learning, growth, and a powerful sense of connection to both community and campus.
Wela'lin, and best wishes for a successful year ahead.

Wanda M. Costen, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice-President Academic
Dalhousie University

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th honors residential school Survivors, their families, and the children who never returned. At Dalhousie, it is a time to reflect, listen to Indigenous voices, and recommit to reconciliation—an ongoing responsibility that calls for humility, learning, and action toward a future of respect and healing.



Mi'kmaq History Month

October is **Mi'kmaq History Month**, a time to celebrate Mi'kmaw culture, language, and traditions, and to deepen our understanding of the history of the Mi'kmaq as the original people of this land.

Established in 1993, the month highlights the strength and resilience of Mi'kmaw communities and their enduring contributions across Mi'kma'ki.



Strengthening Trust: Dalhousie's Indigenous Research Facilitator Connects Communities

Zane Sylliboy says his work as an Indigenous research facilitator is about linking two worlds. The role within the Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation was created to support researchers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who want to work with Indigenous communities, and to strengthen how those relationships are built.

Sylliboy says much of his work is focused on providing direction at the earliest stages of a project. His guidance includes reviewing existing plans and trying to help steer them toward better outcomes, noting that it's important for researchers to understand from the beginning how they intend to acknowledge perspectives or interpretations that draw on traditional knowledge and Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

He says communities should be put in the driver's seat. "There needs to be a stronger emphasis on having communities identify on where they want to see research," he says. "A lot can be done through organizations. They can identify where they want to see work done and formulate ideas to address the areas where they want to see work."

A cornerstone of this effort is Dalhousie's Mawkwil~mn~j: Let's look for it together seed fund, which provides support for communities to shape projects with researchers. Sylliboy says the program, currently accepting applications for its **November 30 deadline**, is meant to spark relationships and ensure that research questions start with community priorities.

By having communities define research goals, the fund helps shift collaborations toward issues that matter locally and creates a foundation for lasting partnerships and future grants.

Zane Sylliboy notes that more practical considerations are also important, such as budgets and data management. "When it comes to research data with Indigenous People, we strongly recommend, that researchers take the fundamentals of OCAP training," he says, referring to the First Nations principles of data ownership, control, access and possession. "It's about data sovereignty. A lot of Indigenous people will consider that data is owned by them, rather than the researcher."

Developed in the 1990s, the OCAP framework asserts that First Nations communities, not outside researchers, have the right to decide what information is gathered, how it is used and who can see it.

The central focus is to ensure that knowledge drawn from Indigenous Peoples remains under their authority and is not extracted without consent or benefit.

John R. Sylliboy, Dalhousie's vice-provost, Indigenous relations, says communities are looking to the university to lead in resetting the research relationship for institutions across the region in line with Truth and Reconciliation. "Dalhousie, being the institution that has the most health sciences, plus a repertoire of huge research capacity, is naturally the place that the Chiefs are looking towards making sure that we get it right," he says.

He acknowledges the responsibility is large and complex, requiring significant work and resources across the institution. While the task goes well beyond what one facilitator can accomplish, he says Zane's role is pivotal. "Zane is an emissary. He is a messenger in all of this; he is a person that can help people navigate through."

Zane Sylliboy modestly agrees that he brings a personal touch to the job, saying his community roots are an asset in this bridging role. "I'm from Eskasoni, quite a large reserve, it's a big community. I know a lot of people," he says with a laugh.

Research Support Fund

The role of Indigenous Research Facilitator is supported by The Research Support Fund (RSF). Established in 2003, the RSF helps Canadian universities and colleges, along with their affiliated health research institutes and research hospitals, with the indirect costs associated with federally funded research. In 2024-25, the RSF/IPG is providing $10,985, 180 to support the indirect costs of research, including research security, at Dalhousie and affiliate hospitals.

Read More Here



Upcoming Events

15th Annual Dalhousie Mawio'mi



This October, our community will gather in celebration, song, and dance for the 15th annual Powwow at Dalhousie. Rooted in teachings passed down through generations, Powwows are a space to witness the strength and vibrancy of Indigenous identity. From the heartbeat of the drum to the beauty of regalia and the sharing of food, Powwows reminds us of the importance of connection — to land, to community, and to spirit.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Studley Quad (Rain location: McInnes Room, Student Union Building)

10:00 AM **–** Vending opens

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM **–** Lunch is served

12:00 Noon **–** Grand Entry

Everyone is welcome to join in this time of gathering, reflection, and celebration.

