



Moving forward with reconciliation at Canadian universities

Universities Canada's 2025 survey on Indigenous education and reconciliation

Universities Canada and its member institutions recognize their responsibility in advancing truth and reconciliation. Universities across the country are committed to removing the barriers that First Nations, Inuit and Métis students face in accessing and succeeding in university studies.

This report, based on Universities Canada's 2025 Indigenous education and reconciliation survey,¹ highlights the significant work carried out on campuses across Canada, a decade following the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [94 Calls to Action](#).

¹ Universities Canada's Indigenous education and reconciliation survey is conducted every three years with our member institutions. The 2025 edition of the survey was completed by 78 of our 97 member universities. The next iteration of the survey is planned for 2028.

What the 2025 survey results tell us

10 years after the Calls to Action, the survey shows measurable and structural progress across Canadian universities:

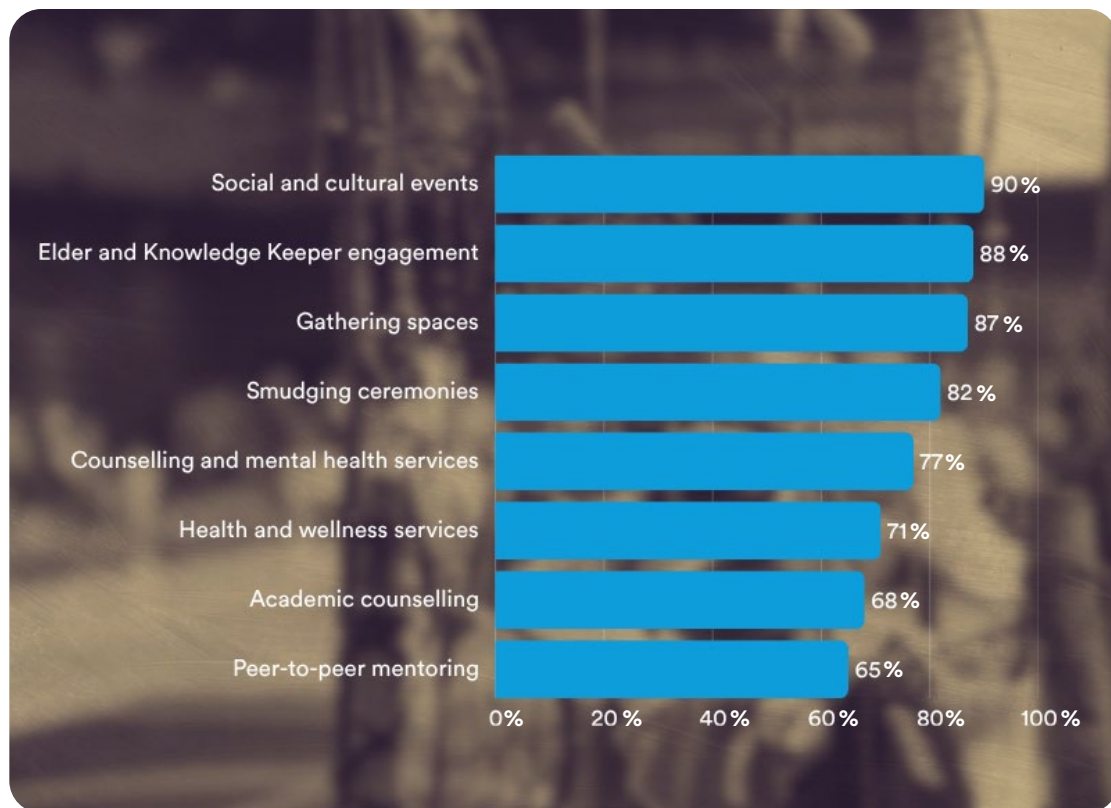
- 1. Targeted student supports are widely established.**
Most universities report dedicated financial aid and culturally relevant services for Indigenous learners.
- 2. Teaching and learning are evolving.**
Most universities offer Indigenous language instruction, Indigenous-focused programs and updated curricula aligned with the Calls to Action.
- 3. Research and community engagement are shifting.**
Institutions report integrating Indigenous Knowledges and strengthening community-engaged research practices.
- 4. Representation and retention of leadership is improving.**
Institutions are making great strides to improve the representation and retention of Indigenous faculty, staff and senior leaders.
- 5. Institutional accountability is becoming formalized.**
Most universities have developed or are developing strategic and action plans tied to reconciliation.



Supporting Indigenous students

Universities offer a wide range of supports specifically for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students including financial assistance, dedicated services and activities.

