

Indigenous Masters of Social Work Degree

University nuxəłhot'jne thaaʔehots'j
nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills



U N I V E R S I T Y
nuhelot'jine thaiyots'i nistameyimâkanak
BLUE QUILLS

Session Overview –

Indigenous Master of Social Work –Fall 2023

Welcoming

Smudge, Prayer, Song :
Leo & Priscilla McGilvery

Opening:

Leona Makokis, Elder Advisor, University
nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue
Quills

Indigenous Master of Social Work degree Overview:
Shirley Hunter & Sharon Steinhauer



University nuxethot'jine thaa?ehots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills proposes the delivery of a wholistic Indigenous Masters of Social Work program that incorporates Indigenous knowledge systems.

UnBQ has been through the accreditation process with the Alberta College of Social Workers for our Diploma of Social Work.

In the fall 2019 UnBQ along with the National Indigenous Accreditation Board (NIAB) signed a recognition agreement with the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) recognizing both our Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work (IBSW) and our Indigenous Master of Social Work (IMSW).



Life at Blue Quills:

Student Self Care:

- Cultural Supports
- Regularly Scheduled Sweat Lodge/Ceremony
- Student Counselling

Parking

Student Resource Centre

- Tutoring
- Academic Writing Supports

Library

Diner

Housing

Food/Clothing Bank

Gym and Fitness Facilities

Student Union



Desired attributes of an Indigenous MSW degree

- Provide students with enhanced opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills by making substantive contributions to community wellness initiatives;
- Provide a comprehensive exploration of Indigenous research methodologies which includes:
 - mentorship experiences with local Knowledge Keepers/Elders;
 - an exploration of related scholarship;
 - development, implementation, and assessment of a community-based research project
- Assess past and current community, provincial, and federal responses to specific wellness issues including critiques of social policy;
- Examine the role of social work, social workers, and social work education re: the restoration of community wellness



Objective

1. Expand access to Indigenous Social Work education
2. Optimize graduate student contribution to social work practice,
3. Graduate people who will make crucial contributions to the well-being of Indigenous and non-indigenous communities
4. Indigenous Master of Social Work program is grounded with a commitment to the healthy growth of dynamic education courses that are responsive to community needs, locally controlled, and are sourced within Indigenous knowledge systems.



NIAB Wisdom Based Responsibilities

*"to graduate people who will
practice social work true to our
sacredness"*

Wisdom-Based
Practice and
Responsibilities
for social work
education
programs are
organized in
four
constellations:

Governance through Relationality

Respectful Resourcing

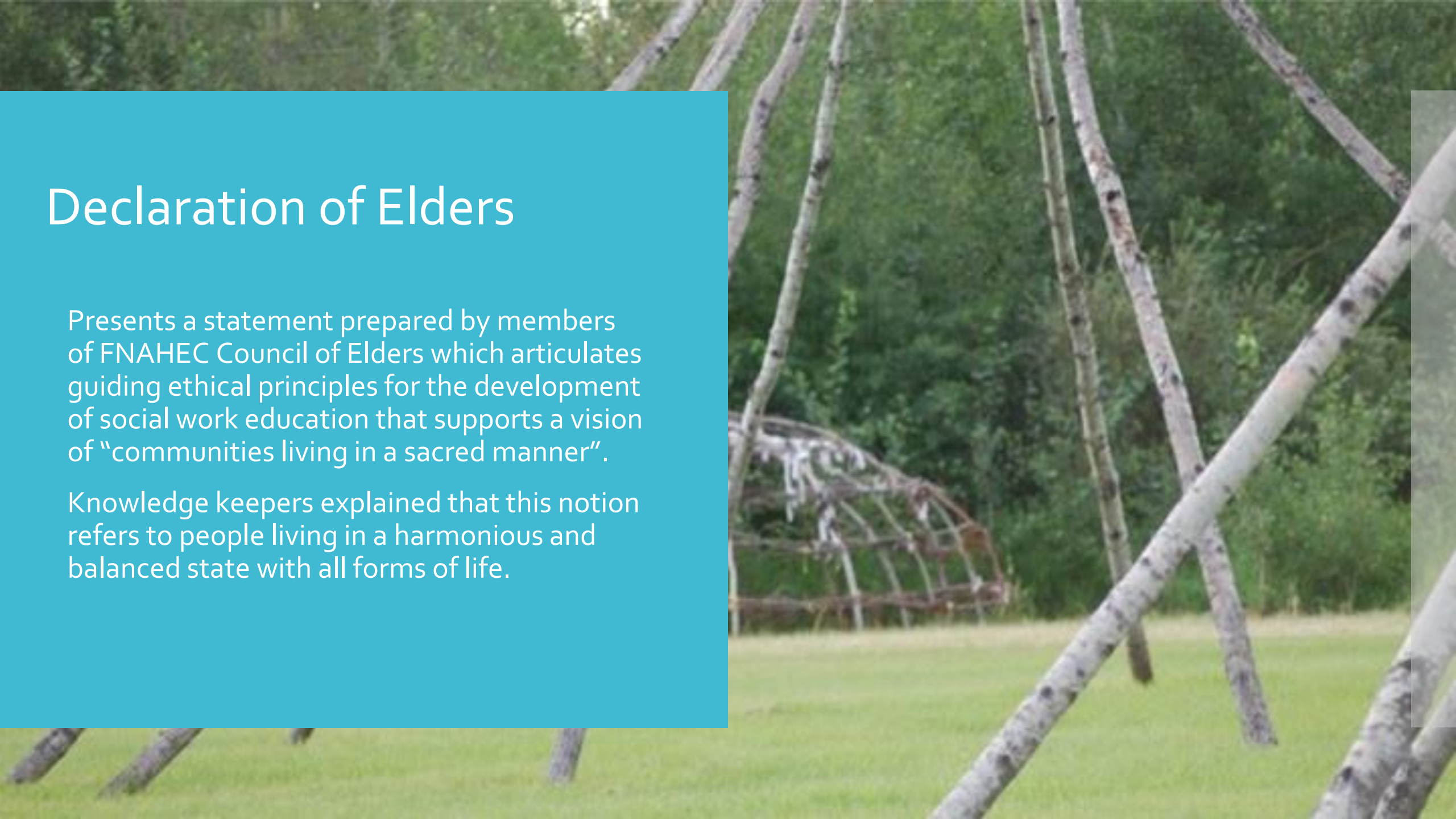
Learning Communities

Learning From and With Community

Declaration of Elders

Presents a statement prepared by members of FNAHEC Council of Elders which articulates guiding ethical principles for the development of social work education that supports a vision of “communities living in a sacred manner”.

Knowledge keepers explained that this notion refers to people living in a harmonious and balanced state with all forms of life.



Community Based Model



We have found that our students respond more successfully when the course delivery is in the classroom with an instructor.

With a highly intensive program like the IMSW program, it will be particularly important to maintain the system that has been most successful in our other programming over the past 50 years.

Students will be able to avoid the transition costs associated with moving to take the program in an urban center and can still access needed community services such as childcare, busing and support services

Admission Requirements

- Applicants for admission into the Indigenous MSW require a BSW degree from a recognized university.
- Must have at least three years' work experience with Indigenous families and communities
- Require a B+ (3.3 GPA) or better average in your last (or last two semesters) academic year.
- A foundational understanding of an Indigenous language and philosophy would be considered an asset.
- Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. The complete application is taken into consideration during the application review process. All complete applications submitted by the deadline are reviewed and given consideration.

Admission Process

Admission Package and Application with noted fee information is available online at www.bluequills.ca or by contacting our registrar's office at (780)645-4455

Three references are required (must be professional and/or academic)

Submit all post secondary transcripts -identifies conferred BSW degree

Provide evidence of academic writing by submitting a 1500-word paper demonstrating your commitment to affirming Indigenous knowledge and practice in social work.



Admission Process

Consideration of potential candidates will be based on commitment to address community wellness and healing by deconstructing western system thinking.

Submission of Criminal and Child Intervention Record Checks

Resume or Curricula Vitae

Deadline for Applications: February 28, 2023



Admission Process

- The minimum requirements and supporting documentation MUST be received by the Office of the Registrar by February 28, 2023
- All Student Aid inquiries are to be directed to registrar@bluequills.ca
- Admission interviews will be conducted by selection committee the week of March 20 – 24, 2023

Program Requirements and Course Descriptions

Degree requirements will be completed over 2 years full time study.

Students must complete the required program plan of 13 courses (39 units) at the 5000 level

Students' will enter with a recognized BSW degree

A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 (A=4.00) must be maintained.

Students will undergo an assessment of your learning journey in circle with faculty and elders which will determine your commitment to Wisdom Based Practices and Responsibilities (Spring 2024)

Program Requirements and Course Descriptions

Course sequencing is typically: Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer

Courses will be typically delivered in blocks over two weekends per month- full Fridays and Saturdays

The learning is experiential, academic and designed to engage student with ceremony and community

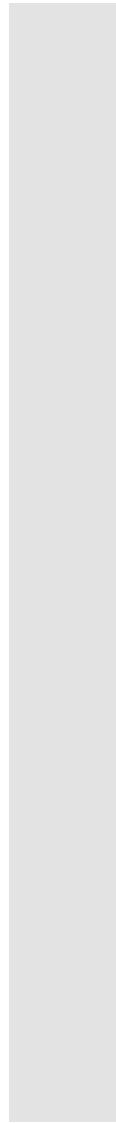
Course evaluation includes summary from elders, ceremonial holders and faculty who provide holistic assessments; students will complete personal evaluations of their journey





Program Requirements and Course Descriptions

Each course involves academic learning of the subject, extensive reading, written assignments, research, independent study assignments and continuous relationship building with fellow students and faculty.