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The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) is also hosting:

- **Ribbon Skirt, Vest, and Shirt Making Sessions** – Wednesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 2.
- **Group Reading Circle** – *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* every Thursday from 12–1 p.m. (in person or virtual).
- **Sacred Times** – Every three weeks with George Doyle-Bedwell, Pipe Carrier and Fire Keeper, who offers a fire (when permitted) or smudge.

Student Highlight: Bursary Award Winner - Jocelyn Paul

Dalhousie University - Department of Psychology and Neuroscience:



Join us in congratulating this year's recipient of the 2025/26 Building Diversity in Clinical Psychology Bursary: PhD student Jocelyn Paul!

Jocelyn Paul is a Mi'kmaq woman from the Membertou First Nation. Her dissertation is co-supervised by Drs. Penny Corkum and Shannon Johnson.

Her cultural background has significantly influenced her academic journey. Since 2018, Jocelyn has conducted research for Indigenous communities at the regional and national levels, focusing on the mental health of Indigenous youth, adults, and post-secondary students. Her work examines the health impact of social stressors, such as racism, and explores how certain cultural factors may buffer against the negative effects of these stressors on mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

Jocelyn has collaborated with various Indigenous health research teams and is currently leading research on Indigenous sleep health using a holistic, community-based approach. After completing two major scoping reviews on sleep and wellness among Indigenous populations, she identified a lack of community-based qualitative and mixed-methods research. To address this gap, her dissertation involves a qualitative study with Indigenous adults in Nova Scotia, exploring their sleep experiences, identifying barriers and facilitators, and suggesting interventions to promote better sleep. Her goal is to help develop and inform culturally safe sleep-related programs, resources, and health policies for Indigenous communities.

"I am incredibly honoured to do the work that I do with such remarkable people, and I am so grateful to be this year's bursary recipient," says Jocelyn. "These awards help break down a lifetime of barriers for individuals in the diversity community and reinforce what my dad always told me: struggle and emerge."

Read More Here

Summer Highlight

Inspiring the Next Generation: Indigenous Math Camp 2025





From July 28 to August 1, Dalhousie hosted the second annual Indigenous Math Camp, co-sponsored by the Faculty of Science, the President's Office, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, the Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences, NSERC Chairs for Inclusion in Science & Engineering Atlantic, and the Canadian Mathematical Society. Dr. Jason Brown and Dr. Nauzer Kalyaniwalla were the Camp Directors. The free camp welcomed students aged 12–14 from across Nova Scotia, who lived on campus at Howe Hall for the week, supported by six chaperones.

Daily activities that blended fun & learning included:

- Mathematical puzzles & games
- Statistics
- Exploring music through math with ukuleles
- Discovering Eulerian paths and cycles using the famous Bridges of Koenigsberg



Evenings were filled with community-building activities, including visits to the Indigenous Student Centre, downtown Halifax, and karaoke at the Ko'jua Okuom room in the Killam Library.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive: **85% reported greater interest in mathematics, science, or engineering** and said they may consider careers in these fields. A special highlight this year was welcoming back four returning campers, helping build continuity and deeper engagement.

One of the reasons a university environment was chosen was to give the participants a forward look at what university life might be like for them. By experiencing both the excitement of math and a taste of university life, participants left camp envisioning higher education as part of their future — a true sign of the program's success.

Dr. Jason Brown, Professor
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Dalhousie University

Indigenous Student Enrollment 2025/26



In the 2025-2026 academic year, Dalhousie has **732** Indigenous students, including **267** Mi'kmaq students out of total 20,921 students.

Enrolment data shared here is an unofficial snapshot and may change. Official enrolment reports are released by the university annually in December and should be used as the final source of record.

Healthy Populations Journal Call for Submissions on: Art, Health, and Ways of Knowing

The student-run Healthy Populations Journal is inviting submission of artistic works or approaches to research that use art at some stage of the research process in a special issue on Art Health and ways of Knowing. We are seeking submission that apply anti-colonial, decolonial, anti-racist, anti-ableist, abolitionist, or post-humanist frameworks and that takes seriously ongoing impacts of settler-colonialism, white supremacist logics, binary logics and ideologies rooted in hate and violence have in the broad field of health and health research. Research and inquiries led by graduate students and/or community members who do their work outside of post-secondary institutions is encouraged. For full call details please visit: https://ojs.library.dal.ca/hpj/index or reach out to hpj@dal.ca for more information.

Wela'lin

John R. Syliboy

Office of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations
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