

# Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education

## Undergraduate Programs

### Year 2 (2017) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2014/15)

#### Recommendation 1

Brock University should develop a hiring and retention plan for Indigenous faculty with credentials to support the goals of the Tecumseh Centre programs (at least one person trained in Indigenous Studies and at least one person trained in Indigenous Education). A method used by some universities has been cohort hiring and/or pre-doctoral fellowships that convert to tenure-track lines upon doctoral completion. Three tenure-track positions should be attached to the Tecumseh Centre.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre is best positioned to determine its future needs and that it will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group which is investigating initiatives around indigenous education across the University.

#### Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

#### Recommendation 2

An increased commitment by Brock University to Indigenous programming is recommended. The Tecumseh Centre should lead a recalibration of existing Aboriginal Studies courses and the addition of course as needed such that Aboriginal Studies includes a core course and can be taken as a Major (BA in Indigenous Studies). A curriculum review committee comprised of faculty members with course load reductions should undertake this work in consultation with community representatives and a representative from the Aboriginal Education Council. As part of this renewal, courses comparing Indigenous cultures using an anthropological approach should be updated with an Indigenous Studies Framework.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to review the curriculum to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Centre is best-positioned to determine strategies to move forward with the curriculum review. The suggestion regarding course load reductions in order to conduct the curriculum review would lie outside of the Committee's jurisdiction.

**Implementation Plan - (1st Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Dean, Centre
Responsible for resources:	Dean, Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Dean, Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2015-16

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Increase in Indigenous Studies courses in Undergraduate Calendar.	Director	T	T	
Action #2 Removal of anthropological language from course descriptions in Undergraduate Calendar	Director	C		
Action #3 Move towards a Major in Indigenous Studies	Director	T	D	
Action #4 Curriculum Review Committee	Director	T	T	

**Comments 2016:**

#1 Limited ability to offer these new courses due to recent budget cut.

#3 Plan to submit to ARC a proposal for a Major in 2016-17. This year we recalibrated the program, including changing course coding and adding 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> year courses, in order to be ready for a major.

#4 No resources for this formalized process. Tecumseh Centre Committee working on curriculum review without release time or resources.

**Comments 2017:**

#1 Courses have not been cut further; increased marketing and institutional presence; considering expanding course offerings, especially reconsidering language offerings; need for full time indigenous faculty to increase course offerings.

#2 Still in the site lines, but #1 (above is the priority) before Major can be advanced.

#3 As above, review is informal.

**Recommendation 3**

Aboriginal Studies courses should be included in Brock University's list of Context courses. A university-wide compulsory course in Aboriginal Studies or one with Indigenous worldviews forming the basis of a discipline-specific course would position Brock University amongst the leaders.

\*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C)

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

The recommendation to make an Aboriginal Studies course compulsory across the University will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

ARC considers the recommendation to include Aboriginal Studies courses in the list of context courses to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Centre  
 Responsible for resources: Centre  
 Responsible for implementation: Centre  
 Timeline: Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2015-16

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Context Credits	Director	T	T	

**Comments 2016:**

INDG 1F90 Introduction to Indigenous Studies has been approved as a Humanities context credit. Will be offered in Fall/Winter and Spring terms in classes capped at 35 (to allow for culturally appropriate teaching). Hope to have INDG 2F01 Introduction to Mohawk approved as a Humanities context credit in the near future.

**Comments 2017:**

Senate is reconsidering core and context and a new committee "Two Row Council" is established to advise Senate on this issue. Otherwise, informally there is enhanced relationship and cooperation with other Faculties so intentions remain solid. A compulsory course will have to be discussed in the Two Row Council, but a huge question of qualified/Indigenous faculty must be addressed.

**Recommendation 4**

The Tecumseh Centre should be housed on the main campus. A small budget for parking passes would keep the Centre, once located on main campus, maximally accessible to community members.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for space resources.

\*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C)

This recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

#### **Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

#### **Comments 2016:**

The Tecumseh Centre moved to Welch Hall 65-69 alongside other offices in the Faculty of Education effective January 1, 2016.

#### **Comments 2017:**

Efforts are being made toward creating more of an Indigenous presence in the allocated space in the Faculty of Education - art work, for example.

#### **Recommendation 5**

The Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education should belong to all Faculties, to all students at Brock University, regardless of their academic program. We recommend the development of stronger relationships between Aboriginal Studies and similar related interdisciplinary programs such as Women's and Gender Studies, Canadian Studies and Social Justice and Equity Studies.

