Indigenous Curriculum @ SALA

SALA Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee, 29 May 2024

March 13, 2020

SALA INDIGENOUS CURRICULUM FINAL DRAFT PROPOSAL – MARCH 13, 2020

Indigenous Content Steering Committee (ICSC), John Bass and Fionn Byrne, UBC SALA; Jake Chakasim [PhD cand. SCARP], Grant Fahlgren [UBC MLA, PFS], Margot Long [BCSLA, PWL], Ouri Scott [UBC MArch, Architect AIBC], and Patrick Stewart, PhD [Architect AIBC]

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Colonialism sought to separate indicenous people from their culture, from their families, and from their lands. Whether consciously or unconsciously, design has been a tool of colonialism that has subverted indigenous presence and histories and a means to realize or further reinforce colonial policies and structures.

graduates will play a role in shaping these places making it important that they are equipped with the experiences graduates with play a form in snaping onese places making it important that they are equipped with the experiences, understanding, and skills that reduce the risk of further marginalization of indigenous peoples and improve their ability to participate in processes of reconciliation, it is with all of this in mind that we make the following proposal.

Over the last two terms a committee of faculty and local design professionals began meeting to consider the implications of this history for SALA's graduate and undergraduate curricula and student experience. We discussed the objectives and ambitions of doing so, reviewed recent history of relevant SALA curriculum with respect to Indigenous issues and did a scan of recent developments at other Canadian schools of design. All of that has led to this proposal

Committee members recognize that SALA's identity has long been rooted in an ethos of sustainability wit large but also excellence in design at many scales, and that SALA projects these interests regionally, nationally, and internationally. The committee believes that a more deliberate integration of indigenous content into the mix will only strengthen this identity.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

The committee's conversations led to the creation of several principles forming the basis for this proposal. These are outlined below in the "principles and actions" section.

- prient students early in their time in its programs to the National Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) context. This would give students time to consider its implications and the freedom to choose how to engage the issues T&R raises for them personally and academically.
- invite Indigenous people to deliver this orientation. This would include a welcome by MST Elders and more discipline-
- focused discussions led by Indigenous architects, landscape architects, and planners.

 hire Indigenous architects, landscape architects, and planners to develop and deliver studio, research seminar, and

WHAT THE POSTIMENT POSS NOT ADDRESS

Student recruitment and support is outside the scope of this proposal, though it is likely that by establishing a higher-profile commitment in Infigenous content within the SALA curriculum was will be more competitive in the minds of Indigenous applicants considering our programs. SALA must continue to develop its indigenous applicant recruitment and outreach processes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. SALA resolution is only of the control of the Nations House of Learning to promote the value of design education and to reach out to UBC's Indigenous student

Faculty recruitment and support is needed for Indigenous scholars and practitioners to join SALA faculty in teaching roles. In the course of its reflections over how the faculty regenerates itself in the next five to ten years, SALA needs to consider creating a tenure-track position for an indigenous scholar or designer, as have other Canadian design schools (see Competitor Scans Feval Deart Peoposal - March 13, 2020, p. 2

Indigenous-themed post-professional study or program would fill a gap in expertise common in developmen reserves. SALA could lead APSCI in building a tenure-track position across the faculty disciplines including SCARP and Engineering. Such a position would allow for SALA to help deliver a post-professional degree related to Indigenous engagement design, engineering, and project management.

Faculty orientation to T&R issues would be effectively done in a roundtable format led by local Indigenous scholars and

Protocol documents are needed for engagement and research related to Indigenous people and communities. Developing this policy should commence this spring. An outline of its content is outlined at the end of this document.

SALA needs to develop an appropriate response to UBC's Strategic Plan, which is In the final stages of the consultation process. The Plan proposes broad aspirational language in its draft indigenous Strategic Plan, including:

raity alabally in implementation of indipenous peoples' human rights, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law.

