

November 26, 2021

To the members of the Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) Awards Committee:

Thank you for considering Algonquin College's nomination in the CICan Awards category of Indigenous Education Excellence.

Algonquin College takes pride in being a signatory of the Indigenous Education Protocol. This act underscores our acknowledgement that the College is named after the Algonquin peoples, the original inhabitants of the area in which our campuses reside.

Aware of this history and galvanized by the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls Action, our commitment to Indigenization is set out in the *2022-2025 Strategic Plan*. The plan includes an outline of the College's next steps as a community to further embed Indigenous knowledge and culture into who we are as a college and how we operate.

Our commitment to these goals has not wavered amidst the challenges of COVID-19. In fact, at Algonquin College our commitment to Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenization is evident on our campuses in various forms every day.

At the highest levels of the College, we are proud to have two Indigenous Board members and a Vice President of Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenization, the first position of its kind created at an Ontario college. Ron (Deganadus) McLester and his Office of Truth Reconciliation and Indigenization team are committed to assisting us become better allies and learners.

The College has made real progress in embedding Indigenous knowledge on campus. Creating that Indigenization mindset allows us to inform how we conduct ourselves, conduct business, educate learners, and enhance our leadership in practical and measurable ways.

A number of College initiatives have relied on frameworks based on the Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel teachings to help govern the way we collaborate, think and effect change.

The College offers a variety of [Indigenous academic programs](#), including the [Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment](#) and [Indigenous Cook: Pre Apprenticeship](#), and courses like [Indigenous Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization](#) and [Indigenous Studies](#). The Institute for Indigenous Entrepreneurship, part of our state-of-the-art DARE District, helps Indigenous learners transform their entrepreneurial ideas into reality through a combination of mentorship, peer support, and cultural connections.

We are very proud of the many ways in which we support the Indigenous community and strive to become better allies and learners. We continue to integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and being through all that we do as a College. We are committed to adapting our processes and practices to honour and respect our institutional namesake and the traditional territory in which we work and learn.

I am confident these efforts are worthy of the CIGan Award for Indigenous Education Excellence and proudly endorse this nomination.

Sincerely,



Claude Brulé
President and CEO