

3.2 Anishnaabeg Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom): Guiding Principles

The commitment to meaningful engagement, collaboration, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is a core principle to Trent University's approach to making decisions with regards to the Trent lands and Nature Areas. Central to this Plan are these key principles developed to incorporate the collective Anishnaabeg Nibwaakaawin (wisdom) of Michi Saagiig First Nations, Indigenous students, faculty, and staff.

Trent University, in collaboration with the Michi Saagiig and Indigenous Peoples, are committed to the following:

1. Collaboration and Reconciliation

- We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the territorial rights holders, the Michi Saagiig First Nations. This will be achieved through direct engagement of the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council, continued engagement of the Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons table, and ongoing inclusion in broader Indigenous engagement activities.

2. Ceremony and Cultural Protocols

- The Trent lands and Nature Areas are a place where Indigenous ceremony and cultural protocols are accessible and respected.
- We will begin our collaboration by acknowledging the land, water, and Mother Earth, and to seek the sanction and guidance of the Spirit World. These ceremonies will be led by Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers.
- Trent University acknowledges that there is much to learn from Indigenous peoples, including the inter-relationship between the land, the water, the concept of Spirit, and cultural understandings informed by Indigenous perspectives and worldview. We are committed to ongoing learning of these cultural ways.

3. Traditional and Ceremonial Lands

- Trent University recognizes that the existing Traditional Area and Mnidoowag A'Kiing may not be adequate for certain ceremonial or cultural gatherings important for Indigenous students' learning and sense of belonging, and to welcome Indigenous communities to the campus. Trent University is committed to working with the Michi Saagiig, Trent Indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and willing Indigenous partners to explore locations and funding opportunities for additional Indigenous ceremonial, learning, and cultural spaces and facilities on Trent lands.

4. Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

- Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) is an important consideration in land use planning and decision making with regard to the Trent Lands Plan and Nature Areas Plan. ITK will be considered alongside western environmental science.

5. Indigenous Commemoration and Placemaking

- We are committed to explore opportunities to advance the concept of Indigenous placemaking, which *facilitates the design and creation of unique, iconic spaces for learning, teaching, exchange, and cultural and spiritual expression* (definition from the Indigenous Placemaking Council).

6. Environmental Collaboration

- Ensuring the health and vitality of the natural environment, specifically wetlands, and other areas of environmental and cultural heritage significance is an important consideration for Michi Saagiig First Nations and Trent University. Trent University is committed to ongoing involvement and collaboration with the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council and Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons table in developing ways to monitor and enhance the health of these areas.