#### **ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to develop stronger relationships with other Units in the University to be accepted.

The Committee understands that the future structure of the Centre will be discussed within the context of the larger Faculty review taking place.

The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

#### **Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Centre, Dean of Education
Responsible for resources:	Centre, Dean of Education
Responsible for implementation:	Centre, Dean of Education
Timeline:	Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2015/16

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Development of Stronger Academic Relationships	Director	T	T	

**Comments 2016:**

Courses were cross-listed with Drama, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies; May seek to cross-list with History next year. Also, the Indigenous Advisory Committee has made recommendations which are going to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee that call on the university as a whole to commit to Indigenous content.

**Comments 2017:**

Tecumseh Centre has agreed to cross list courses with Faculty of Humanities. The Two Row Council will have an impact on next steps.

**Recommendation 6**

At a minimum, several events per year should be scheduled to bring students from the geographically nearer community-based programs to main campus. These could be well-advertised speakers or other gatherings.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Centre  
 Responsible for resources: Centre  
 Responsible for implementation: Centre  
 Timeline: Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2015/16

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Events Sponsored	Director	C	Ongoing	

**Comments 2016:**

The Centre sponsored a range of events for students and community in 2015-16:

Urban Aboriginal Employment and Education  
Public Forum

Sylvia Maracle (Guest Speaker) and Panel  
September 30, 2016 (60 people)

Blanket Exercise  
Indigenous Solidarity Committee  
October 27, (40 people)

*The Doctrine of Christian Discovery* Film Screening  
November 10 (20 people)

*Moose River Crossing* Film Screening  
Shirley Cheechoo, Chancellor  
November 26 (150 people)

Indigenous Women Sharing Stories  
December 4 (80 people)

Sexual Violence against Black and Indigenous Women: Comparative Legal Approaches from the US and Canada  
Guest lecture by Babette Boyd, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, University of North Carolina  
March 8 (120 people)

Sixties Scoop Panel—Learning from Indigenous Children Adoptees  
March 11 (70 people)

Indigenous Self-Determination and Animal Liberation  
TBA (post-phoned to April 8 due to weather)

**Comments 2017:**

Tecumseh Centre has co-sponsored special Indigenous events with other Faculties and has invited others to special Indigenous presentations, such as the special screening of “Our Sisters in Spirit” with Director Nick Printup and guest speaker Dr. Lisa Monchalin’s lecture on her book “The Colonial Problem.” We have, through communications tried to develop awareness of Indigenous issues by communicating examples of Indigenous values in the classroom, for example, the Attawapiskat project covered in Brock News. We expect to have an Indigenous cultural display in the Gibson Library in June.

**Recommendation 7**

A curriculum review committee should update the BEd and Certificate in Aboriginal Adult Education programs course learning outcomes. Program coherence and overall goals should be considered as well as ensuring current content in each course. Belonging, culture and

identity should be goals as well as the 'academic' expectations. Course load reductions should be provided to a faculty member to facilitate this work, which should be done in collaboration with the communities represented in the area and with a representative of the Aboriginal Education Council.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to conduct a curriculum review to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

ARC considers the recommendation to provide course load reductions to be outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre is best-positioned to determine strategies to move forward with the curriculum review.

#### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving: Centre  
 Responsible for resources: Centre  
 Responsible for implementation: Centre  
 Timeline: Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2015/16

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Change to Learning Outcomes	Director	C	Ongoing	
Action #2 Program Redesign	Director	T	T	

#### Comments 2016:

#1 Minor updates made to wording of Learning Outcomes.

#2 A course developer has been hired (along with an e-learning specialist) to redesign the five certificate courses to be delivered (a) on-line and (b) in a blended format. Design to be completed by May for delivery in 2016-17. Possibility of also designing an on-line elective or two.

#### Comments 2017:

Redesign of ABEd will be completed this year. On-line courses began in September 2016. They will be reviewed as to the appropriateness of continuing on-line delivery instead of, or with blended delivery community based cohorts.

#### Recommendation 8

The University's Aboriginal Education Council should be involved in the governance of the Tecumseh Centre in key areas including program design and review, curriculum planning and assessment, and community partnerships.

\*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C)

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as the AEC does not have governance over the programs in the Centre. While communication and participation are to be encouraged, the Centre has autonomy with regards to its curriculum.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 9**

The locations of the community-based Aboriginal Adult Education programs should be reviewed for suitability. An increased budget may be needed to allow the program to secure appropriate community-based space and to upgrade facilities/equipment such as providing a portable data projector.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for these resources.

