

Open to the Future

Augustana Campus is committed - through its own budget and fundraising - to develop vibrant program options in the Wahkohtowin Lodge. The Lodge will house events and workshops tied to reconciliation and decolonization. It will also serve as a home base for programs to support Aboriginal students interested in post-secondary education, and for guest speakers to address a range of topics important to all of our communities.



Contact Us

For more information about the Wahkohtowin Lodge or to sign up for occasional emails from Augustana's Aboriginal Students Office about classes, events and gatherings open to the public, **email augustana.aso@ualberta.ca**

<http://aug.ualberta.ca/wahkohtowin>

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Wahkohtowin Lodge

A Space for Aboriginal Students to Share



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The Wahkohtowin Lodge offers opportunities for Aboriginal students to gather with each other, with Elders and with Indigenous community members. It was created so that Métis students, Inuit students and students from First Nations near and far have a chance to meet others who share similar backgrounds and histories. Our Aboriginal students can learn from each other while they are far from their home communities and their own languages, Elders and traditions.

At the same time, the Lodge provides opportunities for all students, staff and faculty - as well as alumni, Camrose community members and visitors - to interact with our Aboriginal students. Augustana Campus now offers a safe space where all visitors can learn about Indigenous cultures and participate in educational programs. In its prominent location and fluid design, the Wahkohtowin Lodge is meant to draw in students, staff, faculty and campus visitors. We hope that they may meet and connect in a beautiful, comfortable and welcoming setting.

In order to host this range of activities, Wahkohtowin Lodge represents the national diversity that exists among Indigenous peoples on this campus and in this territory. It offers opportunities for ever richer inter-cultural relationships. The artwork proudly displayed throughout the space features artists from neighbouring Treaties 6, 7, and 8 communities as well as from other traditional territories across Canada.



Consultation and Working Together

Since 2012, Augustana's Aboriginal Engagement Committee has been working on this exciting project with Aboriginal students, Elders from Maskwacis and other Indigenous communities, and architects and space planners from the University of Alberta. The process took on a new shape and momentum thanks to funding from the University of Alberta's Provost's Office during Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell's tenure as Acting Provost. The consultative and collaborative process, drawing from relationships established by Petra Cegiely at the Augustana Aboriginal Students' Office as well as by former Augustana Dean Dr. Roger Epp, has involved many other members of the campus and communities we serve.

With the creation of the Lodge, Augustana Campus has further committed to priorities set by the University of Alberta's president, Dr. David Turpin, and the university's evolving strategic plan, as well as the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Wahkohtowin: Kinship and Responsibility

The Lodge was created in the spirit of *wahkohtowin*, a Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) concept meaning "kinship." The term refers to the ties of mutuality and reciprocity that create responsibilities to other human beings and to animals, to the land, the water, and the sky, that offer the bases for our lives and relationships.

The incorporation of the Nehiyaw language through the name and syllabics used in the Lodge's signage acknowledge the location of the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus on the traditional territory of the Nehiyaw and our proximity to the Ermineskin, Samson, Montana, and Louis Bull First Nations in Maskwacis.

The process leading to the creation of the Wahkohtowin Lodge was an opportunity to strengthen our ties with these bands. By opening the Lodge, we will enjoy further opportunities to create bonds of friendship and respect with the other nations who shared this land before its colonization, such as the Blackfoot and Métis. All of these First Nations cultures deeply value traditions of welcome, which are consistent with our own welcoming traditions through our growth from Camrose Lutheran College to the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta.

