

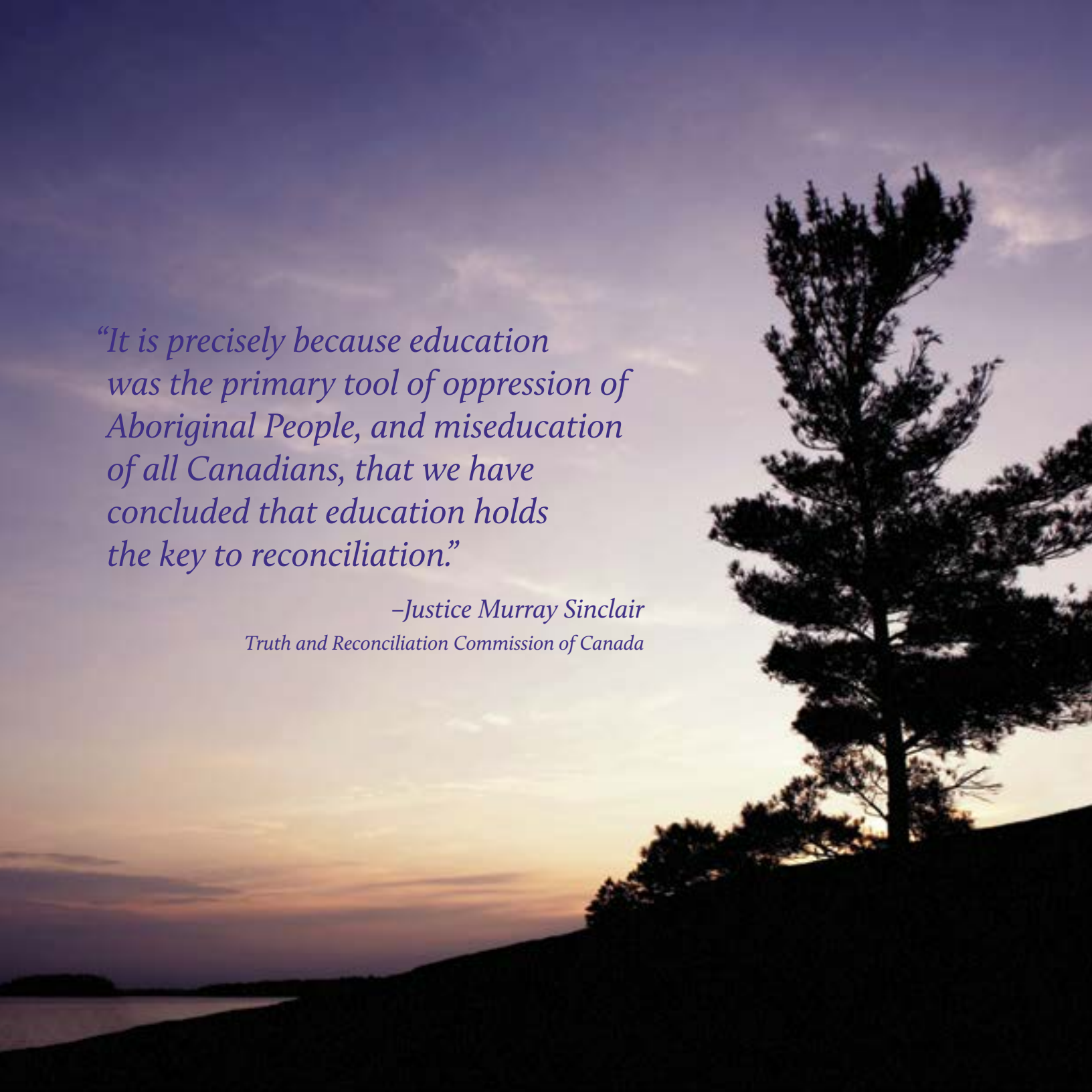


MSW INDIGENOUS FIELD OF STUDY

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

LYLE S. HALLMAN
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

LAURIER 
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY



“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.

TERM 1 FALL	SK628 Cultural Camp
	SK645 Indigenous Research Methods
	SK646 Wholistic Healing Practices
	SK647 Elders' Teaching and Indigenous Identity
TERM 2 WINTER	SK507 Social Justice and Transformative Social Work Practices
	SK644 Indigenous Kinship, Structures and Social Work Practices
	SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week)
TERM 3 SPRING	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 program partnership with Kenjgewin Teg in M'Chigeeng for the 2024–25 academic year.

TERM 1 FALL	SK628 Cultural Camp
	SK647 Elders' Teaching and Indigenous Identity
TERM 2 WINTER	SK646 Wholistic Healing Practices
	SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week)
TERM 3 SPRING	SK645 Indigenous Research Methods
	SK649 Advanced Field Education (three days per week)
TERM 4 FALL	SK507 Social Justice and Transformative Social Work Practices
	SK644 Indigenous Kinship, Structures and Social Work Practices
TERM 5 WINTER	SK635 Indigenous Knowledges and Theory
TERM 6 SPRING	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 (winter and spring).

ADMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2024

(September 2024 intake)

wlu.ca/programs/social-work/graduate/social-work-msw



Dr. Lori Hill
Associate Dean,
Indigenous Field of Study



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