



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

TO: UTM Community

FROM: Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean

DATE: October 7th, 2016

RE: Indigenous Initiative and Pedagogies Task Force – Call for Nominations

Dear UTM Community:

Recently, I received a proposal from several faculty/staff members to strike a Task Force to identify opportunities for engaging with indigenous groups, ideas and pedagogies at UTM. As many of you know, the University of Toronto has stated an intention to respond to the call of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, which calls for educational change across Canada. It seems to me that a thoughtful way for UTM to begin is to accept the proposal and to initiate a period of dialogue and communication around these issues.

The timing of this Task Force is opportune in that it will proceed as UTM creates a vision for the campus. The Task Force would be charged with advising the Dean regarding how best to create a campus that is more inclusive of and educated about the indigenous community in our immediate region and beyond. I hope to strike the Task Force by early November so that the members can start meeting regularly to discuss possible pathways and interesting options for UTM as the campus strives to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation's calls to action and take responsibility for its relationship with indigenous peoples and territories. The Task Force will be asked to produce a report by the end of the academic year that outlines best practices and recommends concrete next steps for the campus.

I would like to invite individuals from all of UTM stakeholder groups to respond via email to Sue Thomson (sue.thomson@utoronto.ca) if they are interested in serving as part of the Task Force. I am hoping to have as wide a membership as possible including faculty, students, Indigenous Elders, staff and alumni. Please let us know if you would like to be part of this exciting initiative by Monday October 24th, 2016.