



MOUNT ROYAL
UNIVERSITY
Iniskim Centre

IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

Your gift at work

Your support of Indigenous students and programs at Mount Royal University (MRU) empowers the Iniskim Centre to advance its mission of driving student success and engagement.

As a donor, you foster academic achievement, cultural connection, and deep community roots—helping build a vibrant hub where students, staff, and faculty experience a true sense of belonging.

Your generosity directly addresses essential student needs, providing post-secondary transition guidance, peer mentorship, accessible housing support, and vital resources so students can focus fully on their studies. Together, these holistic supports wrap around each student to nurture both academic excellence and personal well-being. We are thrilled to share this year's highlights and successes.



2,000+
Students supported



\$421,000
In awards granted to students



\$3.2 M+
Raised for the Iniskim Centre

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I truly thank you for giving generously to students from all backgrounds because these awards not only impact me but also impact the lives of my two children, who are 9 and 12 years old.

Going to school has put extra stress on our lives while juggling school drop-off and pick-up, dinners, bedtime routines, and finding the time to study. The support I've gotten from this award has helped ease some of the financial pressure I face daily and has given me time to spend with my children and on my studies. The time saved would have gone to working a part-time job if it weren't for your donation.

Thank you for supporting a family while they begin building their future and dreams. ~ Misty, Indigenous Business Bursary Recipient

Fueling futures through bursaries

Donor generosity directly powers the achievements of students in the Indigenous University Bridging Program (IUBP). Your support provides the funds essential to student success and helps the team to offer the necessary tailored academic support. Your investment is providing a solid foundation for students as they transition into degree programs and professional careers. Access to funding allows IUBP students to focus fully on their studies, removing the stress of finances during this pivotal transitional year.

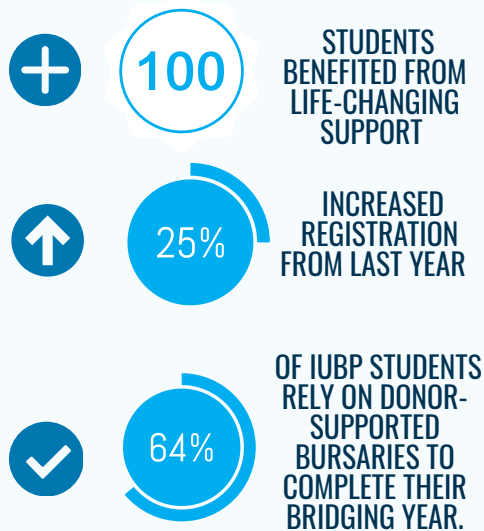
This past academic year was highlighted by the achievements and dedication of these students. Over 93% of IUBP students maintained Good Academic Standing, with 13.5% achieving a GPA above 3.5 to earn a spot on the program's honour roll.

This momentum resulted in 25 graduates from the 2025–2026 cohort. These graduates are stepping directly into high-impact fields, accepting offers for programs in Social Work, Education, Science, and Communication, as well as technical degrees at partner institutions. Demonstrating the program's vital role on campus, IUBP graduates now make up over 10% of Mount Royal University's incoming Bachelor of Social Work class.

Through your partnership and the essential funding provided by donor bursaries, IUBP students are turning academic potential into lasting community impact.

**YOUR GIFT MAKES
THIS POSSIBLE**

BURSARIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE



IUBP provided the stepping stones for my future. Before learning about the program, I was unsure if attending university would be possible. The Iniskim Centre team provided so much more than I expected, including tutoring support, student service programs, access to counselling services, cultural lessons and guidance, and a safe space for me on campus. There was always someone around for me to connect with when things felt tough. I am grateful for everything IUBP provided.

This fall I will be starting my Bachelor of Social Work. Ultimately I hope to work in Perinatal Mental Health, supporting families through their important journey into parenthood.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your bursary contribution made it possible for me to start my educational journey, and I am very appreciative of your generosity and hope to one day be able to help support another fellow student like me!

~ **Carrie Cemka** - IUBP Bursary Recipient

Strengthening Indigenous pathways: Student Success Program

For many students, post-secondary education can feel overwhelming, but your investment in Student Success programming and supports ensures no student walks that path alone.

