

AC.2.23.1 INDIGENOUS STUDENTS	
Section:	Academic/Student (AC)
Subject:	Programs and Curriculum
Legislation:	<i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , Part II, s.35.2
Effective:	May 29, 2019
Revision:	

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
President and CEO

## POLICY

The policy of the Board of Governors is to improve Indigenous students' access to SAIT's learning opportunities, increase Indigenous student success rates, ensure program relevance to the needs and interests of Indigenous communities, and collaborate with Indigenous partners in community-based technical education and trades training.

## PROCEDURE

### PHILOSOPHY

This policy articulates SAIT's commitment and intentions to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities. It provides a framework and foundation for SAIT's planning and actions in serving Indigenous communities and in moving forward with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

### DEFINITIONS

**Indigenous** The terms Aboriginal and Indigenous are used interchangeably within Canada. However, for the purpose of this procedure, SAIT uses the term Indigenous, which includes the Indian, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada (as per the definition of aboriginal people in s.35.2 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*). This

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also includes non-status Indians and those persons with Aboriginal ancestry but no status.

**SAIT campus**

SAIT's main campus and all satellite campuses.

**GOVERNING PRINCIPLES**

1. Indigenous peoples are unique constitutional and governance entities whose place in Canada is unlike that of any other people, in accordance with their place in Canadian history, their treaty rights and the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
2. Developing customized, flexible and multi-dimensional responses to Indigenous student needs requires in-depth understanding of the needs and requirements of Indigenous communities and students, and recognition of the considerable diversity among Indigenous peoples and the goals of their communities.
3. In collaborating with Indigenous communities, the SAIT community and the broader society are as much beneficiaries as are Indigenous students. Indigenous communities are successful when Indigenous students are successful. Indigenous students are most successful if the community and SAIT partner to provide optimal learning environments and cultural support for them.
4. SAIT recognizes the need to identify and address barriers to Indigenous student success at SAIT.
5. SAIT recognizes that mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous students, employees, employers, business partners and stakeholders enrich the institution. In recognition of the importance of these relationships, SAIT will foster a greater appreciation and understanding of Indigenous culture among its employees and students.
6. SAIT is committed to:
  - a) Nurturing Indigenous student success, increasing their enrollments in all SAIT programs, and strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities.
  - b) Increasing the presence of Indigenous culture on the SAIT campus, which includes acknowledging and raising awareness of the histories of the land on which SAIT is located and of Indigenous ways of learning, knowing and doing.

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- c) Building mutually beneficial relations with Indigenous communities, to increase Indigenous student enrolment and improve Indigenous student graduation and employment outcomes.
- d) Providing sustainable opportunities for employees and students to learn about Indigenous issues.
- e) Developing curriculum that is critically reflective of Indigenous history, cultures and perspectives.
- f) Providing education, training and learning pathways for Indigenous students that create positive and constructive experiences for them and that lead to enhanced employment and prosperity for Indigenous people.
- g) Providing dedicated Indigenous space used solely to provide Indigenous students with a welcoming and supportive environment and where they are safe to practise Indigenous ceremonies. It is a place where others are invited to come and learn Indigenous histories, cultures, values, beliefs and ways of learning, knowing and doing.

## PROCEDURE

1. SAIT will maintain and support an Indigenous Advisory Committee that may include Indigenous faculty and employees, Indigenous students, and Indigenous community members. The Indigenous Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance to SAIT as the institution moves from inclusion to indigenization. It will submit an annual report, including recommendations, to the vice president, academic.
2. SAIT will develop an Indigenous Protocols document that establishes processes for working with and within Indigenous communities. This will be attached as Schedule A, an Associated Document to this procedure.

## POLICY/PROCEDURE REFERENCE

AC.2.23 Indigenous Students policy

## ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Schedule A Indigenous Protocols (to be developed)

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