

Indigenous Research Community of Practice Refresh

In 2023 the Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST), Indigenous faculty, staff, students, alumni and community came together and formed the Indigenous Research Community of Practice (IRCoP). This community of practice is a virtual gathering space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members to network, connect and create capacity within the University of Calgary campus. It runs from September to May every year with meetings on the last Thursday of every month during the lunch hour. One of the primary objectives of the IRCoP is to establish a welcoming, safe space where Indigenous researchers and staff can share their experiences and celebrate their achievements.

Since the inception of the IRCoP, IRST's role has evolved in response to the community of practice's growth and changes. Currently, IRST holds the role of facilitation and administrative support. The IRST coordinators are the co-leads of the meetings with strong influence and engagement from IRCoP members. The methods of communication have also changed over time, now utilizing informational posters for upcoming meetings instead of agendas as a way to create a more welcoming atmosphere and uphold decolonized practices. IRST also maintains communication with the community of practice through emails and announcements made through the Teams Channel.

In early iterations of the IRCoP, monthly meetings would include presentations from both IRST staff and members who wanted to share their research, which primarily served to provide an educational and informative space. With careful consideration and open discussion with the community of practice members, the IRCoP format has changed. The main priority is to foster community in Indigenous research at UCalgary through interviews with scholars of Indigenous research, and open discussion sessions including topics such as mentorship, university policies and processes, and sharing of research projects and initiatives.

With the year coming to a close, the IRCoP has two more sessions before taking a break over the summer. The April session (Thursday April 24th) will be an open discourse session focusing on Knowledge Mobilization Strategies in Indigenous Research. Our May session (Thursday May 29th) will be an interview with Dr. Adam Murray. We are excited for our final meetings of the 2024-2025 academic year and look forward to welcoming new members to the Indigenous Research Community of Practice under the new structure.

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