

Backgrounder: Indigenization

Existing Indigenous programs and services at Georgian

- Georgian launched its first Indigenous program in 1992. Current full-time programs include:
 - General Arts and Science – Shki Miikan (New Road) – one-year certificate
 - Anishnaabemowin and Program Development – two-year diploma
 - Indigenous Community and Social Development – two-year diploma with co-op
- Georgian has four Indigenous Resource Centres (Barrie, Midland, Orillia and Owen Sound) offering a culturally supportive environment where students can study, socialize and access helpful resources.
- There are many services, including visiting Elders and student advisors, for Indigenous students.
- Indigenous Studies and services are guided by two community-based circles: the Anishnaabe Education Training Circle (AETC) and Elders Advisory Circle. The AETC has members from all surrounding First Nations.

Enhanced Indigenization at Georgian

- Indigenization is the infusion of Indigenous ideas and values into *all* of Georgian's activities, events, spaces and processes. The goal is for the entire college community – staff, students and faculty – to benefit from awareness and knowledge of Indigenous culture and traditions. Strategies include:
 1. **Enrich the college community by engaging in Indigenous knowledge sharing**, starting with workshops led by Indigenous leaders.
 2. **Enhance curriculum to reflect Indigenous culture and traditions**. We've already started working with partners across local Indigenous communities to develop resources for faculty and staff.
 3. **Acknowledge that Georgian is located on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people**. A plaque has been unveiled at the Barrie Campus. All major events will now begin with an acknowledgement.

Why enhanced Indigenization is important

- Our student population is changing rapidly. We now serve 1,100 international students and 570 students of Indigenous ancestry. It's our job to make sure all students feel welcome, safe, supported and included.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was an important step toward a new and more hopeful chapter in Canadian history. Georgian wants to be part of the nation-wide effort to restore trust between Indigenous peoples and public institutions.

Treaties Recognition Week

- May 30, 2016, the provincial government designated the first week of November Treaties Recognition Week.
- The first of its kind in Canada, Treaties Recognition Week provides a recurring opportunity to promote awareness of treaties in schools and to the broader public.
- It is also one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.