

## **Decolonization**

### **Decolonial Student Union on Turtle Island:**

Colonialism is a historical and ongoing global undertaking where settlers continue to occupy land, dictate social, political, and economic systems, and exploit Indigenous peoples and their resources. Historically, across Turtle Island, colonialism has manifested itself through the Crown upholding and enforcing Canadian authority on Indigenous nations through colonial policies, land theft, and assimilation of Indigenous peoples through Residential Schools and the Indian Act. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples (FNMI) still experience the lasting impacts of colonialism through the criminal justice system, education, health care, the government, and many public and private institutions. Indigenous communities still face numerous disadvantages within social, political, and economic spheres that directly result from colonialism and intergenerational trauma.

Some examples of ongoing settler colonialism as it is manifested in Canada today include, but are not limited to:

- i. The ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-spirit, and Trans peoples (MMIWG2ST).
- ii. Academic curricula that exclude and diminish the histories and contributions of First Nations communities.
- iii. Discrimination in health care, which includes the forced sterilization of Indigenous peoples by health care professionals.
- iv. Mass incarceration of Indigenous peoples within Canada's legal system in which Indigenous people are overrepresented.
- v. Illegal occupation of sovereign land by the Canadian Government to enforce colonialism and land theft.
- vi. Environmental atrocities that impact Indigenous land, food and water sources.
- Vii. The loss of traditional language, practices and ceremonies.
- Vii. Lateral Violence & Settler ableism; prejudice by settlers and Indigenous people to uphold the creation of systems to push assimilation tactics on Indigenous peoples in order to maintain White supremacy and pursue cultural elimination. Settler ableism is a form of oppression that impacts Indigenous communities and individuals through systems such as the carceral and medical systems. Settler ableism refers to assimilation and assimilative tactics against Indigenous peoples and knowledge.

The Trent Central Student Association (TCSA) recognizes that colonialism is rooted in historical, social, cultural, political, economic and systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples. The TCSA acknowledges that Indigenous students are disproportionately impacted by colonialism and intergenerational trauma. The TCSA is committed to paying special attention to dismantling harmful colonial practices within post-secondary institutions across Turtle Island.

### **The Association supports:**

- First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students have safe and culturally sensitive environments to pursue traditional and academic teachings;
- The Land Back Movement which promotes the return to communal land ownership of traditional and unceded Indigenous lands, and rejects the colonial concept of private land ownership.
- First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students having access to land-based teachings
- Access to traditional mental health resources and culturally sensitive counselling;
- The creation of appropriate spaces for students to participate in traditional practices;
- The right of Indigenous students to have access to institutions that are free from discrimination, settler colonialism, absconded culturally significant items and commemorative displays that glorify colonization and its perpetrators’;
- The decolonization of post-secondary education, including the prioritization of decolonial methodologies and Indigenization;
- The renaming of Champlain, Lady Eaton, and Catherine Parr Traill colleges;
- The inclusion and importance of Indigenous teachings and text to be included in all aspects of academia;
- The Creation and support of faculty by the University in integrating inclusive pedagogy and diverse content into existing course entitlement of occupied people to resist occupying forces by any and all lawful means

### **The Association opposes:**

- The glorification of colonial figures through commemorative naming, art and celebrations
- Epistemic ignorance upheld by the neoliberal colonial university;
- The illegal occupation of sovereign Indigenous land
- The illegal extraction of resources from Indigenous peoples and communities
- The unjust recommendations made by the Champlain Committee, prioritizing settler methodology and ways of knowing and Western sources as a means to evade the responsibility of how the naming of Champlain College maintains colonial supremacy by maintaining a legacy of exploitation, violence, and subjugation.

- Military occupation of unceded land and territory.

**Colonization on a Global Scale:**

The TCSA recognizes the impacts of colonialism beyond Turtle Island on a global scale. Furthermore, it acknowledges that colonial foreign rule is a violation of human rights. Colonization has historically and continues to manifest itself globally through racial discrimination, enslavement of marginalized populations, xenophobia, land exploitation, apartheid, wars, violence against women and children, genocide, religious conflicts and cultural assimilation. Colonialism can operate within the political, sociological, and cultural systems of a place even after the occupation by colonizers has ended.

Settler colonialism is a tool of imperialism in which outsiders come to land inhabited by Indigenous peoples and claim it as their own. Settler colonialism normalizes the continuous settler occupation, exploiting lands and resources with which Indigenous peoples have a genealogical relationship with. Further displacement of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands occurs through settler colonial tactics of genocide, war, systematic displacement, and the erasure of native cultures and identities. The Association recognizes the global impacts of colonialism on its Indigenous membership and is committed to dismantling harmful ideologies, stereotypes, and practices within post-secondary institutions.

**The Association supports:**

- Indigenous liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle.

**The Association opposes:**

- Apartheid regimes that use policy to enforce segregation and political, social, and economic discrimination against marginalized groups.
- The extraction of resources from Indigenous communities and lands.
- Genocide against Indigenous peoples, culture, land, and communities.
- Militant occupation of land by colonial forces.