



Get in Touch

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Indigenous Planning Partnerships

Faculty of Architecture
Department of City Planning



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Indigenous Planning Partnerships

The University of Manitoba's Department of City Planning supports the community planning goals of Manitoba First Nations. Community planning can include land use, housing, and environmental planning. It seeks to improve the social, cultural, spiritual and economic wellbeing of the whole community. Since 2010, City Planning students have worked on cultural mapping, land use planning, community surveys, environmental planning, and comprehensive community planning with First Nation partners. Most of this work takes place in the Indigenous Planning Studio (CITY 7440: Planning Design IV).

What is the Indigenous Planning Studio?

The Indigenous Planning Studio is a Masters-level course (September to April each year). The term "studio" refers to a style of teaching where students work on a real-world planning project. This studio usually has eight to ten students split up into small teams to work with First Nation partners.

First Nation partners choose the projects with some input from the studio instructor to make sure students have the proper skill-sets. The instructor guides students and keeps in contact with each partnering First Nation. The students work directly with their First Nation partners during the university term.

It is important for students to visit their First Nation partner in the second half of September. This gives them to chance to meet their community contacts and to ask questions about the project. After the first visit, the students will set up more meetings to get feedback on their work.

How Can First Nations Get Involved?

Meet with the studio instructor to discuss possible projects

The studio instructor will discuss what your community is hoping to achieve and how the students might contribute. The First Nation should also choose a person to be the students' primary point of contact. This person will help them understand project goals and any community or cultural customs.

Develop an "Expression of Interest" letter

After the first meeting, the First Nation should put some of its ideas for possible student work into a short "Expression of Interest". Please include:

1. What the students might work on and the overall goals of the project. These priorities may change over time and that's alright.
2. Who the students' primary contact person will be. Will that person be available for the entire university term?
3. If there is a place where the students can work when they come to visit. This is not needed but it is helpful.
4. How the work fits with other priorities in the community. For example, has there been a Band Council Resolution to begin the project? Does it fit into a larger project?

Please keep in mind that the university term starts the first week of September, so the Department of City Planning likes to have a commitment by late July. Please get in touch as soon as possible because space is limited.
