

From: Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <university.announcements@usask.ca>
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Subject: takwâkipîsim (Autumn Moon) Newsletter



takwâkipîsim (Autumn Moon)

Tansi and welcome/welcome back!

I hope all of you have had the best summer and are ready to take on the fall term.

For those of you who are new - I'm Aurora, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator for the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). As an Indigenous graduate student at USask, you are part of a community of over 400 students across 45+ disciplines, or as we call the group, 'COUSINS'.

We have some really exciting programming this term, including monthly sharing circles (in-person and online), cyanotype making, ribbon skirt/shirt workshops, and many other offerings. Please consider attending one of these events and start building your network with us.

In addition to programming, I am always available to help you with whatever challenges you might be facing in your grad school journey. Feel free to shoot me an email and I will do my best to help you, or I can direct you to the best person to solve your problem. I am also always on the lookout for possible collaborations, interesting research, funding, job postings, and professional development, so if I get to know you, I'll be better able to match you with opportunities.

I can be reached at aurora.wolfe@usask.ca. If talking over a computer isn't your thing - I would love to take you for coffee.

Have a wonderful first week and make sure to take some time to touch grass!

- Aurora

COUSINS Programming

COUSINS Monthly Virtual Sharing Circle

When: September 18, 12PM - 1PM

Join us online for a casual circle to network, share your challenges and wins, and set personal goals in a supportive, kinship-based environment.

[Register](#) in advance for this meet-up. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

COUSINS Monthly In-Person Sharing Circle

When: September 16, 12PM - 1PM

Where: Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

COUSINS (Sun) Setting Intentions

When: September 17th, 1PM - 2:30PM

Start the new term off in a good way! Participants will learn about our plant kin in the College of Law Indigenous Medicine Garden through the creation of a cyanotype focused on a positive intention. They will leave with an artwork that they can reflect on when they need a little extra grounding.

This workshop has three parts:

1. Students set an intention for the school year and write it down on a transparent sheet.
2. Our Elder gives a short teaching on harvesting plants, medicines in the garde, and how they can help us approach our work in a good way.

3. Students gather leaves and other materials from the garden and arrange them on cyanotype paper around their written intention. The plants and writing are exposed on the photoreactive paper (5-15) minutes. They are then rinsed with water to set the image. Once the paper is dried, the image is permanent.

[Register here.](#) *Sponsored through the oyateki partnership.*

Join the Indigenous Graduate Leadership Circle!

The Indigenous Graduate Leadership Circle (IGLC) is an advisory circle dedicated to strategizing and advising on COUSINS initiatives, addressing student challenges, and guiding programming. This circle convenes quarterly, providing a platform for graduate students to exercise autonomy in shaping the support they receive.

We are looking for those interested in building community among Indigenous graduate students across campus. Participation in the circle offers a distinguished leadership role that can be prominently featured on your CV, reflecting your commitment to impactful service with a manageable time commitment. The circle seeks to draw from a diverse array of experiences and backgrounds, including representatives who are working remotely or at a distance. All administrative and logistical tasks will be completed by CGPS' Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator.

Our next meeting is October 16th, 12PM - 1:30PM, lunch included. [Register here.](#)

Panel | *Coming to Know Indigenous Research in the University*

When: October 27th, 11AM - 12PM

Where: Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

What does it actually mean to create meaningful space for Indigenous grad students? Join us for a panel discussion on this topic with UBC Indigenous scholars Drs. Margaret Kovach, Shawn Wilson, Monty Montgomery, and PhD Candidate Lindsay DuPré.

Following this event, we invite Indigenous graduate students to join us for a sharing circle (lunch included) to discuss their needs as students and the challenges faced in their graduate studies experience. This panel is open to students, staff, faculty, and the Saskatoon public, however, the **sharing circle following the event requires registration.**

[Register here.](#)

Survey | *A Study of Indigenous Graduate Student Support Experiences (Western Canada)*

Indigenous scholars Drs. Margaret Kovach (UBC-V), Monty Montgomery (UBC-V), Shawn Wilson (UBC-O), and PhD Candidate Lindsay DuPré (UBC-O) are conducting research into Indigenous graduate students' experiences with Indigenous-specific graduate student support programming in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

They are interested in learning if, and how, Indigenous graduate student support programs and/or activities are helpful in assisting Indigenous students to successfully complete their graduate degrees. They are also interested in learning if, and how, these Indigenous graduate student support programs influence whether Indigenous graduate students see themselves as future university professors. This research includes a survey and a focus group hosted by their team.

Who should participate in this study?

- You are a current Indigenous graduate student actively engaged in programming/activities or Indigenous graduate students.
- You are an Indigenous graduate student not actively engaged with Indigenous specific graduate student support programming/activities but are familiar with such programming/activities.
- You are an Indigenous person who has completed their graduate degree but have prior experiences with Indigenous-specific graduate student support programming/activities when you were a graduate student.

The focus of this research is current and former Indigenous graduate students affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, University of Alberta, and University of Calgary. Individuals who are affiliated with other universities in Western Canada (Saskatchewan and Alberta) who meet the criteria above are also welcome to participate.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact:

IndigGradStudy.ed@ubc.ca

Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Workshop

When: November 28, 9AM - 4PM

Create your own ribbon skirt or shirt with Marilyn Black, no sewing experience required!

Lunch included, all costs covered. 10 spots available. [Register here.](#)

Sponsored through the oyateki partnership.

Holiday Hampers | Pick up December 3, 2025

CGPS's gift to you! Pantry staples and sweet treats!

[Register by November 15, 2025.](#)

Sponsored through the oyateki partnership.

Indigenous Student Wellness

Beading with Auntie Circle

Monthly beading circle and protected space designed for Indigenous USask students. All skill levels welcome. Supplies and food are provided.

Fall 2025 Schedule

- September 9th, Orange Shirt Pin
- October 23rd, Poppy Pin
- November 25th, Fringe Earrings
- December 15th, Berry Keychains

For more information, email jusinda.rosenkerr@usask.ca.

Sponsored through the oyateki partnership.

Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre Programming

Mondays

Grounding Circle with Elders Roland Duquette and Linda Sanderson, 10AM

Wednesdays

Community Builder Soup & Bannock, 12PM - 1PM

Join the Indigenous Student Union

Grad students are welcome (and encouraged) to join the Indigenous Student Union. You can follow them on Instagram at [isu.usask](https://www.instagram.com/isu.usask) for future events.

Any questions can be directed to isu@usask.ca. [Sign up here.](#)

Funding

Indspire Building Brighter Futures Bursary

The next deadline to apply for Indspire Building Brighter Futures Bursaries is November 1st. [Learn more.](#)

Tri-Agency Scholarship Program

Tri-Agency is the umbrella term used to describe the three Canadian government scholarship funding agencies:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Master's and doctoral scholarship programs are open for application every fall. Students can apply for the appropriate Tri-Agency scholarship before and during their graduate program.

- \$27,000 for 12 months | [CGRS-M \(Canada Graduate Research Scholarship - Master's Program\)](#) + recipients get a one-time \$5,000 supplement
 - Applications for Master's level applications are due December 1, 2025.
- \$40,000 for 36 months | [CGRS-D \(Canada Graduate Research Scholarship - Doctoral Program\)](#)
 - **Applications for doctoral applicants are due September 29, 2025.**

Indigenous scholars are fast-tracked to the final rounds of adjudication.

*This newsletter is distributed to Indigenous graduate students. Don't want to receive this newsletter? **Contact** cgps.comms@usask.ca with your NSID to unsubscribe.*

