



MOUNT ROYAL
UNIVERSITY

Iniskim Centre

IMPACT REPORT 2024/2025

Your support of Indigenous students and programs at Mount Royal University (MRU) has made it possible for the Iniskim Centre to continue its mission of increasing engagement and success of Indigenous students at MRU.

As a supporter you are helping to foster academic success, cultural connection, and community building. Helping to create an active and vital hub where Indigenous students, staff and faculty can access resources, participate in enriching programs, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

It's exciting to share this year's success stories and highlights that would not be possible without your generosity.



\$700,000+

**Raised thanks to
your generosity!**

\$459,000+

**Awarded in donor
funded scholarships and
bursaries, specifically
dedicated to Indigenous
students.**

Being part of the Indigenous University Bridging Program has been a defining experience in my life that helped me grow both personally and academically. This program offered much more than simply developing my skills; it made me feel like I belonged while honoring my culture and identity.

Before enrolling in the program, I was uncertain about whether I could meet the requirements to enter my degree program. With the encouragement and thoughtful guidance I received, I was able to confidently move past that uncertainty, which prepared me to take the next important step in my academic journey.

I know this program is made possible through the goodwill and generosity of those who are committed to the success of Indigenous students. Their continued support has created opportunities that would not have been possible. I am truly grateful for being able to participate in a program that is devoted to the wellbeing of its students and honors their cultural identities.

The lessons and insights I have gained through this program have profoundly given me the resilience and groundwork to forge ahead with purpose as I pursue my Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and the time I spent here will continue to be a meaningful moment in my life.

With sincere gratitude,
Trinity First Charger
Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice
Indigenous University Bridging Program
Graduate

Indigenous University Bridging Program (IUBP)

Created in 1993, the Indigenous University Bridging Program is a university preparation program for Indigenous students. It's designed to meet their needs in preparation to pursue post-secondary education.

14

Students graduated this year and are moving into degree and diploma programs at MRU and other post secondary institutions.

45%

Of the 157 participants registered rely on financial support from bursaries, scholarships, or learning grants.

Student Success Programs

Hosting a variety of services for Indigenous students aimed at creating a sense of wellness and belonging. Including feeling comfortable asking instructors, support staff and tutors questions while meeting in a safe and encouraging environment.

"Attending the student success seminars through Iniskim was a valuable and welcoming experience. I was able to connect 1:1 with student services employees, ask questions in a safe and culturally appropriate setting, and receive tailored assistance that addressed my needs.

The seminars also created opportunities to connect with peers, learn from their personal experiences, and meet new people in a laid-back environment.

These seminars made these services feel far more accessible, provided deeper insight into what is available, and how to make the most of it. I walked away with knowledge I hadn't found on the MRU website or through my previous interactions with these services, making the experience both eye opening and empowering." - Participant

BMO Mentorship Program

Providing peer-to-peer mentorship experiences for Indigenous students as they transition into university. Empowering the mentor and mentee to establish relationships and hone their academic skills through education, culture, community and wellness.

30

Indigenous professionals, shared their knowledge helping to foster community, and engagement. Providing mentees with the tools and supports needed to help them navigate their MRU journey.

32

Students benefited from being paired with Indigenous professionals, who provided guidance and career advice.



What I loved about IUBP was having the space in the Iniskim Centre to connect with fellow students and staff. Making those close connections while in my first year of university was so important to have success in my academic career and being supported while in school gave me the confidence to achieve my goals alongside other Indigenous students. We made it a communal space for us to share our stories to each other in a vulnerable way and build strong connections while studying together and helping each other out often.

I also really enjoyed the benefit of being offered recreation passes and bus passes, which both made my school days more manageable and easier for me to concentrate more on my workload. The support of the smudging room as well was very much appreciated as smudging is very important for me in my life when I am struggling with stress and anxiety throughout the school semester and I want to feel connected to my ancestors through my university experience. - Skylar

Indigenous Housing Program

Program provides cultural supports and affordable housing for Indigenous students. Students qualify for housing based on academic readiness, career goals, and financial need.

28

Individual students benefited from the supports offered.

8

Families were provided with a safe and comfortable place to live.

100%

Of Indigenous housing spots were occupied allowing all participants to enjoy safe, stable housing, helping to alleviate financial pressures and allowing them to focus on their studies and achieve their goals in a supportive community.

Medicine Trail Program, Naato'ohsokay

This program provides cultural support to students and employees. There are spaces and resources to smudge every morning in the Centre, which also hosts ceremonies throughout the year.

1,200

Students Supported

19

Classroom Guest Speakers

9

Tipi Raisings

8

Kairos Blanket Exercises

9

Cultural Workshops

4

Cultural Ceremonies

3

MRU Nursing Student
Capstone Projects



The Indigenous Housing Program at Mount Royal University has been an invaluable resource for both me and my family. As a full-time student and a parent of two daughters, currently navigating a separation, I have greatly benefited from the program's provision of a safe and a comfortable place to live. This stability has alleviated concerns regarding housing, financial pressures, and transportation, thereby allowing me to devote my full attention to my academic pursuits and achieve the marks required for graduate studies.

The staff of the Indigenous Housing Program have demonstrated exceptional support, consistently going above and beyond to ensure that residents feel welcomed and cared for. In my view, this program is an essential asset, significantly contributing to the success of student parents as they work toward their degrees. The program's design and implementation foster a strong sense of community, creating an environment where families support one another in meaningful ways - Patricia



When you give a gift to Mount Royal University, you are helping students grow beyond their expectations, reach for their dreams and attain their goals. Your generosity is providing the scholarships, awards, bursaries and programming that allow students to pursue their passions and make the most of the transformative power of education.

MEET KELLY

Kelly has been a bursary beneficiary during her time at MRU, and has experienced first hand the life changing effects of the Iniskim Centre's Indigenous Housing Program. Kelly shared in her own words about the profound impact this program has had on her and her family.

"Without the support of Iniskim's Indigenous Housing Program, I would not have the housing security I need to continue my education journey. This program has been life changing for my family. When I first started university, I could not attend university without subsidized housing. It was simply impossible as a low income mother to a special needs child. I am a non-nation member from Treaty 7 and as a result, I do not receive the same funding and financial support as my peers from the Tsuut'ina Nation.

The second year in my program, I experienced tremendous grief from losing my mother, brother and kukom (grandmother) all within weeks. Shortly thereafter my nephew came into my care through kinship and I am now making progress to adopt him and remove him fully from the grasps of children's services.

I give credit to the Iniskim Centre for the unity, love and care they have helped create in this small community. All of the families living here check in with each other and celebrate our children's birthdays together.

This past year our Iniskim community welcomed my baby boy, Krisiyias. During the cold winter months my neighbors would bring over newborn baby clothes and frozen dinners to help me through the first weeks of postpartum.

I am now a single mother of 3 beautiful children and I am in my third year of a Bachelor's of Arts - Sociology with a minor in Indigenous studies.

I am truly grateful for the donors who give generously so that this program can continue to uplift and empower Indigenous families to thrive."

Kelly's story is a great example of why housing programs and the holistic support and community fostered by the Iniskim Centre are so beneficial. It's great to be able to share how your generosity is helping students and their families expand their potential, push past expectations and step confidently into their futures.

**To learn more about
your impact and the
Iniskim Centre visit:**

