Memorial University's Indigenous Verification Policy Timeline

2015-17

TRC Report

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report was released with 94 calls to action. In October 2017, Memorial released a position statement identifying the need for a strategic Indigenization plan.

2018-19

Community consultation

26 engagement sessions were held with self-identified Indigenous communities across Newfoundland and Labrador to inform the strategic Indigenization plan. In November 2019, a report was released.

2021

Strategic framework

Following extensive consultation, the Strategic Framework for Indigenization was approved and released indicating plans for Indigenous verification, among other recommendations.

2023

CBC investigation

In March, a CBC investigation of former president, Dr. Vianne Timmons, was released regarding her membership with an unrecognized Indigenous collective.

2023

Hon. Murray Sinclair

On May 1, Memorial senior leaders met Honourable Murray Sinclair to discuss Indigenous verification policies and the importance of listening to recognized Indigenous collectives.

2023

Decision point

Later in May, the Board of Regents motion for a round table was rescinded, and a motion was passed to use the services of an external Indigenous resource to engage Indigenous communities about verification.

2023

External experts

In December, First Peoples Group (FPG) was selected through a request for proposals process as the external agency to conduct consultations with Indigenous communities in the province.

2024

Independent consultation

FPG conducted consultations with Indigenous leaders, organizations and self-identified Indigenous members of the Memorial community. They compiled what they heard into a report with recommendations, including development of an Indigenous verification protocol.

2024

Proposal approved

In July, an Indigenous verification policy proposal was submitted to the President's Executive Council and approved.

2024

Working group

In October, a working group was formed to draft an Indigenous verification policy and procedures. The group consisted of Indigenous staff and faculty members from various local and global Indigenous communities.

2025

Policy consultation

Between April and May, public consultations were held on a draft Indigenous verification policy and procedures, as per Memorial's existing policy development process.