Hello 2021!

by
Samantha, Naime, Teagan, and Maya

Aanii! Waaciye!

We hope you all had wonderful winter breaks and that you didn’t miss us too much in January! It is amazing how quickly time flies as we are already in the second month of 2021. 2020 may have thrown us for a loop, but here at ISSU we are still excited for what the new year has to offer, and we encourage you all to share in our optimism.

Speaking of excitement, you may have noticed a couple new names on the newsletter this month. We would like to extend the warmest welcome to a couple of our new members, Teagan and Maya! It is amazing to see that even in these times of distance and isolation it is possible for a community to grow and come together. So don’t be afraid to give 2021 a chance, you may be surprised at what it has to offer.
JOIN THE POWWOW COMMITTEE

Join us in the planning and preparation for ISSU’s Honouring Our Students (Virtual) Powwow (HOSPW). Come make new friends, new memories, and celebrate Indigenous cultures with us! Email us at indigenousstudiessu.uoft@gmail.com or message us on FB to become a member of committee.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Please take a moment to complete our Indigenous Studies Student Survey to gauge Indigenous Studies Student’s Experience here at the University of Toronto.

We would love to hear your feedback about how you feel about Indigenous Studies and how ISSU can improve your experience.

Click or copy the link here to take the survey! https://forms.gle/tg2CcxXkekngxHS5A

Entertainment Spotlight

All My Relations Podcast

By: Matika Wilbur and Adrienne Keene
Photographer Matika Wilbur and creator of the Native Appropriations blog Adrienne Keene collaborate on this delightfully engaging podcast. Together they interview Elders, academics and artists on topics ranging from museums to genetics and everything in between. All My Relations explores scientific articles, fine art and food sovereignty brightly punctuated by playful humour, personal stories and the co-hosts’ loving friendship.

Split Tooth

By: Tanya Tagaq

Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq takes her work to a new platform in the highly acclaimed Split Tooth. The story follows the challenges and joys of a young Inuit girl growing up in the 1970s in Nunavut. She learns from intense experiences on the land, with animals, her friends, bullies, teachers and family. When she becomes pregnant she begins to reestablish her relationship with herself, the land and the spiritual world. Split Tooth is a stunning combination of memoir, poetry, visual art and prose that will leave you longing for more.
Breaking Indigenous News

Drones will deliver medical supplies to remote First Nations in B.C. during COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Faculty of Medicine at UBC has received a $750,000 grant to deliver health care supplies to the remote First Nations communities using drones. ‘It’s an opportunity whereby we can explore the use of drone technology to support remote Indigenous communities in a new way,’… As the project gets started, an unmanned drone will carry supplies between Fraser Lake (population of 1,000 people) and the Stellat’en First Nation (population of 250 people) twice daily, dive days a week over the next year. The project aims to develop processes that can be replicated in other remote communities across Canada.”

News to Make You Smile

New record label aims to bring Indigenous music to the masses.

“The Indigenous music company, [Red Music Rising], announced last August, is a partnership between Coalition Music and APTN. Director and artist manager Matt Maw says the pandemic allowed him to focus on building the company and the brand. Maw feels it will fill a big gap between the traditional music industry and Indigenous artists… ‘Top of the Junos, top of the charts. I’m looking for folks to work with who are interested in making a name for themselves internationally as well as nationally, and making sure that moving forward that we have Indigenous representation.’”

Meet Jennifer Murrin

CIS Center Coordinator,
University of Toronto

Jennifer Murrin is Mi’kmaw/settler (German, Irish, Scottish) originally from Elmastukwek, Ktaqmkuk (Bay of Islands, Newfoundland). She has been working at the Centre for Indigenous Studies for over 10 years. Prior to her role here at the university, she worked in the field of social work with homeless and street-involved youth. Outside of her role here at U of T, Jennifer is a jingle dress dancer and a talented artist.

Jennifer is an essential and valued member of CIS and is dearly loved by both her students and colleagues. What would we do without her!? If you see her around campus, stop for a chat and say hello!

Her message to the students:

"I would like students to know that they have a home at the Centre for Indigenous Studies. One of the things I love most about my job is that I have the opportunity to witness students' growth and development. One of the things that I am most proud of is when the Indigenous Studies Students' Union was formed, and they decided to plan and host the Honouring Our Students Pow Wow. They made that happen and it was a huge success!"
Indigenous Creator

Kokom Scrunchies

Kokom Scrunchies was created by Mya Beaudry, a talented 10-year-old who is Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi. She makes sure that all Kokom Scrunchies are handmade with love. What started off as an idea, has taken Mya on a path of bringing Kokom Scrunchies to everyone, young and old. Based out of Gatineau, QC, Mya has turned her love of scrunchies into a thriving business.

Visit their website to see all the beautiful products handmade by Mya. Items range from stickers, scarves, and of course scrunchies. Check out their socials to see some of the beautiful items they’ve created and how people have styled them!

#buyIndigenous

WEBSITE: https://kokomscrunchies.ca

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK: @kokom_scrunchies

Indigenous Eats

Birch Bark Coffee Co.

Mark Marsolais-Nahwegahbow is Ojibwe and a Band Member of Whitefish River First Nation located on Birch Island, Ontario in the District of Manitoulin Island and is the founder of the Innovative First Nations social enterprise, Birch Bark Coffee Company, and he is on a mission to change Indigenous lives across Canada. Birch Bark Coffee Co. is a new start-up that was established in 2018 and is proud to offer Organic, Fair Trade and SPP Certified (Small Producers Symbol) coffee. Birch Bark Coffee Company is cause-driven whose primary existence is to improve on-going social issues for Indigenous families with a focus on creating a positive community change.

Birch Bark Coffee blends can be found on their website or in a variety of retail locations and restaurants. Find Birch Bark Coffee at The Sweet Potato here in Toronto.

HTTPS://BIRCHBARKCOFFEECOMPANY.COM

Hi! We are ISSU...

The Indigenous Studies Students' Union at the University of Toronto strives to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for people from all backgrounds, disciplines, and interests to come together and engage with Indigenous cultures and knowledges. We are always looking for new members so be sure to check out our Facebook page or email indigenousstudiessu.uoft@gmail.com!