




# Standing Strong Task Force Recommendations

*Acknowledging the past, learning from  
the present, looking to the future*

**Mash Koh  
Wee Kah  
Pooh Win**

**Standing  
Strong  
Task Force**





Our mandate required the Task Force to develop principles to guide commemoration at the university and to respond to the history and legacy of Egerton Ryerson within the context of the university's values. At the conclusion of our work, we respectfully submit the following recommendations.

## Principles of commemoration at the university

In alignment with the values of our university, we recommend that:

1. The university adopt the following **principles of commemoration**, which shall be embodied with purpose and advanced with courage to ensure that decisions about commemoration are made with integrity:

### **Transparency**

Decision-making processes related to commemoration are clear, accessible and communicated to the community.

### **Respectful collaboration**

Decisions about commemoration are informed by intentional community engagement and relationship-building.

### **Purposeful representation**

Commemoration across the university reflects the diversity of the campus and decisions are made in an equitable way that promotes inclusion.

### **Truth and Reconciliation**

Decisions about commemoration uphold commitments made by the university in response to documents such as the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Bill C-15 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Humility and continuous learning**

With a commitment to ongoing learning and dialogue, the university reviews decisions about commemoration and takes responsibility and corrective actions that reflect new understandings of truth and impact.

2. The university develop a policy and accompanying procedures to provide guidelines and clarify responsibilities for decisions about commemoration that align with the principles of commemoration.
3. The university establish a standing committee that:
  - › Reviews proposals and makes recommendations to decision-makers about commemoration and naming at the university; and
  - › Reviews existing forms of commemoration when necessary to ensure they are aligned with the principles of commemoration.

## Commemoration of Egerton Ryerson

Recognizing the harm caused to community members by the commemoration of Egerton Ryerson, the impossibility of upholding our institutional values while commemorating Egerton Ryerson and the necessity of advancing reconciliation, we recommend that:

4. The university rename the institution in a process that engages with community members and university stakeholders.
5. The university not reinstall, restore or replace the statue of Egerton Ryerson, and instead initiate an open call for proposals for the rehoming of the remaining pieces of the statue to promote educational initiatives.
6. The university reconsider the “Eggy” mascot.

## Responsibility to educate

Recognizing the incomplete understanding of Egerton Ryerson’s history, our nation’s past and present and the exclusion of Indigenous knowledge from curriculum, we recommend that:

7. The university share materials to recognize the legacy of Egerton Ryerson through:
  - › The establishment of a physical and interactive display that provides comprehensive and accessible information about the legacy of Egerton Ryerson and the period in which he was commemorated by the university.
  - › The creation of a website that disseminates the Task Force’s historical research findings about Egerton Ryerson’s life and legacy.
  - › The development of a brief informational video that provides historical information about Egerton Ryerson’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples, his relationship with the Ontario school system and his role in the development of residential schools.
  - › The identification of archives housed at other institutions to increase the accessibility of materials related to Egerton Ryerson.
8. The university continue to share materials to recognize the rich history of the university.
9. The university develop a plan to ensure all academic programs contain mandatory learning opportunities about Indigenous history and Indigenous and colonial relations for all students.
10. The university develop and require all faculty and staff to complete a training or education module about Indigenous history and about Indigenous and colonial relations and the Indian Residential School System.



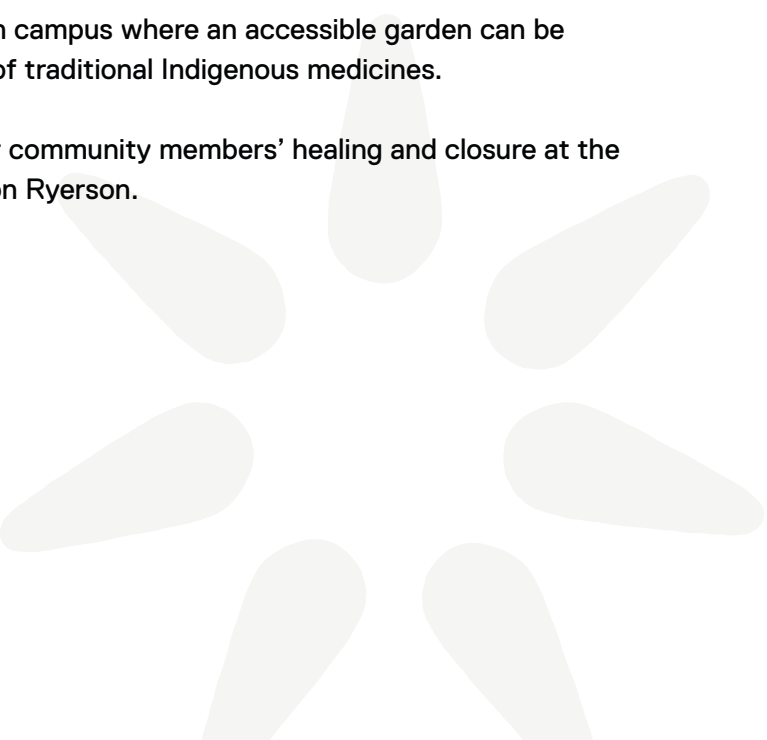
## Advancement and support of Indigenous and Black scholarship

As a commitment to equity and in recognition of the persistent barriers to equal opportunities for education and employment resulting in part from the Common School Acts (1849 & 1850), which Egerton Ryerson drafted and enacted as Superintendent of Education, we recommend that:

11. The university further explore the feasibility of academic units for Indigenous Studies and Black Studies.
12. The university strengthen efforts to recruit, retain and promote faculty and staff who self-identify as Indigenous and/or Black.
13. The university establish additional sustainable funding programs for:
  - › Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students
  - › Black undergraduate and graduate students
  - › Indigenous post-doctoral fellows
  - › Black post-doctoral fellows

## Use of public space

Recognizing the role of public space in bringing people together and our responsibility to care for the land and people that use this space, we recommend that:

14. The university develop a community-based, interactive public art installation space in a prominent location on campus.
  15. The university establish a space on campus where an accessible garden can be planted for the long-term growth of traditional Indigenous medicines.
  16. The university plan ceremonies for community members' healing and closure at the former site of the statue of Egerton Ryerson.
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## Acknowledgement of the land

Recognizing the lack of understanding of treaties and the ongoing impact of these treaties not being upheld, we recommend that:

17. The university consider a new university-wide protocol for land acknowledgements in consultation with community members.
18. The university develop educational materials and opportunities for all community members to learn about land acknowledgements.

## Fulfilment of previous commitments

In recognition of the transparency needed to repair our relationships with Indigenous and Black community members, we recommend that:

19. The university provide an update to the community about the implementation of recommendations contained in the 2018 [Truth and Reconciliation Community Consultation Summary Report](#) and the 2020 [Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review Report](#).

## Implementation

In recognition of the need for institutional transparency and accountability, we recommend that:

20. The university develop an action plan by January 31, 2022, to address and implement all of the Task Force's recommendations.
21. The university provide sufficient resources (both financial and administrative) to support, track and review the implementation of these recommendations.
22. The university provide annual updates to the community about the implementation of these recommendations.