

KANATA

Indigenous Studies Community

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This document includes:

Constitution

Organizational Chart

KANATA- Indigenous Studies Community - Constitution 2009

Preamble:

I. KANATA was created in 2009 for the following purposes:

1. KANATA began due to the recognition
 - (1) that McGill students have an interest in indigenous studies and that McGill has the resources for the creation of a minor program.
 - (2) that McGill students are producing texts and works on topics related to Indigenous Peoples' of North America which contain information that needs to be shared and discussed (in the spirit of an advocacy for awareness amongst the academic and general population).
 - (3) that there are many events and organisations on campus and off campus that may be resources of interest for these students
 - (4) that a publication can serve a multi-fold purpose of building awareness of these resources amongst the interested student population as well as making them aware of one another and bringing them together as a group; a publication also serves as a vessel for the sharing of the knowledge gained and shared by students and other members of a community built around indigenous studies
 - (5) that learning through a variety of media (situations) is academic, in the search for knowledge and needs to be encouraged
 - (6) that a community studying these topics related to Indigenous Peoples of North America need be accountable to the aforementioned peoples and that the way to do this is to make the effort to include the voice of Indigenous Peoples and Non-Indigenous Peoples in both the community and the publication
 - (7) that what the journal and the group are doing act in the spirit of bettering and strengthening native and non-native relationships in North America and beyond

II. KANATA has the following goals:

1. To act as a community for students interested in Indigenous Studies
2. To advocate for the creation of a minor in Indigenous Studies at McGill which we believe is part of creating and promoting Equity and Diversity in Education
3. To act as a portal to organisations, events, and information for the members of KANATA
4. To create a space and a medium through which relations between Native and non-Native persons can come together and build relationships of understanding, dialogue, and mutual respect on-campus and with ripple effects off-campus.
5. To expand the meaning of academia by recognising alternative and more personal approaches to discussing topics relating to Indigenous Peoples' of North America and relations between Natives and Newcomers in North America

Core of Constitution:

Article I: Name

The name of KANATA was chosen by the SEDE-JSBFP.(Society for Equity and Diversity in Education- Joint Senate Board for First Peoples). According to SEDE-JSBFP, 'Kanata' is the word from which comes the name for Canada which is the result of Jacques Cartier's encounter with a group now referred to as the St-Lawrence Iroquois and his misunderstanding of the word. 'Kanata', in several first nations languages refers to 'village'. The concept of the village places an emphasis on a shared history, a shared present, and to inform a shared future for Natives and Newcomers alike. The name was chosen for it's reflection of the mandate of the group and the journal it publishes.

Article II: Mandate

The mandate of KANATA is to create a community of support for the sharing, discovering, and discussion of knowledge relating to Indigenous Peoples' of North America.

The mandate is to create the space for, network for, and facilitate the learning opportunities for students and individuals who are interested in Indigenous Studies (First Nations & Metis Studies, Native Studies, Inuit Studies, Post-Colonial Canadian Studies, Canadian Studies). This includes learning about and letting members know about the various organizations, initiatives, and events taking place that may help them learn and utilize their knowledge in whatever way they may feel comfortable with.

Furthermore, KANATA aims to make the knowledge shared by, discovered by, and exchanged by students and individuals in the community readily available on-campus and off-campus through events and more importantly through publishing (thus promoting pride in) the productions of knowledge of its members and contributors.

Lastly, the mandate of KANATA is to operate within academic institutions but to widen and reflect on the nature of what is considered 'academic'. For KANATA, 'academia' will be defined more in terms of a search for knowledge and understanding.

Ultimately, KANATA aims to strengthen and better Native and Non-Native relations in North America through the search for and advocacy of knowledge both in the academic setting and for the wider North American public.

Code of conduct: Respect and tolerance are the main tenants of KANATA's code of conduct. Members of KANATA will act in the spirit of *dialogue*. All members and Executives shall conduct themselves in this nature and adhere to these tenants.

Article III: Partnerships and Affiliations

3.1 Partnerships- ISN- Indigenous Student Network

3.2 Affiliations- FPH (First Peoples' House), ASA (Anthropology Student Association), MISC (McGill Institute for the Study of Canada), SEDE-JSBFP (Society for Equity and Diversity in Education- Joint Senate Board for First Peoples), QPIRG- Quebec Public Interest Research Group, McGill Aboriginal Health Interest Group, Borderless Worlds Volunteers - National Projects

Article IV: Membership and Executive Positions

4.1 Membership is open to all.

4.2 Executive Positions are reserved for students of McGill University. At least one executive member of KANATA must also be an executive member of the Indigenous Student Network.

Article V: Portfolios

5.1 Executive President/ Editor in Chief:

Be the chief executive officer, chief representative, and chief spokesperson of the Club.

Oversee all aspects of the club.

Ensure the smooth running of the Club as a whole through facilitation of, and mediation with, the various EC portfolios with a vision that is consistent with the Club mandate.

Chair all EC meetings.

May cast the deciding vote in the event of a EC deadlock (non-consensus)

Co-sign all financial transactions

5.2 Executive Vice President

Act as representative of the Club to the community within and outside of the University.

Be responsible for developing healthy relations with student and community organizations within and outside McGill, and particularly those in the Montreal area.

Be responsible for promoting the image of the Club to the community within and outside McGill University.

5.3. Executive Committee (EC)/ Editorial Board:

Oversee and coordinate the programming activities and events of the club

Coordination of advertising the Club's events.

Coordination of the Club's listserv.

Coordination of the Club's website.

Organization of the Club's physical resources and equipment.

