



# INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE

## Statement from the Indigenous Committee Regarding Tokenization and Emotional Labour

We would like to remind the greater UBC community that our mandate is as follows:

“Our purpose is to establish an Indigenous student governance system on the UBC Vancouver campus and to integrate Indigenous forms of knowledge and practice into the Alma Mater Society (AMS). The formation of the Indigenous Committee has been tenuous, and our mandate is to work with the AMS, rather than have the AMS and, by extension, UBC do work on our behalf. Our voices, our knowledge, and our representation are essential to the true nature of Reconciliation as an action, an action that we are accountable to, as well as all citizens of this land.”

We appreciate the overwhelming response that the Committee has received since October 2018, and the efforts to include Indigenous perspectives in current conversations. These efforts do not go unnoticed and are also critical for fostering a good relationship based on proper consultation. However, we feel that in some cases our mandate and our position as an extraneous Committee of the AMS has been misinterpreted. For instance, there are some requests that we find inattentive and inconsiderate towards basic Indigenous history and terminology.

We want to remind the community that some of the issues that we have been approached to speak about affect Indigenous students differently than they affect non-Indigenous students. Some are emotionally taxing, sensitive, and in certain cases traumatic. For example, requesting us to speak about topics such as police brutality and MMIWG is not appropriate under our mandate, and we consider requests like this to be extractive and tokenizing.

Our position is grounded in Indigenous student representation, engagement, and governance. Although these conversations are important to have, the onus should not be on Indigenous students within the Committee to facilitate and educate on these burdensome and researchable topics. Indigenous engagement is more than mere consultation. Consultation should be grounded in reciprocity, respect, and responsibility.

Below is a list of resources and Indigenous representatives that the Committee recommends for education and awareness. These resources should be utilized for any requests that do not fall under our mandate:

- **Land Acknowledgements in Teaching and Learning:**  
[https://wiki.ubc.ca/Documentation:Inclusive\\_Teaching/Land\\_Acknowledgements\\_in\\_Teaching\\_and\\_Learning](https://wiki.ubc.ca/Documentation:Inclusive_Teaching/Land_Acknowledgements_in_Teaching_and_Learning)
- **Indigenous Foundations Website:** <https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/home/>
- **MMIWG Inquiry:** <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/>
- **UNDRIP (Articles 15, 18, 19, 23, and 33 in particular):**  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples>
- **Xwi7xwa Library:** [xwi7xwa.library@ubc.ca](mailto:xwi7xwa.library@ubc.ca)
- **Critical Indigenous Studies:** [cis.arts@ubc.ca](mailto:cis.arts@ubc.ca)
- **Margaret Moss | First Nations House of Learning:** [margaret.moss@ubc.ca](mailto:margaret.moss@ubc.ca)