

NOKOM'S HOUSE

At the College of Social
and Applied Human
Sciences, University of
Guelph

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH



NOKOM'S HOUSE

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty land and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land, and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.

In keeping with U of G's commitment "to improve life," the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS) seeks opportunity to collaborate and contribute to the wellbeing of Indigenous students, families, and communities.

Indigenous professors Dr. Kim Anderson (Dept. of Family Relationships and Applied Nutrition), Dr. Sheri Longboat (School of Environmental Design and Rural Development), and Dr. Brittany Luby (Dept. of History) are collaboratively planning to build a "grandmother-centered" space for research, community engagement, land-based activities, and ceremony in the U of G Arboretum. A milkweed clearing surrounded by an "edge of the woods" condition has been identified as a site to encompass gardens, a sacred fire and ceremonial grounds, and a granny's cabin/research hub where visiting, cooking, creative work, and retreat activity can take place.

The granny's cabin - Nokom's House - is intended to reflect female-centered "kitchen table" environments that have been important places of learning for the three researchers. Nokom's House will allow the researchers, their students, and associated community partners to explore learning, community wellness, and planning and development by engaging closely with "all our relations," be they human, ancestral/spirit, or plant/animal/land/water.

Within the Métis (Anderson), Haudenosaunee (Longboat), and Anishinaabe (Luby) cultures of the researchers, grandmothers hold distinct leadership positions and responsibilities for the wellbeing of these relations. This team will work collaboratively with community grandmothers to implement research projects that advance wellness for humans and the natural world, and in so doing will contribute to truth, reconciliation, and decolonization within the University community and beyond.

In line with Indigenous concepts of multi-generational thinking and environmental stewardship, Nokom's House will be built with off-grid technologies, local materials, and sustainable design strategies to touch down gently on the earth. The design will draw on cutting-edge Indigenous knowledge practices, engineering, architecture, landscape design, and interior design by engaging faculty and student expertise from across the U of G community and in collaboration with Indigenous partners.

Fundraising required:

- Nokom's House in the Arboretum \$1,000,000
- Design coordinator, workshops, consultation and professional fees; \$350,000



The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People,

"establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples."

As part of honouring these realities, the University of Guelph and the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS) is committed to our Indigenous communities.