Facilitation and minute-taking at Collective meetings shall rotate between members of the Collective.

The duty of organizing club events shall be assigned to a Collective member on a case-by-case basis.

Article VI: Areas of Work/ Organisation of KANATA

6.1 *Journal*: KANATA Indigenous Peoples' of North America Undergraduate Journal of McGill is an annual publication in the shape and form of an interdisciplinary academic journal that is student-run. The journal is the material manifestation of the interest of McGill students in topics that greatly affect contemporary North American politics, popular culture, law, education, economics, and much more.

6.1.2 Submissions: Submissions shall be overseen by submissions coordinators (selected from the Executive Committee) and includes work done for school is encouraged but so are submissions of artwork, poetry, photo-essays, and more. Refer to Article XI.

6.1.3 Build Reputation: KANATA works on building the reputation of the journal as a publication which reflects the mandate. KANATA works on making this available widely through a variety of means including an e-version on the website.

6.2 Funding: Part of the work of KANATA is to raise funds for the two publications of the journal, the maintenance of the website, hosting events on-campus (open to the public), and supporting student initiatives which ultimately benefit all aspects of the KANATA mandate.

6.3 Website: The website serves to make resources more readily available to members and to the public. The e-versions of the journal shall be made available online in the hopes that this will help widen its audience. The website shall also contain resources such as a link database and resources that may not be included in the journal such as a bibliography of texts compiled by the members for members and the public.

6.4 Minor: KANATA works on advocating for an undergraduate interdisciplinary minor program in Indigenous Studies at McGill University. The members of KANATA working on this shall form a working group with administrative and faculty members until this goal is met. When the minor is official, KANATA will act to promote the minor and offer membership to all the students in the concentration.

6.5 Organizational Ties: KANATA networks with and researches various organizations and initiatives, as well as, events which may be of interest for its members. KANATA is not itself an activist group, but will relay information to its members about other such organizations as advocacy, activist, educational, networking, community groups and more. Networking with groups means that KANATA shall produce information about these organizations for its members. In return, some of these groups will receive information about KANATA events and events taking place within the network created by KANATA and for KANATA. These ties do NOT translate to the allocation of funds or support in funding.

6.6.1 Events: The events serve as ways for students to discuss and discover the ways in which their knowledge can be widened and applied outside of the classroom. There are three main types of events that KANATA focuses on hosting.

6.6.2 Film Screenings & Lectures

These film screenings and lectures may be combined.

6.6.3 Training “Peer to Peer Teaching” within KANATA and for other groups (for example for students in Borderless Worlds Volunteers who are to volunteer in First Nations communities in Canada a workshop could be given on the history of relations between First Nations and Euro-Canadian society).

6.6.4 Co-Hosting Events with the Indigenous Student Network

Often these co-hosted events may take the form of film screenings and lectures. However, at other times they may be more community building activities and recreational events.

6.7.1 Supported Projects: KANATA will support and help fundraise for student-initiated projects that adhere to strict guidelines.

6.7.2 Guidelines:

1. the project is about the acquisition, communication, exchange of knowledge on topics related to Indigenous Peoples’ of North America;
2. the project benefits the people in question and in no way hinders or violates their rights (an ethical project);
3. the project adheres and reflects the mandate of KANATA in that it will ultimately benefit relations between Native and Non-Natives in North America;
4. the project shall contribute to and benefit materially and/or symbolically all sectors of KANATA, for example, will help build the reputation, will help bring in and not deter funds, will contribute to the peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge, will contribute to the content of the journal, will help network, will contribute to an event, will contribute to the advocacy of the minor;
5. the project shall be that of a KANATA member and approved by the Executive Committee through a consensus reached by sufficient quota. The Executive-President, again, has the deciding vote in case of non-consensus (the Executive Vice-President shall have this vote if the Executive President is not present).

Article VII: Fees

7.1 There are no fees incurred for membership and/or participation.

Article VIII: Finance

8.1 Funding

Applying for grants and funds at McGill University and off-campus

8.2 Fundraising

Through various events and food sales, funds will be raised in the twofold purpose of raising money and demonstrating to the aforementioned grants and funds being petitioned the willingness of KANATA members to work in acquiring these funds.

8.3 Finance Signatories

There will be one person responsible and accountable for signing incoming and outgoing funds. It would be best that this person be the Executive Vice-President, or a person designated as the VP Finance, whose sole responsibility would be to ensure the fiscal elements of the community and who would need to co-signature of the Executive President.

Article IV: Meetings

9.1 Meeting times will be agreed upon at the start of the semester. The Executive President/Editor in Chief will reserve 'office hours' for the Executive community and the members.

Article X: Electoral Procedures

10.1 All students are eligible for membership on the Editorial Board.

10.2 For the election of the Editor in Chief the decision is to be the result of a consensus decision by the previous term's Editorial Board and shall be based primarily on the past participation and involvement of the applicants and in the case of an overwhelming desire, the decision shall be based on a review of the applicants C.V's and a short statement as to why the student has applied for the position.

Article XI: Constitutional Amendment Procedure

11.1 In order to amend the constitution consensus on the proposed amendment must be reached at a General Meeting when quota is reached (when more than 75% of the executive board is present).

Article XII: Bylaws and Policies

12.1 The club shall create and maintain bylaws that cover the operations of the club which are not specified in the Constitution. **This includes policies for submissions.** The club's bylaws shall not contravene the Constitution.

Organisational Chart

Executive President/ Editor in Chief

Executive Vice-President

Executive Board/ Editorial Board

Advisory Board

Members

KANATA