Donor support funds essential, personalized guidance, including specialized academic advisors, daily drop-in tutoring, and targeted coaching from expert writing and learning strategists. Beyond daily coursework, your generosity fuels engaging campus initiatives like the Student Success Seminar Passport, where students actively track their growth across academic, career, and personal wellness workshops. As well as sustaining culturally safe spaces staffed by dedicated on-site counselors. Including weekly Men's and Women's groups designed to foster deep peer connections, and strong community partnerships that enrich daily campus life through free breakfast programs, vibrant cultural events, and accessible recreational access.

Generous donor funding also powers the BMO Peer Mentorship Program, where upper-year Indigenous mentors complete comprehensive training in leadership, culture, and wellness before building meaningful, lasting connections with incoming students who become their mentees. This holistic approach fosters the confidence, leadership skills, and purpose Indigenous students need to thrive academically at MRU and positively impact their communities for generations to come.

Together, these vital initiatives provide the practical tools, cultural grounding, and ongoing encouragement Indigenous students need to truly thrive during their time at MRU and beyond.

MORE THAN A PROGRAM: FINDING COMMUNITY

I am deeply grateful to BMO Indigenous Mentorship program and to everyone who helped create this program and the community within it. I carry forward the teachings, friendships, confidence, and connections that this experience gave me. Most importantly, I carry forward a renewed sense of purpose—to continue learning, to continue leading, and to continue giving back to my family, my community, and the generations yet to come.

For me, the BMO Indigenous Mentorship Program was more than a program. It was a journey of reconnection, belonging, growth, and finding strength in community. I will carry that experience with me wherever my journey takes me.

Mahsi Cho, hihiy
Angie Deranger~
BMO Mentorship, Mentor

Cultural support & sacred space: Medicine Trail Program, Naato'ohsokay

Your generosity gives people across campus opportunities to connect with Indigenous culture, celebrate heritage, and honour traditions.

Through Naato'ohsokay (the Medicine Trail Program), students and staff engage in hands-on learning like tipi raisings, Blanket Exercises, workshops, and cultural awareness training. The program also enriches the academic curriculum and research by connecting faculties with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and guidance on projects like nursing capstones. By offering direct access to spiritual advising, mentorship, and a culturally safe home, your gift ensures the MRU community has the tools to connect with the incredible team and knowledge housed within the Iniskim Centre and beyond.



Building home, culture, and connection

Thanks to donor generosity, the Housing Program provided vital financial and cultural support to on-campus residents this past year. By pairing housing support with intentional community programming, donor contributions are setting students and their families up for success.

Beyond financial security, donor support funded three enriching gatherings designed to combat isolation and promote well-being. Donor investment also ensured cultural grounding, enabling residents to participate in a campus dinner guided by an Elder and join the Sisters in Spirit March & Vigil.

For families living on campus, donor generosity sustained ongoing household stability by funding monthly parking passes and \$200 birthday gift cards for every child. Philanthropic gifts sponsored six major family gatherings throughout the academic year, bringing parents and children together through a Welcome Supper, a Holiday Games Night, winter swimming at Westside Recreation, an End-of-Year Graduation BBQ, and a summer farewell at Stanley Park Outdoor Pool.

Most importantly, donor contributions made it possible to integrate Elders into four distinct family meals, providing intergenerational mentorship and cultural support.

Your investment in the Housing Program goes far beyond subsidies; it creates an inclusive, empowering environment where students and their families can focus on academic success and community connection.

 **LIFE CHANGING
SUPPORT**

HOUSING SNAPSHOT



OCCUPANCY



**BURSARIES AWARDED
TO STUDENTS
LIVING IN SINGLE-ROOM
RESIDENCE**



**FAMILIES LIVING
ON CAMPUS**



CHILDREN



ADULTS



Participating in the Indigenous Housing Program at MRU has given my son and I the opportunity to heal and grow together as we both pursue our education.

~ Mitchell Bland, Resident



**YOU CAN BE
PART OF THE
SUCCESS OF THE
INISKIM CENTRE!**

LEARN MORE