



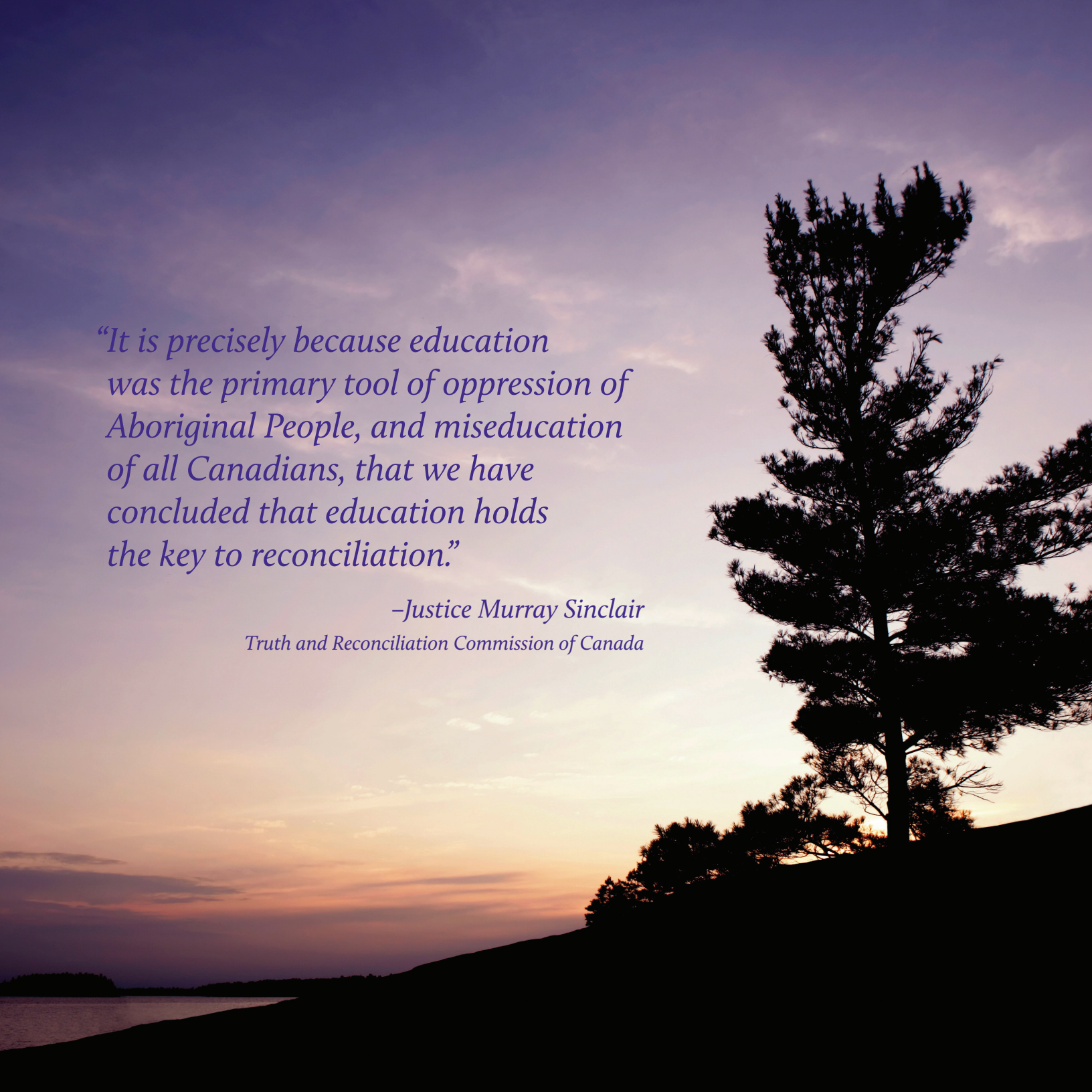
# MSW INDIGENOUS FIELD OF STUDY

ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME  
AND TWO-YEAR PART-TIME  
ADVANCED STANDING  
MSW PROGRAM

LYLE S. HALLMAN  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

**LAURIER**   
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY



A landscape photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a mix of purple, blue, and orange. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a large evergreen tree on the right side. The water is visible in the lower left corner.

*“It is precisely because education was the primary tool of oppression of Aboriginal People, and miseducation of all Canadians, that we have concluded that education holds the key to reconciliation.”*

*–Justice Murray Sinclair  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*

## GRADUATE STUDIES WITH AN INDIGENOUS WORLD VIEW

As the first Indigenous Master of Social Work program in Canada that is completely informed by an Indigenous world view, our goal is to develop social work practitioners who demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the history, traditions and cultures of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. This unique program includes the involvement of Indigenous Elders, a traditional circle process and Indigenous ceremonies.

### WHAT WE OFFER:

- An innovative MSW degree immersed in an Indigenous, wholistic worldview.
- A full-time and part-time MSW program for candidates with a BSW.
- An empowering and transformative learning experience.