- Most institutions offer bursaries (87%), scholarships (86%), emergency funds (67%) and awards or prizes (61%) earmarked for Indigenous learners.
- A multitude of services and activities dedicated to Indigenous students are provided on campuses. Here are some common examples from member institutions:



These supports are critical to Indigenous learners at universities across Canada, contributing to improved access, retention and student success.

Teaching and learning

Universities are updating and adapting their curricula and program offerings to better support First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners.



65% of institutions have Indigenous language courses, programs or degrees. Over 450 courses covering more than 40 languages are available on campuses. Kanien'keha, Anishinaabemowin and Nêhiyawêwin are popular offerings.



72% of institutions provide programs with an Indigenous specialization or programs designed specifically for Indigenous learners.



73% of institutions offer land-based and experiential learning opportunities for Indigenous students, many in partnership with local Indigenous communities.

Integrating Indigenous Knowledges, pedagogies and teaching methods into classrooms is critical to Indigenizing universities.

Research and community engagement

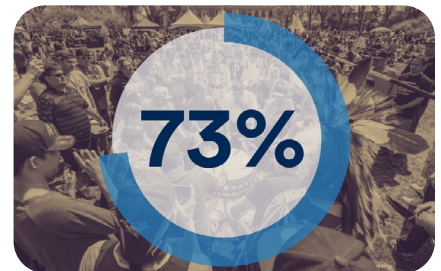
Important steps are being undertaken by universities to ensure research with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples is ethical, community-led and Indigenous-centered.



Most institutions (88%) are taking actions to incorporate Indigenous Knowledges, methods and protocols into research practices and projects. This ranges from providing courses in Indigenous research ethics to integrating Indigenous considerations in ethics approval processes.



65% of institutions have, or are developing, a community engagement plan that ensures ethical research with Indigenous Peoples.



73% of institutions partner with the Indigenous communities on whose territory their campuses are located, while 69% of institutions have a formal agreement with an Indigenous community or organization.

Universities are fostering multiple research and community partnerships with Indigenous communities across the country — relationships that are respectful, mutually beneficial and collaborative.



Indigenous representation in leadership

Universities are working to increase the representation of Indigenous faculty and staff (84%) and senior leaders (90%), whether it be through inclusive hiring, recruitment targets or positions reserved for Indigenous applicants. Universities are also making efforts to improve the retention of Indigenous faculty and staff (80%) and senior leaders (87%), by offering holistic or culturally appropriate supports, fostering a sense of inclusion and safety and a visible commitment to reconciliation or Indigenization.

Supporting Indigenous faculty, staff and senior leaders is important not only to ensure their full participation in the academy but because they also act as role models for current and future First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

Answering the Calls to Action

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action encourage universities to update curricula and course requirements to better educate students on the realities of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Call to Action # 1, iii. and iv.:



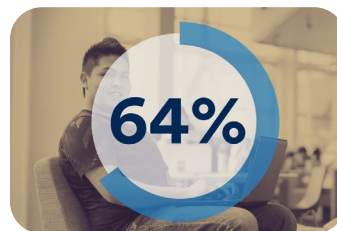
73% of institutions with a social work program have updated their curricula to include the history and impacts of residential schools.

Call to Action # 24:



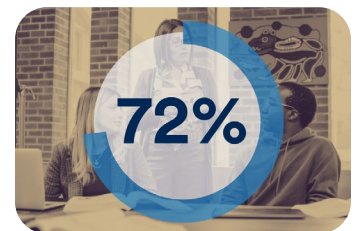
58% of institutions with a nursing and/or medical school require all students to take a course on Indigenous health.

Call to Action # 28:



64% of institutions with a faculty of law require all students to take a course on Indigenous Peoples and the law.

Call to Action #62, i.:



72% of institutions with faculties of education have updated their curricula on how to teach age-appropriate history of Indigenous Peoples and of residential schools.

To ensure accountability towards the Calls to Action, member institutions:

- have or are developing a strategic plan for advancing reconciliation or Indigenization (78%);
- have or are developing an action plan to respond to the TRC's Calls to Action (80%); and
- offer training and resources for non-Indigenous students, staff, faculty and leadership to support their responsibility towards reconciliation (84%).

Advancing the Calls to Action will require sustained commitment from Canadian universities for years to come.



The path forward

Although campuses have advanced Indigenous education and reconciliation in recent years — particularly over the last 10 years — important work remains. Universities across Canada acknowledge the need for ongoing efforts and remain engaged to answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. Closing the education gap for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students is vital to the reconciliation process and universities are committed to helping Indigenous learners reach their full potential through higher education.

About Universities Canada

Universities Canada is the voice of Canadian universities, at home and abroad. We are a membership organization providing universities with a unified voice for higher education, research and innovation. Universities Canada advances the mission of our member institutions to transform lives, strengthen communities and find solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our world.

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