

# **MASKWACIS CULTURAL COLLEGE and YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COLLEGE**



## **APPLICATION PACKAGE**

### **INDIGENOUS MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (IMSW) DEGREE PROGRAM**

**2022 – 2023**

**INDIGENOUS MASTER SOCIAL WORK CONTACT: [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca)**

Maskwacis Cultural College (MCC) in partnership with Yellowhead Tribal College (YTC) announce an Online Indigenous Master of Social Work (IMSW) beginning May 2022. In partnership with First Nations, the program is accredited through the National Indigenous Accreditation Board (NIAB). Applications will be accepted in late February 2022 for full-time study. The first delivery is being hosted by Maskwacis Cultural College (MCC), and applications are to be submitted in full to MCC.

The IMSW was developed for graduates to become leaders and change makers for the cultural resurgence and revitalization of Indigenous communities through a transformative pedagogy and the mentorship of Social Work Educators and Knowledge Keepers. The Indigenous community is in desperate need of social work leaders who embody the ancient knowledge and possess the skills to mitigate the intergenerational effects of colonial violence. Communities must be empowered to develop and implement solutions rooted in their own land-based knowledge.

Both colleges have offered the Indigenous Social Work Diploma and, in the last decade, the Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work. The IMSW builds on a legacy of nearly five decades of cultural revitalization and self-determination.

First Nations institutions are embracing a multimodal approach to education, a partnering of digital learning environments with land-based knowledge systems. The approach is distinctive in the academy, integrating ancient knowledge systems with current academic experience. Learners will participate in community learning environments that support the application of Indigenous knowledge in settings within their own communities. The intent for the IMSW is to provide scholarship and leadership in field of Indigenous social work.

The discipline of social work is charged with an ethical responsibility of providing leadership and inspiring communities to envision an inclusive society and create enduring solutions to current social challenges.

The program is anticipated to start Spring Semester 2022/May–June with one course and then will be full-time Fall 2022, Winter 2023, and Spring 2023. It is expected that learners will complete the IMSW from May 2022 to June 2023.

For more information and to apply, please contact Wilda Listener at [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca).

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is detailed and will require the commitment of a significant amount of your personal time and effort. The completion of each of the components of this admission package is integral to ensuring that your application will be processed in an effective manner. The documents listed below must be submitted to [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca) by March 4, 2022. Applicants are also encouraged to submit the necessary documents to meet the funding deadlines set by their sponsors.

If you have any questions about the application procedure, please contact: [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca).

### Admission Requirements.

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) – an appropriate bachelor’s degree from a recognized program.

- GPA of 3.3 or higher, particularly in the final year.
- Indigenous lived experience. Recognizes the effects cultural resurgence.
- Two years or equivalent of professional experience in Indigenous and/or world Indigenous education
- Experience (voluntary or paid) in the social services and knowledge of critical social issues are recommended.
- Suitability for professional practice will also be considered.

### Required Documents:

- Official Post-Secondary Transcripts. These transcripts must come directly from the college/university where you completed your degree.
- Current Resume/C.V.
- Personal Statement
- Research Proposal. The purpose of the proposal is identifying your focus of interest in the degree. Attached.
- Two letters of reference. The first one must be from a Knowledge Keeper. The second reference should be from education or employment (work experience). If the Knowledge Keeper is unable to submit a written reference via email, please note this in the Reference contact list, and a call will be made by a member of the selection committee to the Knowledge Keeper.
- Complete the College application and send as a complete application package. Please note that applications will not be accepted if sent in multiple files across multiple dates. A completed application package is to be submitted to [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca) with transcripts and references being the only documents that would be submitted separately.
- Applicants identified to move on to next steps in the application process may be invited to an interview or asked to submit additional information.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant Information:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you identify as Indigenous:

Treaty Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Band / Indigenous Nation: \_\_\_\_\_

Métis: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information:

Street/Box Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Alternate Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number of Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## Academic History:

### Secondary Programs:

Last High School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

From (Year): \_\_\_\_\_ To (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-Secondary Academic History:**

Name of College or University Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

From (Year): \_\_\_\_\_ To (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees / Diplomas / Certificates Granted: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name of College or University Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

From (Year): \_\_\_\_\_ To (Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees / Diplomas / Certificates Granted: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note:**

**A complete application package must be received by:**

**March 4, 2022**

## APPLICATION PACKAGE

### Personal Statement (2–3 pages double-spaced)

By completing your Personal Statement, you will be provided with an opportunity to explore and describe how your prior life experiences have encouraged you to consider embarking upon an educational journey which is founded upon Indigenous Knowledge systems.