### Master of Social Work (MSW) Indigenous Field of Study (IFS) at Laurier





## WHOLISTIC CONTEXT

You will develop an understanding of how social work practice and intervention with Indigenous populations is influenced by the history and value system of colonization, and the interrelated and intergenerational impacts. This includes the colonization of: Indigenous individuals, families and communities; Canadian colonial policies regarding Indigenous Peoples' culture and identity; Indigenous Peoples' capacity to engage in the Canadian free-market economy; and Indigenous Peoples' capacity to live within their cultural traditions within Canadian society.

## WHOLISTIC GOALS

You are required to fully comprehend this body of knowledge and actively engage in the consequences of this dynamic to create a more empowering type of reality for Indigenous Peoples. This includes developing a critical analysis of Indigenous experiences and to develop practice skills that will help undo some of this legacy. Courses encourage you to examine your own wholistic nature and how this impacts on your own inherent capacity to engage other people's lives while facilitating a healing journey. You will be evaluated with regard to traditional knowledge, traditional ceremonies and your ability to "carry" and express these teachings in the context of your behaviours and practice.

## WHOLISTIC PRACTICE

You are expected to respect and seek to practice within an Indigenous world view. Along with intellectual development, you will also engage in the development of your spiritual, emotional and physical selves. You will be expected to involve yourself in all aspects of this specialized program, which include cultural camps, ceremonies, classroom work, presentation of yourself to Elders, the circle process and in practice settings. You will be evaluated on your academic knowledge and ability to practice from an Indigenous world view – using an Indigenous wholistic healing approach with individuals, groups, policies and research, and the application of this knowledge within diverse and generalist practice contexts.

## WHOLISTIC WORLD VIEW

The MSW Indigenous Field of Study is rooted within an Indigenous world view. Its goal is the development of social work practitioners who facilitate empowerment, self-determination, cultural preservation and respect for the wholistic healing world view for all Indigenous Peoples.

## Indigenous Field of Study Wholistic World View





## COURSE SCHEDULE

### FULL-TIME

Offered at Laurier's Kitchener location.

<b>TERM 1 FALL</b>	SK628 Cultural Camp SK647 Elders' Teaching and Indigenous Identity SK646 Wholistic Healing Practices SK645 Indigenous Research Methods
<b>TERM 2 WINTER</b>	SK507 Social Justice and Transformative Social Work Practices SK644 Indigenous Kinship, Structures and Social Work Practices SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week)
<b>TERM 3 SPRING</b>	SK635 Indigenous Knowledges and Theory SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week) SK648 Elders' Teachings and Self-Reflection (Fasting Camp)

### PART-TIME

Our part-time partnership with First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI) in Tyendingaga for the 2025-26 academic year.

<b>TERM 1 FALL</b>	SK628 Cultural Camp SK647 Elders' Teaching and Indigenous Identity
<b>TERM 2 WINTER</b>	SK646 Wholistic Healing Practices SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week)
<b>TERM 3 SPRING</b>	SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week) SK645 Indigenous Research Methods
<b>TERM 4 FALL</b>	SK507 Social Justice and Transformative Social Work Practices SK644 Indigenous Kinship, Structures and Social Work Practices
<b>TERM 5 WINTER</b>	SK635 Indigenous Knowledges and Theory
<b>TERM 6 SPRING</b>	SK648 Elders' Teachings and Self-reflection (Fasting Camp)





## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 1 To be eligible for this advanced standing program, applicants must hold a Bachelor of Social Work degree from an accredited program in a university of recognized standing.
- 2 Academic background must include a half-credit course in research methodology. Students in the Indigenous Field of Study do not require statistics.
- 3 Applicants must have at least a B (73%) standing in the final academic year of their BSW degree (equivalent to 10 half-year courses). For students completing their final year of undergraduate study, eligibility is determined on the basis of the last completed academic year at the time of application.
- 4 Evidence of paid and/or voluntary experience in human service organizations, awareness of contemporary social issues and social work values, demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and motivation for a career as a professional social worker is assessed on the basis of application material.
- 5 Although this program is open to students of all cultural backgrounds, candidates for the Indigenous Field of Study must also have some familiarity with the traditional wholistic healing approach and/or have used it in their practice. This will be demonstrated through a personal statement, references and an admissions interview.

### THE PRACTICUM

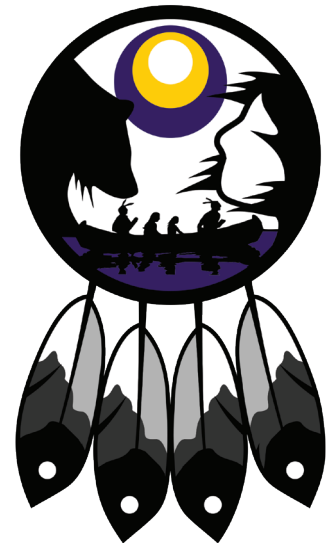
There is only one field placement in both the full-time and part-time program, for three days per week over two semesters.

**ADMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2025**  
(September 2025 intake)

[wlu.ca/programs/social-work/graduate/social-work-msw](http://wlu.ca/programs/social-work/graduate/social-work-msw)



**Dr. Lori Hill**  
Associate Dean,  
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[wlu.ca/msw/ifs](http://wlu.ca/msw/ifs)

KENJGEWIN TEG 

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Sharing and Learning