Mission: To guide UBC's engagement with indigenous peoples and its commitment to reconciliation, as articulated and called

"Collaborative and equal partnerships" has emerged as a new, defining objective of the 2019 plan. This principle has guided for years many curricular and research projects across campus, and led to the establishment of UBC Vancouver's Indigenou Research Support Initiative. From an academic perspective, units like Law, Nursing, Forestry, even Business, perhaps others, allow UBC to claim that it is "the leading university" in implementing Indigenous peoples' human rights. SALA lags far behind this academic units, and many of its competitors across Canada.

addition to this Indigenous Strategic Plan, the larger university inspire strategic plan calls for the formation of a TRC Action Plan. The university's TRC Action Plan will call upon Faculties and other units to identify both the work they are already doing and the work they are committing to that addresses the letter and spirit of the <u>TRC Calls to Action</u>, Implementation of both the Indigenous Strategic Plan and the TRC Action Plan will be campus specific. Reporting will occur in yearly and more extensive two-to-three year intervals.

tion University's McEwen School of Architecture has taken the most ambitious approach. It has several core courses in their 6+2 undergrad/grad professional program with Indigenous content, including undergraduate history, ecology, and ses, and a graduate-level studio. It has hired two full-time tenure track faculty with Indigenous backgrounds, has several indigenous adjuncts, and actively engages Elders and/or Knowledge Carriers in Residence in their building.

University of Manitobo has hired (in May 2018) a tenure-track Indigenous design scholar, and is currently conducting a search for a tenure-track joint hire in architecture and engineering. Their admissions policy for the undergraduate Environmental Design program has a senerate "Canadian Indisances" admissions category. In 2019, its student body formed the Association of

Both Laurentian and Maritoba have invited many indigenous design professionals to give public lectures at their schools, and have significant related extra-curricular and workshop-like experiences for their students to engage in. Manitoba has recently

hosted a well-attended public forum of Indigenous designers, activists, and students.

Currently in development are new architecture programs including at the University of Alberta, where it is likely that significant

Indigenous content will be integrated into its programs. Website scans of Carleton, University of Toronto's Daniels Schoo McGill, and Dalhousie do not indicate any significant presence of a response to the T&R.

PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS: INDISENIZATION CURRICULAR CONTENT

Principle 1: "Nothing about us without us." SALA must include Indigenous voices in all of its Indigenous-related curriculum Action 1: Hire Indigenous scholars and practitioners as principals in the development and teaching of relevant curricula. SALA should use its financial resources to support Indigenous colleagues in the development of such teaching content

Principle 2: At or near the beginning of their SALA education provide all students with a general orientation to the historical issues and professional implications of Canada's Truth and Reconcillation (TS.R) Calls to Action.

Action 2: This experience should be a fundamental part of the Introductory Workshop as well as introduced in other first-yea

graduate and undergraduate core courses Principle 3: Provide advanced students with varied opportunities to engage in deeper research, engagement and speculative activities with Indigenous communities and territories

Action 3: This should be provided in advanced vertical studios, research seminars and summer field study courses as well as graduation project research and design projects. These advanced courses of study may in part or whole be conducted in

Consistent with the above principles and aspirations, we propose integrating indigenous content into SALA programs as follows. It is important to emphasize that this proposal is modest in scope and objective, and could be implemented as part of SALA's

Introductory Workshop: a three-hour or full-day orientation to the T&R led by members of the local Indigenous professional community. This would include on-campus tours and dialogue to provide a basic historical introduction about the history of colonialism, reconciliation, and De-colonizing objectives to all incoming SALA students.

Contemporary Practice: A class taken later in the MARCH course of study, and would have an analogue in the MLA and the MIUD programs. Develop a module of the course that addresses current "best practice" methods of professional-indigen community engagement by the design professions. Case studies, history of professional work correserve, ideas such as "capacity-building," "participatory action," and "consultation."

BDES: To be developed in consultation with the Chair of the BEDS program and its steering committee. May include interactions including dialogue with Indigenous people and field visits to nearby reserves as well as history/theory and other content

Note: This proposal should lead to further discussion about where and what Indigenous content should be offered within other parts of core and elective SALA curricula, something that will require more time and consideration

Fall Vertical studios (MArch/MLA); Offer at least one and (possibly two) vertical studios each fall that are focused on and partnered with indigenous communities. Not true "research," it is nevertheless a relatively deep exploration of the design profession's engagement with Indigenous knowledge, capacity, need and desire