Please answer each of the following questions in paragraph format:  
(Double-spaced word-processed responses are preferred.)

1. Please describe your reasons for pursuing a career in Indigenous social work and completing an advanced degree within a program that possesses an Indigenous cultural resurgence foundation and commitment to self-determination.
2. Please identify and describe those skills and experiences that you believe indicate your personal suitability to the field of social work.
3. Leading a healthy lifestyle is an essential requirement for successfully participating in a social work education program that is founded upon Indigenous responsibilities, knowledge, and practice. Please describe your plans for ensuring that the following elements of your life will be addressed in a healthy manner throughout the duration of your social work degree program studies.
  - Potential life challenges
  - Family and community commitments
  - Spiritual needs
  - Academic responsibilities
  - Financial considerations
  - We understand that committing to school will be a financial hardship and ask that you identify any potential financial barriers.
4. In one to two paragraphs, please describe your understanding of knowledge and practices to mitigate social issues that currently face Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Please email your complete application to: [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca) by **March 4, 2022**.

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

First name:

Last name:

Email address:

### **Project title. Clear Concise Statement**

*Clearly state in one sentence what your proposed project is about. A compelling title provides information about your topic, the population you aspire to work with, and its location.*

### **Purpose and objectives. Project justification. One paragraph**

What is your project's purpose? Identify the key interlinking steps necessary to achieve your objectives?

### **Summary.**

*Briefly outline your project, including information about its context and scholarly literature that supports your claims when appropriate. Please use APA format for your in-text citations. Suggested extension: two to three paragraphs.*

**What is the expected contribution of your project to the field of social work and to the lived experiences of Indigenous people?**

### **Indigenous methodology.**

*Briefly identify the process of your research, identify how you will apply Indigenous ways of knowing. Add specific literature, collaborators and practices that will help you develop your project? Two to three paragraphs.*

### **Bibliography.**

*Please use APA format for your references.*

## REFERENCES CONFIDENTIAL

I have provided the following two individuals with a copy of the Reference Form and they have agreed to email the completed form to [imsw@mccedu.ca](mailto:imsw@mccedu.ca), attention, Maskwacis Cultural College by **March 4, 2022**.

The first reference letter must be from a Knowledge Keeper. The second reference letter should be obtained from an education or employment. The letters of reference must address your relationship to the person and your experiences in the field of community social work.

*\* The email sender must ensure the subject line of the email states the following information:*  
Social Work Program Application: IMSW Reference for First Name Last Name

### First Reference (From Knowledge Keeper)

Reference name:

---

Community/Organization:

---

Position:

---

Telephone:

---

Email:

---



---

**Second Reference** (Education/Employment)

Reference name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLARATION OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS  
FOR THE FNAHEC\*  
INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM  
Our Vision: Communities Living in a Sacred Manner**

We, as the Indigenous peoples of this land, have a fundamental responsibility to maintain balanced and harmonious relationships with all forms of life;

We hold in reverence all that Mother Earth has given us;

We recognize that our sacred knowledge is carried in our languages, our ceremonies and the gifts of Creation;

We possess a fundamental right to meet our sacred responsibility of raising our children in a manner so that they will fulfill their sacred responsibility of conducting their lives in a harmonious manner;

We recognize that our sacred ways ensure our survival; and

We recognize that the survival of the collective is critical to ensuring that individuals are able to fulfill their sacred responsibilities and thus achieve a state of personal well-being.

Therefore, we agree and commit ourselves as Elders and members of our Nations to respectfully work together to fulfill our fundamental responsibility to:

**Ensure that our sacred ways are sustained through:**

- Speaking our languages;
- Conducting our ceremonies; and
- Living in good relationship with our families, clans, tribes, and all of Creation.

The Council of Elders is a body that possesses the authority to protect the sacred ways of our people. This authority has been transferred through the generations and honors sacred ways of knowing. The mandate of the Council of Elders is to ensure that the FNAHEC Indigenous Social Work Program graduates people who will practice social work in a manner true to our sacredness.

\* The Indigenous Social Work Program has been collaboratively developed by members of the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium, Alberta.