



# Circle of Indigenous Social Work Action

CISWA represents the enduring advocacy and passion of Indigenous instructors and students and their allies.

CISWA:

- Supports the recruitment and retention of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.
- Facilitates the policy for admission of Indigenous Students to the BSW program.
- Supports and learns from First Nations, Métis and Inuit students' experiences of social work education, and makes recommendations to and advises the Faculty Committee and Director.
- Encourage non-Indigenous students to learn and participate as allies regarding Indigenous affairs within social work education, the University and the broader community.

CISWA has led and facilitated many changes at the School over its history: introducing elective courses Social Work and Indigenous People and Indigenizing Social Work Practice Approaches; introducing Indigenous Pre-Doctoral fellowships to the University; deepening relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, enhancing Indigenous content across the curriculum, and facilitating training for field instructors related to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Over the past five years CISWA has led and collaborated with broader School community to bring about key changes and initiatives.

**Indigenous Pathways through the BSW programs & required Indigenous-focused course for all BSW students**

- All BSW students now have the opportunity to

pursue an Indigenous Pathway through the BSW program. Honours BSW students can complete the Indigenous Pathway as well as a Minor in Indigenous Studies.

- All students are now required to take Introduction to Indigenous Studies.

## Land Acknowledgement

We recognize and acknowledge that the School of Social Work at McMaster University meets and learns on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the "Dish With One Spoon" wampum, an agreement amongst all allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

- On January 23, 2017, the School of Social Work welcomed and approved a recommendation from the Circle Indigenous Social Work Action that these words be integrated into the life of the School.

## Collaboration with Six Nations Social Services

Towards the end of 2017 faculty members at the School began working to define and build an alliance with Six Nations Social Services that is ethical, mutually beneficial, genuine, and reciprocal, and that serves community needs for evidence supporting their current and future social service programs.

*Many of the changes that have happened in the School cannot be easily captured in a list: members of the Circle, in their ongoing intentional engagement with instructors and students, are bringing about new ways of knowing, working, valuing, and being together in the School community. These ways are more fully aligned with the teachings of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum and the Two-Row Wampum.*

## Artwork by Lily Ieroniawakon Deer

"We Carry Resilience from SkyWorld" is a visual representation of the artists' understanding of "Karén:na" (Ga-Ruhn-Na).

Karén:na was explained as the fire within Sky beings and earth beings, as the personal song of Onkwehòn:we (original people) received from SkyWorld.

Lily's art can be found at "Lily Ieroniawakon Deer Art" on Facebook and Instagram.