Spring Vertical Studios (MArch): Addressing the scale of buildings, offer one (of the four or five offered) spring vertical studios that is at least partially situated within the context of Indigenous issues and concerns. More general in the depth of engagement, the studio would be more fully constrained by predetermined site and program arrived at in consultation with a First Nations or Indigenous community

Elective seminar: Offer annual research elective seminars led or co-led by indigenous scholars/oractitioners that are structured around field studies and visits, cultural application of media tools, and other content. The learning objectives of these could clude broad historical/geographic overviews to in-depth forms of service learning, design/build, community charrettes, and

S&LA INDISTRICUS CURRICULUM

We recommend that SALA develop an indigenous community collaboration and research policy for use by its faculty and students. This policy should reflect SALA's project-based approach to ergagement as well as more in-depth research types. The policy should provide students and faculty with a readampe for how to develop, conduct, ercord, disseminate, and shere

SALA should produce policy documents for as many as four types of engagement in Indigenous community research/design. It should work closely with the UBC indigenous Research Support Initiative in the development of this policy document to confirm that each project type meets university and Tri-Council ethical standards. Completion of the TCPS Core 2 tutorial would be required for students or faculty wishing to work within this area.

Project Type One is SALA member initiated, project-focused, with Indigenous content in a course that engages only a very small number of community members who are experts in a specific subject area. This is a common practice among faculty and tudents. Such a project would be crafted so as to not trigger ethics review, but would be significantly limited in its research

A scenario for Project Type Cne: A faculty member or student wants to research and design a response to a self-identified issue, site, or context, addressing an Indigenous matter. This might be a GP student doing site research, a field trip and visual documentation, and a design proposal, but this does not involve specifically identified individuals or methods of community

Project Type Two is community-initiated, project-focused, and engages only a very small number of communit members who are experts in a specific sobject area. It would be carefully limited to exclude personal identifying types of data gathering and not trigger human subject ethical and legal consens that one trigger drust be resided though contractual agreements.

A scenario for Project Type Two: A faculty member or student wants to work with a small group of Indigenous community shers on an issue identified by the community. There would be no data collection, surveys, involvement of minors, or research photography or writing identifying individual members. The terms of presenting and/or publishing the work would need to be jointly agreed to before the project begins. Academic presentations of the work would clearly identify community

Project Type Three is the more well-established, conventional academic research type. It would describe all of the predicates to doing in-depth data-gathering including consent and assent permissions and waivers, handling of research data, etc. This type of research requires a great deal of time to define, something done on the community's schedule. It would emphasize that defining the outcomes begins with going through the back-and-forth of defining the goals and procedures of the project, and that its deliverables, who owns the work, etc., responsibilities, etc. - all of which takes time. Required before com would be a complete ethics (REB) approval, written terms of reference, and a Band Council Resolution in support of the project.

A scenario for Project Type Three: A SALA member wants to do a housing needs assessment and survey of existing hou ditions. Assessing the housing would likely involve a historical, physical, and demographic inventorying of the housing stock and its inhabitants. All participants would need to sim a human subject waiver before participating. Such a project might be politically sensitive and needs approval of local government based on a detailed Project Charter. Data collected could be sensitive and access to it needs to be carefully controlled. Timelines, responsibilities, and deliverables need to be agreed upon.

Project Type Four is a Government-to-Dean- or -Director level partnership agreement strategically defined so as to appeal to deep pocketed funding sources. Such an agreement would likely be at least five years in length, and focused on a clustered esearch objective (issue- or geography-based). It would apply the range of expertise available within the academic unit to the

A scenario for Project Type Four: The Musqueam nation and APSCI Dean agree to a five-year collaboration researching the impacts of climate change on their community. The goal of this work will be to produce a body of evidence supporting an appeal to Ottawa for significant planning and development funding anticipating physical, economic, and cultural change. Significant buy in from at least individuals if not groups of individuals from each academic unit or program would need to be ined. Protocols and ethics procedures specified in Project Type Three would apply to individual research projects under this initiative's umbrella would also apply.

SALA INDIGENOUS **C**URRICULUM

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PREAMBLE

The University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh (MST). The Point Grey campus in particular is built upon several Musqueam villages and culturally important sites. The existence and location of these places is likely unknown to the vast majority of faculty, staff, and students who travel to or live on campus. This attests to not only a physical erasure of indigenous presence but at an institution of higher learning also speaks to a cultural and social lack of awareness of the context in which we work. The University of British Columbia has committed itself to reconciliation. This must happen not only at an institutional level but is something that all who are part of the academic community here at UBC ought to grapple with.