The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 10**

To foster community connection in the community-based Aboriginal Adult Education programs, a facilitator should be hired to assist students by making introductions to local entities that need volunteers and are open to students fulfilling their mandatory observation hours on site. In situations where a student in the program is well connected to the community, he or she could be hired to do this.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers this recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee believes that the Centre is best positioned to determine appropriate strategies to move forward with this recommendation.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 11**

Courses 'facilitated' by individuals in facilitator positions in the Aboriginal Adult Education Program should be taught by ILTA, LTA and tenure-track faculty. As university courses it is unusual to have a set course pattern and content that is not adapted and interpreted by the

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person delivering the materials. A change in model where the current facilitators would become instructors and be able to take a more agentic role in course design and delivery is needed.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the Committee’s jurisdiction. The Committee understands that the facilitator delivery model for courses in the Faculty will be reviewed during the discussions around Faculty restructuring.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 12**

To address concerns expressed that the Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education is not very present in the community (including the Aboriginal communities), outreach strategies should be considered to increase this presence and to lead to more involvement from Aboriginal communities in the area of the Tecumseh Centre.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Centre  
 Responsible for resources: Centre  
 Responsible for implementation: Centre  
 Timeline: Dean of Education to report by end of academic year 2016/17

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Community Engagement Events sponsored.	Director	T	T	

**Comments 2016:**

See Recommendation #6 for events to engage students AND community. New Aboriginal Adult Education Coordinator to raise profile in communities. Major initiative to run the Gidayaamin Indigenous Transition Program in partnership with the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre in 2016-17.

\*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C)

**Comments 2017:**

An Aboriginal Adult Education Coordinator was hired and has increased Tecumseh Centre presence in the Community by visiting Indigenous organizations in the Hamilton area as well as Niagara. A high profile presence was established at the Fort Erie Spring Pow Wow. The Director attended a consultation meeting regarding Indigenous issues sponsored by Niagara Falls and attended the Elders and Youth Conference at the Fort Erie Friendship Centre as well as the Spring Pow Wow and the Six Nations Conference in the fall of 2016. The Tecumseh Centre participated in the two day retreat organized by the AEC.

**Recommendation 13**

The Gidayaamin Aboriginal Women's Certificate should be maintained at least through 2018-19 while innovation in marketing and recruitment is pursued.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as funding for the program will cease at the end of 2015/16. The Committee expects that the Centre, in consultation with the Dean, is best positioned to determine the future of this program.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Comments 2016:**

Major initiative to run the Gidayaamin Indigenous Transition Program in partnership with the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (FENFC) in 2016-17. FENFC is working with funding agencies to support tuitions for more students. A proposal for federal Aboriginal Affairs funding is under review. If 15+ registrations and federal funding are secured, the program will run in 2016-17. Decision likely in May 2016.

**Comments 2017:**

The Gidayaamin program has run successfully out of the Fort Erie Friendship Centre with an initial enrolment of 15 students. We anticipate an AbEd cohort in Fort Erie in the fall of 2017. This group had additional supports from the Student Success unit at Brock.

**Recommendation 14**

Graduates of the Gidayaamin Aboriginal Women's Certificate program should be consulted on how to market the program and hired as needed to recruit.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as funding for the program will cease at the end of 2015/16. The Committee expects that the Centre will consult all stakeholders as it determines the future of this program.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 15**

The hours for administrative assistance and student advising that have recently been significantly reduced at the Centre should be prioritized for replacement.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for administrative resources, which have been reduced across the University.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 16**

The Centre and University should hire a resource person on the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education model who would help instructors in the Faculty of Education and across campus to integrate indigenous worldview into their course, and be available to guest lecture.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee expects that the Centre will consult with various stakeholders to determine strategies and resources which could be used to promote indigenous education at Brock.

The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 17**

Within the existing collective agreements, as much security as possible should be given to instructors who are identified as being good instructors.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the Committee's jurisdiction and has implications with respect to collective agreements.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.

**Recommendation 18**

The apparent divide between the Tecumseh Centre and Aboriginal Student Services should be addressed. We believe that Aboriginal Student Services should be included in the support

\*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C)

plans for Tecumseh Centre students' success while respecting the value of autonomy between academic affairs and student affairs.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the Committee's jurisdiction. The recommendation will be brought to the attention of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Working Group.

**Implementation Plan**

Recommendation not accepted.