Community Learning

Learning From, With and Through the Collective

The program provides students with opportunities to engage in mutual learning with community partners within a variety of settings.

The MSW program provides a minimum of 10 Service Learning hours, per course and 500 Community Service Learning hours and/or thesis, in addition to time spent in integrative learning activities.

Students will evidence the integration/implementation of Indigenous governance (laws, ceremony) through Relational practice

Learning From and With Community

Programs at the Master level provides learners with opportunities to deepen an animate prior knowledge and skills for the purpose of making substantive contributions to the wellbeing of people, families and communities and nations.

The Program provides for learning opportunities related to the student's selected area of study and practice including:

Learning From and With Community

- application of local and Indigenous values and processes;
- critical assessment of relevant theories, policies, and scholarship;
- exploration and assessment of a wide range of research approaches;
- use of Indigenous research methodologies including mentorship experiences with local Knowledge Keepers;
- development of leadership skills required for the building of healthy relational contexts which support transformative action; and
- critical examination of the roles and responsibilities of social work, social workers, and the social work education in addressing the core issues related to the selected area of study.

Course Descriptions



Course Overview

Year 1 Indigenous
MSW “knowing”

Fall 2023

- MSWK 5000: isîhçikêwina: Indigenous Ethics & Cultural Protocols (Cultural Camp)
- MSWK 5210: nehiyawewin: Indigenous Foundations IV: Reconnecting to the spirit of the language (13 moons)
- MSWK 5200: wisakacihowin: Decolonizing Trauma and Healing Practices (Connection to our Ancestral Past)

Winter 2024

- MSWK 5414: kiskeyihtamowin: Indigenous Research Methodology I (nitawâhtâwin)
- MSWK 5300: wiyasiwew kamik: Indigenous Governance and Ceremony in Practice
- MSWK 5504: mâmawatiwin: Restorative Justice Practice: Indigenous circle pedagogy working with groups and communities
- MSWK 5100/5101: kiskinohtahiwew: Wisdom Based Practice: Community Learning /Seminar/Assessment

Spring 2024

- MSWK 5100/5101: kiskinohtahiwew: Wisdom Based Practice: Community Learning/Seminar/Assessment

Course Overview

Year 2 Indigenous
MSW “doing”

Fall 2024

- MSWK 5510: nîsô kamâkewin: Advanced Counselling in Family Systems Trauma
- PSYC 550: miyo ohpihkinâwasowin: Neurobiology of Healing
- MSWK 5700: oskapwewis/iskwew oskapwewis: Indigenous Research Methods II (the research plan, writing, doing)

Winter 2025

- MSWK 5601: mâmawoh kamâtowin: Community Development and Leadership
- MSWK 5602: peyak ohewamak: Wisdom for Global Wellness: Land Stewardship
- MSWK 5603: iyiniw otenahk acimowina: Urban Indigenous People: Stories of Healing in the City
- MSWK 5800/5801: kiskinohtahiwew: Wisdom Based Practice: Community Learning/Seminar/Capstone

Spring 2025

- MSWK 5800/5801: kiskinohtahiwew: Wisdom Based Practice: Community Learning/Seminar/Capstone

Research- Capstone Paper

- Students are expected to complete a cumulative and integrative capstone that describes the story and transformation of their community service learning practicums and social work *meskanaw* (journey).
- This capstone provides students with an opportunity to engage in reflective and reflexive practice while discussing their social work learning experiences, including moments of transformation, growth, and challenge.
- While the theme of the capstone is determined by the student, students are expected to discuss aspects of their practicum experiences and learning plan, while integrating self, theory, and Indigenous knowledge into their cumulative story.
- This final capstone is intended to be an *acimowina* – a personal story that encompasses life experience and personal lessons that can provide guidance for others.
- Student's have the option to complete this paper following UnBQ Indigenous Research & Ethics Policy Guidelines and/or the Indigenous Wisdom Sharing Framework (IWSF)

Capstone Presentation

- Students give voice to their social work *meskanaw* (journey), written capstone, and collective experience through a final capstone circle.
- This circle will take place June 2025
- The circle will begin with a Pipe Ceremony and will be facilitated in the presence of the Ancestors, Elders, community members, and fellow IMSW students
- Each presentation will be 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes for questions and reflections from Elders and community members.

Indigenous Master of Social Work

Contribution of the Collective:

- publishing of Indigenous Master of Social Work book
“stories of healing and restoration”
- governance/policy research
“contributions to child welfare law”
- research/development
Indigenous Trauma
Recovery treatment
program



Professional Development

Decolonizing Practice Certificates

Various Topics may include:

Child Welfare

Circle Pedagogy

Restorative Practice

Social Work Administration

Servant Leadership

Workforce Readiness

PhD Readiness



MSW Program Contacts:

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