Colonialism sought to separate indigenous people from their culture, from their families, and from their lands. Whether consciously or unconsciously, design has been a tool of colonialism that has subverted indigenous presence and histories and a means to realize or further reinforce colonial policies and structures.

Graduates of SALA will work in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples across the country and around the globe. These graduates will play a role in shaping these places making it important that they are equipped with the experiences, understandings, and skills that reduce the risk of further marginalization of indigenous peoples and improve their ability to participate in processes of reconciliation. It is with all of this in mind that we make the following proposal.

OVERVIEW

Over the last two terms a committee of faculty and local design professionals began meeting to consider the implications of this history for SALA's graduate and undergraduate curricula and student experience. We discussed the objectives and ambitions of doing so, reviewed recent history of relevant SALA curriculum with respect to Indigenous issues and did a scan of recent developments at other Canadian schools of design. All of that has led to this proposal.

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SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

The committee's conversations led to the creation of several principles forming the basis for this proposal. These are outlined below in the "principles and actions" section.

In summary, the view emerged that SALA, at minimum, must

- 1/ orient students *early* in their time in its programs to the National Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) context. This would give students time to consider its implications and the freedom to choose how to engage the issues T&R raises for them personally and academically.
- 2/ invite Indigenous people to deliver this orientation. This would include a welcome by MST Elders and more disciplinefocused discussions led by Indigenous architects, landscape architects, and planners.
- 3/ hire Indigenous architects, landscape architects, and planners to develop and deliver studio, research seminar, and field study elective offerings.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT ADDRESS

Student recruitment and support is outside the scope of this proposal, though it is likely that by establishing a higher-profile commitment to Indigenous content within the SALA curriculum we will be more competitive in the minds of Indigenous applicants considering our programs. SALA must continue to develop its Indigenous applicant recruitment and outreach processes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. SALA should also schedule an annual lunch event with the First Nations House of Learning to promote the value of design education and to reach out to UBC's Indigenous students.

SALA INDIGENOUS CURRICULUM

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Indigenous-themed post-professional study or program would fill a gap in expertise common in development work on reserves. SALA could lead APSCI in building a tenure-track position across the faculty disciplines including SCARP and Engineering. Such a position would allow for SALA to help deliver a post-professional degree related to Indigenous engagement, design, engineering, and project management.

<u>Faculty orientation to T&R issues</u> would be effectively done in a roundtable format led by local Indigenous scholars and practitioners for students and faculty alike.

<u>Protocol documents</u> are needed_for engagement and research related to Indigenous people and communities. Developing this policy should commence this spring. An outline of its content is outlined at the end of this document.

CONTEXT: UBC STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

SALA needs to develop an appropriate response to UBC's Strategic Plan, which is In the final stages of the consultation process. The Plan proposes broad aspirational language in its <u>draft Indigenous Strategic Plan</u>, including:

Vision: UBC as the leading university globally in implementation of Indigenous peoples' human rights, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights law.

Mission: To guide UBC's engagement with Indigenous peoples and its commitment to reconciliation, as articulated and called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

"Collaborative and equal partnerships" has emerged as a new, defining objective of the 2019 plan. This principle has guided for years many curricular and research projects across campus, and led to the establishment of UBC Vancouver's Indigenous Research Support Initiative. From an academic perspective, units like Law, Nursing, Forestry, even Business, perhaps others, allow UBC to claim that it is "the leading university" in implementing Indigenous peoples' human rights. SALA lags far behind this academic units, and many of its competitors across Canada.

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PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS: INDIGENIZATION CURRICULAR CONTENT

Principle 1: "Nothing about us without us." SALA must include Indigenous voices in all of its Indigenous-related curriculum development and teaching.

Action 1: Hire Indigenous scholars and practitioners as principals in the development and teaching of relevant curricula. SALA should use its financial resources to support Indigenous colleagues in the development of such teaching content.

Principle 2: At or near the beginning of their SALA education provide all students with a general orientation to the historical issues and professional implications of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) Calls to Action.

