
OCTOBER 2021, ISSUE 6

Interfaith Insider

Welcome to the SAIT Interfaith Centre monthly newsletter. Subscribe [here](#) to meet our team and stay up to date on all that's happening!



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Akshita Sharma,
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Learner
Services

Interfaith
Centre

Thanksgiving Day will be observed on October 10th this year. For many, this long weekend really kicks off the autumn season. People across the country will spend it raking leaves, harvesting, and hopefully eating a delicious meal surrounded by friends and family. But where did this tradition come from?

Thanksgiving Day, has been a part of Canadian life since the mid-19th Century. The holiday moved around to a number of different dates for more than a century, until 1957, when the Canadian Parliament declared "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed — to be observed on the 2nd Monday in October."

The name Thanksgiving is unique to the U.S. and Canada. No other English-speaking countries celebrate a holiday with that name. Harvest celebrations, however, are nothing new. For the First Nations people who lived in North America, before European settlers came, harvest celebrations were an important annual ritual. First Nations across Turtle Island have traditions of thanksgiving for receiving crops and game as a reward for their hard work. These traditions may include feasting, prayer, dance, potlatch, and other ceremonies, depending on the peoples giving thanks.

No matter when you celebrate it or what you call it, we hope you find much to be thankful for!



Pride at Lunch: Gotta Have Faith

Join us for our online **Pride at Lunch** where we'll chat about the intersection of 2SLGBTQ+ identities and faith.

Oct 14, 2021 12:00 PM

[Click Here](#) to Register

Interfaith Centre LEADS Student Mahnoor Ahsan

Introducing Mahnoor, a delightfully engaging young woman with a genuine passion to listen to peoples' stories as well as the development of her own.



Hello! My name is Mahnoor (Mahh-noor), and I am in my second year of the Business Administration program, majoring in Human Resources. My hobbies include, annoying my cat, online shopping, painting, and being active (especially hiking).

I wanted to join the Interfaith Centre at SAIT because I really want to emphasize how similar we are, rather than highlight our differences. Interfaith to me means coming together and finding our similarities within our religion, spiritual practice, or whatever you believe in.

No matter what your practice is, one thing we all want is peace and acceptance, and I believe that we can replicate that environment that can be a safe space for everyone at SAIT. I hope you can join us and be a part of our Interfaith Interface discussions every Thursday!

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

By Akshita Sharma

This year September 30th marked the inaugural of The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that has been created as an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, which over 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend.

The date of September 30 was chosen because it was the time of year when Indigenous children were removed from their families and forced to attend the church-run, government-funded residential schools. These schools subjected students to disease, abuse, and experiments. Students were forced to assimilate into Euro-Canadian culture and were prohibited from practicing their own culture and religion.

Some of the main concerns that the Aboriginal people have are clean water, safety for indigenous women, housing, affordable food, and racial discrimination.

Indigenous people are looking for a candidate who is concerned about the discovery of unmarked burials near residential school sites and will keep people updated in the media. A person who will understand and support aboriginal people in housing, water, and drug-related problems.

So, what does this mean for us as immigrants and Canadian citizens who are not First Nation? We can do our part to learn about the history of residential schools through reviewing educational resources, listening to the stories being told by survivors, becoming better allies by strengthening our relationships with Indigenous people, reading the Treaty 7 as SAIT recognises that we are located on Treaty 7 territory and lastly engaging in the 94 calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada which urges all levels of government to work together to change policies and programs to repair the harm caused by the residential schools and move forward with reconciliation



Interfaith Interface every Thursday

Interfaith Interface is a safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students from different spiritual backgrounds and diverse cultures come together to engage in thought-provoking dialogue.

[Click Here](#) to join us for an online dialogue on MS Teams from 12:30 pm to 1:20 pm on Thursdays.