

**Trigger Warning:** Residential Schools, Colonialism, Intergenerational Trauma, Genocide, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

### **Background and Key Considerations:**

July 1st is known as “Canada Day”, so-called Canada’s national holiday. As mentioned in our previous #CancelCanadaDay statement, “Canada Day” was created through the British North American Act (now Constitution Act) on July 1, 1867.

As created and maintained by the colonial state known as Canada, “Canada Day” has historically excluded consultation with Indigenous communities. So-called Canada’s national anthem, “O Canada” was revised multiple times, with similar exclusion of Indigenous People(s).

As a student society committed to reconciliation efforts (as outlined in our Issues Policy: [IP-7 Indigenous Inclusion and Reconciliation](#)) the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) recognizes that “Canada Day” continues to dismiss so-called Canada’s history of colonialism, genocide, and forced assimilation. “Canada Day” continues to shield racist, inequitable, and discriminatory laws and regulations that prevent Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour, immigrants, and non-English speakers from receiving equitable treatment in this country.

The [Idle No More #CancelCanadaDay](#) campaign was established through the labour of Indigenous people(s) and activist with the main goal to #CancelCanadaDay and instead “gather to honour all of the lives lost to the Canadian State – Indigenous lives, Black Lives, Migrant lives, Women and Trans and 2Spirit lives”. As uninvited guests on stolen land, the Simon Fraser Student Society is obligated to speak out against the ongoing and intergenerational trauma and harm being perpetrated against Indigenous students and communities.

With the passage of the motion outlined below, the SFSS acknowledges that to celebrate so-called Canada means to celebrate ongoing genocide, trauma, and systemic racism. Instead, we call on the Simon Fraser University community to use “Canada Day” to remember, honour and support Indigenous People(s) who have been affected by colonization and forced assimilation.

### **The Motion passed by the Simon Fraser Student Society on June 30th, 2021, reads:**

Whereas Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) are currently situated on the Unceded Traditional Territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and ḱíc̓əy̓ (Katzie) Nations and we formally acknowledge that these nations have been here since time immemorial,

Whereas Canada Day dismisses the history of colonialism, genocide, and forced assimilation that has and continues to, harm Indigenous People(s) living on Turtle Island since time immemorial,

Whereas the colonial states’ anthem known as the “Canadian national anthem,” is a colonial patriotic song that may be triggering for Indigenous Community Members and does not honour Indigenous People(s) and their sovereignty, language, ceremony, culture, and Indigenous Ways of Knowing,

Whereas Canada Day covers up the racist, inequitable, and discriminatory laws and regulations that make it difficult for Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour, immigrants, non-English speakers, and other equity-seeking groups to have equitable treatment and supports within this country,”

Whereas celebrating Canada Day means to celebrate the genocide, systemic racism, trauma, lack of mental health and monetary support, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit folks—all that our so-called Canadian government so chooses to ignore nor provide any sustainable assistance and fair reparations,

Whereas the Idle No More #CancelCanadaDay campaign was initiated by the labour and activism of Indigenous People(s) who are committed “to honour to honour all of the lives lost to the Canadian state – Indigenous lives, Black lives, Migrant lives, Women and Trans and 2Spirit lives – all of the relatives that we have lost,”

Be it resolved that the SFSS Council support, amplify, and participate in the ongoing #CancelCanadaDay campaign by Idle No More, this year and for the foreseeable future,

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council disregard any form of celebration or idealization of so-called Canada at SFU,

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council instead use “Canada Day” to reflect on, remember, honour and support Indigenous Peoples who have been affected by colonization, genocide and forced assimilation. In particular in relation to the residential school system and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People(s)

Be it further resolved that SFSS Council help promote education of the colonial, oppressive and racialized history of so-called Canada through support, amplification and participation in decolonial and anti-oppressive narratives. Highlighting Indigenous knowledge systems, while discrediting settler-colonial narratives,”

Be it further resolved that the SFSS #CancelCanadaDay campaign where participating SFSS Membership and Indigenous Community Members submit a photo of themselves wearing an orange T-shirt attached with a short statement as to why they are not participating in “Canada Day” be released in relevant SFSS social media platforms anytime between the dates of June 30 and July 2

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Council hold the current SFU President, Joy Johnson, and future SFU Presidents accountable to ensure that all “SFU’s flags will stay lowered indefinitely to honour the lives and mourn the loss of these discoveries” and that we must oversee that these flags on the Surrey, Burnaby, and Vancouver campuses will never fly at full mast again;

Be it further resolved that there will be a campaign struck and led by VP Events & Student Affairs, Jess Dela Cruz with support from the VP Equity and Sustainability alongside the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Committee (BIPOC) and Executive Committee, that ensures that the Canadian national anthem will no longer be played or be sung by any staff, student, faculty member, alumni, or guest at all and any SFU events, ceremonies (included but not limited to: remote and in-person convocation ceremonies); nor through any form of recorded audio or video via speaker; and, at any



**Executive Committee**

SUB 3100  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

[sfss.ca](http://sfss.ca)

home sporting games where SFU Athletics play; and that we encourage Host Nation members and Indigenous elders to come open up SFU events and ceremonies,

Be it further resolved that the push towards SFU to replace the current flags with Host Nations' Flags fall under the same campaign as mentioned above.