Action 2: This experience should be a fundamental part of the Introductory Workshop as well as introduced in other first-year graduate and undergraduate core courses.

Principle 3: Provide advanced students with varied opportunities to engage in deeper research, engagement and speculative activities with Indigenous communities and territories.

Action 3: This should be provided in advanced vertical studios, research seminars and summer field study courses as well as graduation project research and design projects. These advanced courses of study may in part or whole be conducted in partnership with Indigenous communities.

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Consistent with the above principles and aspirations, we propose integrating Indigenous content into SALA programs as follows. It is important to emphasize that this proposal is modest in scope and objective, and could be implemented as part of SALA's faculty hiring as soon as July 2020.

CORE CURRICULUM

Introductory Workshop: a three-hour or full-day orientation to the T&R led by members of the local Indigenous professional community. This would include on-campus tours and dialogue to provide a basic historical introduction about the history of colonialism, reconciliation, and De-colonizing objectives to all incoming SALA students.

Contemporary Practice: A class taken later in the MARCH course of study, and would have an analogue in the MLA and the MUD programs. Develop a module of the course that addresses current "best practice" methods of professional-Indigenous community engagement by the design professions. Case studies, history of professional work on-reserve, ideas such as "capacity-building," "participatory action," and "consultation."

BDES: To be developed in consultation with the Chair of the BEDS program and its steering committee. May include interactions including dialogue with Indigenous people and field visits to nearby reserves as well as history/theory and other content located within the BDES curriculum.

Note: This proposal should lead to further discussion about where and what Indigenous content should be offered within other parts of core and elective SALA curricula, something that will require more time and consideration.

ELECTIVE CURRICULUM

Fall Vertical studios (MArch/MLA): Offer at least one and (possibly two) vertical studios each fall that are focused on and partnered with Indigenous communities. Not true "research," it is nevertheless a relatively deep exploration of the design profession's engagement with Indigenous knowledge, capacity, need and desire.

Spring Vertical Studios (MArch): Addressing the scale of buildings, offer one (of the four or five offered) spring vertical studios that is at least partially situated within the context of Indigenous issues and concerns. More general in the depth of engagement, the studio would be more fully constrained by predetermined site and program arrived at in consultation with a First Nations or Indigenous community.

Elective seminar: Offer annual research elective seminars led or co-led by Indigenous scholars/practitioners that are structured around field studies and visits, cultural application of media tools, and other content. The learning objectives of these could include broad historical/geographic overviews to in-depth forms of service learning, design/build, community charrettes, and other forms of exploration.

CONTEXT: COMPETITOR SCANS

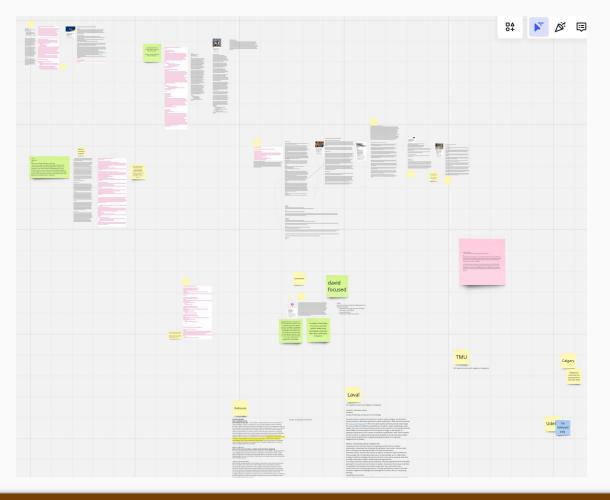
Laurentian University's McEwen School of Architecture has taken the most ambitious approach. It has several core courses in their 4+2 undergrad/grad professional program with Indigenous content, including undergraduate history, ecology, and precedent courses, and a graduate-level studio. It has hired two full-time tenure track faculty with Indigenous backgrounds, has several indigenous adjuncts, and actively engages Elders and/or Knowledge Carriers in Residence in their building.

University of Manitoba has hired (in May 2018) a tenure-track Indigenous design scholar, and is currently conducting a search for a tenure-track joint hire in architecture and engineering. Their admissions policy for the undergraduate Environmental Design program has a separate "Canadian Indigenous" admissions category. In 2019, its student body formed the Association of Indigenous Architecture Students. It is unclear whether any core courses at Manitoba focus on explicitly Indigenous content.

