



## **Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Standing Committee (DRISC)**

Representative: Lexis Linklater 2018/2019

VIUFA AGM April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **DRISC AT FPSE**

As a VIUFA representative, I had been engaging with the Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Standing Committee (DRISC) at the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators where we were identifying and integrating our traditional ways of knowing in the work we do. In DRISC, we were establishing our culturally competent and relevant Terms of Reference through consensus building. We had also developed a research proposal in order to create a national Indigenous research grant that combines Indigenous scholarship with community development utilizing SSHRC grants.

Looking forward, DRISC has also begun development of a work plan to address racism, tokenism, and institutional discrimination. We also recognize and confront the ongoing effects of colonialism and resulting historical and current trauma that continues to impact the well-being of indigenous people within the educational institutions and beyond.

### **Support for faculty**

Using an Indigenous traditional lens and/or referring to other knowledge keepers and community members where applicable, I have provided support to staff and faculty members in the areas of Reconciliation and Indigenization of VIU and its programs. Additionally, in response to complaints, I spoke up for change to the probationary evaluation process for our Indigenous Faculty members as this process has proved to be not relatable and even offensive to Indigenous ways of knowing.

### **Speaker Series**

With funded support from FPSE for the speaker and author, Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, of "Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization" and funding from Human Rights and International Solidarity for the Elder, Drummer, posters and books, DRISC was able to host this event for students, faculty, and community members at VIU Cowichan campus. It was an engaging and successful event.

### **DRISC at VIUFA**

DRISC is seeking committee members (preferably those who identify as First Nations, Inuit, Metis, or non-status Indians) from our VIUFA membership who would like to engage in discussions, events, workshops, and/or program that involves the topic of decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenization. Please contact me at [lexis.linklater@viu.ca](mailto:lexis.linklater@viu.ca) or Extension #3535.

*Gratefully acknowledging the Quw'utsun' Tribes, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Tla'amin First Nation, and Snaw-naw-First Nation whose traditional territories VIU resides on.*