



Annual Report to VIUFA
Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Committee
April 27, 2018

As new Chair in this position for a few months now, I have been getting myself oriented and gaining an understanding of VIUFA and FPSE over that time. Additionally, I have been working to understand the intentions of the Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Committee.

I attended the FPSE committee meeting of Decolonization, Reconciliation and Indigenization Committee in Vancouver. The main topics of discussion were about changes to the committee name, with Decolonization favoured, but Reconciliation and Indigenization less so. There was consensus among the group for the rewording, even revamping existing FPSE First Nations policies so as to make them more relevant to Indigenous peoples (e.g., changing terms such as First Nations). Since we come from many different communities, we discussed how we can build the relationship among members in a way which employs indigenous ways of knowing. It was agreed that additional meetings during the first year is essential to using traditional consensus-building in our decision-making processes.

Also discussed ways in which we can support our students who were impacted by the Tina Fontaine and Colten Boushie cases and how this demonstrates the extent to which Indigenous peoples are impacted by racism and violence in Canada today.

We will be meeting again May 22-23 to continue to develop the terms of reference for our new committee, and propose the relevant changes to FPSE policy.

As my position is still in the planning stages, my intent in this coming year is to initiate a widespread consultation/survey among indigenous members of VIU of what Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization means to them and what would it look like in an academic and learning environment.

All my relations,

Lexis Linklater, M.Ed., RCC