Both Laurentian and Manitoba have invited many Indigenous design professionals to give public lectures at their schools, and have significant related extra-curricular and workshop-like experiences for their students to engage in. Manitoba has recently hosted a well-attended public forum of Indigenous designers, activists, and students.

Ryerson's School of Urban + Regional Planning has just announced a tenure-track faculty search for a position in Indigenous planning and design.

Currently in development are new architecture programs including at the University of Alberta, where it is likely that significant Indigenous content will be integrated into its programs. Website scans of Carleton, University of Toronto's Daniels School, McGill, and Dalhousie do not indicate any significant presence of a response to the T&R.



Indigenous Education in CanadianCARLETON UNIVERSITY

ARCH 4002 - Canadian ARCH 5200 - Graduate

ARCH 1000- Introduction to

ARCS 5106 - Graduate

Leadership - Anne Bordeleau

Design Studio with

Architecture Building for

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY

ARCH243 - Indigenous

ARCH246 - Cultural

ARCH 392 - Design Studio

ARCH 285 - Architectural

Elder-in-Residence Program

V UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

ARCH243 - Indigenous

V UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VIS332H1 - Advanced Critical Elders in Residence Program

V MCGILL UNIVERSITY PETER

ARCH 528 History of Housing

V DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Coming Together: Supporting

V LAVAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF

GGR-3102 Territory and

Project: Supporting Native Geneviève Vachon's

→ TORONTO METROPOLITAN

OTHER INFORMATION

Indigenous Placemaking:

Indigenous Placemaking -

V UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

ARCH 680.35 - SPECIAL

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY

∨ ARCH-1017 EL Indigenous

Indigenous Education in Canadian Architecture Curricula

SALA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee May 2024

PREAMBLE

The University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh (MST). The Point Grey campus in particular is built upon several Musqueam villages and culturally important sites. The existence and location of these places is likely unknown to the vast majority of faculty, staff, and students who travel to or live on campus. This attests to not only a physical erasure of Indigenous presence but at an institution of higher learning also speaks to a cultural and social lack of awareness of the context in which we work. The University of British Columbia has committed itself to reconciliation. This must happen not only at an institutional level but is something that all who are part of the academic community here at UBC ought to grapple with.

OVERVIEW

This article explores the integration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into architecture schools across Canada, emphasizing the importance of embedding Indigenous education into the curriculum beyond just a historical context. The discussion highlights how undergraduate programs incorporate required courses and recommended electives that focus on Indigenous teachings, as well as how master's programs deepen this integration.

The research also examines initiatives at various universities, such as the Elder-in-Residence programs at the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto, which provide valuable insights and mentorship from Indigenous Elders, enriching the educational experience and fostering a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures and design principles. In summary, the article underscores the necessity of integrating Indigenous education into architectural curricula to promote a more inclusive, respectful, and sustainable approach to design, while acknowledging the long journey required to fully decolonize architectural education.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

The research indicates that only a few universities in Canada have integrated Indigenous

David Fortin, "Reflections on Indigeneity in Architectural Education" (2021)

- The concept of "architectural anthropology" is obsolete. In all cases, Indigenous topics in architecture should be informed, led, and benefited by First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and peoples.
- 2. The goal should never be to aestheticize mainstream architectural production with Indigenous visuality.
- 3. Indigenous topics need to be taught or guided by Indigenous peoples.
- 4. Indigeneity in architectural education requires buy-in from the entire community. Faculty and guests must be humble enough to recognize

- that their academic credentials and professional experiences can be inadequate and they must be prepared to question their own preconceptions. This is one of the most challenging aspects of implementing Indigeneity into postsecondary programs. It is, by nature, disruptive to conventional architectural pedagogy, and it is a form of disruption that is not always easily understood nor embraced.
- 5. Indigeneity in universities must be respectful of its unique spiritual dimension.

Tenure track position, BCHRC restricted hire process

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous A&LA Develop relationships with local nations

Cultivate pool of local adjuncts (and counteract precarity)

What would role of Indigenous faculty hire be?

An Indigenous hire does not "check the box;" there is more to be done