

Standing Strong Task Force Terms of Reference

Prepared by the Office of the President

Last updated December, 2020

Terms of Reference

About Ryerson University

Urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education with more than 120 graduate and undergraduate programs and a vibrant school of continuing education.

Located in the core of the city, steps from the busiest pedestrian intersection in Canada, Ryerson is part of a diverse downtown environment.

[Ryerson's values](#) have long defined the university and are the basis upon which we have built our uniquely diverse, and inclusive culture. Ryerson's values are not simply aspirational statements, they are to be lived across all aspects of university life. Collectively, our values shape Ryerson's identity and provide the foundation for an education that equips our students to succeed.

Context

At the heart of the Ryerson campus is a 19-foot-tall statue of Egerton Ryerson that was erected in 1899, seven years after his death.

Over the past decade, the presence of the statue has become increasingly controversial. Ryerson students, faculty and staff, and the University's Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) have been involved in the process of reconciling Egerton Ryerson's connection to residential schools. That work has led to a number of actions, including an agreed upon 2010 statement about the role of Egerton Ryerson and, in 2018, the [installation of a plaque](#) next to the statue contextualizing Ryerson's role in the creation of Canada's residential school system.

At the time, the plaque and statement were significant steps in the university's journey toward reconciliation.

Public opinion in the world is shifting rapidly regarding historical monuments, especially those honouring figures who operated in and benefited from colonialism and racism. They are being judged through today's lenses and values of social justice, anti-oppression and anti-racism. Many Ryerson community members feel it is inconsistent and problematic that our campus is home to a symbol that is perceived to be counter to Ryerson University's values.

In the past few months, there have been multiple protests and the statue has increasingly become a magnet for activism. The statue is the subject of several petitions (one with over 10,000 signatures) -ra ontas

Presidential Task Force Overview

The Presidential Task Force has been formed to conduct detailed and expert historical research on the life of Egerton Ryerson and his legacy in order to develop standing principles that will guide the university on any recommended actions related to the statue, the name of the Institution, as well as future decisions of this nature.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Joanne Dallaire, Elder (Ke Shay Hayo) and Senior Advisor Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Professor Catherine Ellis, Chair of the Department of History.

Internally, Denise O'Neil Green, Vice-President of Equity, Community and Inclusion (OVPECI) and Steven Liss, Vice-President of Research and Innovation (OVPRI) will provide executive leadership for this initiative as well administrative support to the Task Force.

Mandate

The Presidential Task Force will be tasked with the following:

1. Conduct thorough, open, transparent consultations with Ryerson students, faculty, staff, alumni and others;
2. Examine and more fully understand Egerton Ryerson's ar

In line with Ryerson's mission, vision and values, the Task Force, under the direction of the co-Chairs, will provide updates to the Ryerson community via a micro-website that they will create and curate to keep the community apprised and engaged in the \$

related issues – the University will provide each member with relevant media clippings via email.

In the event of a media request, Task Force members are to notify [Central Communications at Ryerson University](#) of any enquiries for comment on Task Force matters. The Co-Chairs are the official spokespeople for the Task Force and it is essential that the Task Force speak with a unified voice.

Meetings

The Task Force will meet regularly and, at the sole discretion of the co-Chairs, may permit others to join. Meeting communications, notes, and discussion items will be kept. Meeting agendas and materials will be distributed at least one week in advance of the meeting. Quorum for meetings will be a majority of members present.

The Task Force will abide by the guidelines set by the University.

implementation, supervision and direction of the educational policy, general administration and property of Ryerson University. The Task Force has an advisory role to the President and reports to the President administratively.

Privacy and Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest

The Task Force is subject to all policies and procedures of Ryerson University including but not limited to the privacy policy and procedures, and conflict of interest policy and procedures. The force is sube

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Liaison Librarian with the Ryerson University Library

Cecile has been with Ryerson for 15 years, serving for much of the time as Communications and Liaison Librarian as well as liaising with programs in the Faculty of Community Services.

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President of the Ontario Black History Society

Natasha is an educator, historian, and curriculum consultant. The 2018 Vanier Scholar is completing a PhD in History at York University, researching the enslavement of Black people in early Ontario.

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Indigenous Human Resources Lead, Recruitment and Retention, at Ryerson University Tracey King, Miigis Kwe (Little Shell Woman), is Pottawatomi and Ojibway, Otter Clan and a citizen of Wasauksing First Nation. For 30 years, Tracey has worked full-time in many Aboriginal programs and services in Toronto universities and Aboriginal organizations, while completing three university degrees.

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Assistant professor, Design Leadership in Ryerson's School of Fashion

In addition to teaching at Ryerson, Riley is a student in the Communication & Culture PhD program at Ryerson and York University, researching how Indigenous creative industries like fashion can mobilize cultural and economic resurgence. Riley is from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation).

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Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture and Curatorial Practice, and Director of Wapatah Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge OCAD University Gerald's area of expertise is curatorial studies, Indigenous visual history and aesthetics, and contemporary Indigenous art. He is a Plains Cree and a member of the Siksika First Nation.

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Former Vice-President, Academic at Ryerson, former President of Nipissing University Dennis served for 30 years at Ryerson where he played a central role in steering the university through one of its most significant eras, when it earned full university status in 1993.

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Undergraduate Program Director and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology Heather's area of research study is housing, perceptions of crime and neighbourhood livability in urban areas. She is also a member of the Canadian Worlds of Journalism research team - an interdisciplinary research group collaborating with scholars from 63 countries to understand the professional roles and values of journalists.

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History student at Ryerson University

Tay was elected to the Ryerson Board of Governors in 2020.

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Partner and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lead at Knightsbridge Robertson Surrette Amorell, a Ryerson alumna, is a leader in the field of academic search and recruitment. She has provided leadership and support to academic institutions and not-for-profit organizations, including a 12-year career at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

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Urban and Regional Planning student at Ryerson University

Julia is a student representative on the Ryerson University Senate. As an At-Large representative, she serves on the AGPC Committee, Senate Appeals Committee, Policy 46 Review Committee, Academic Standards Committee and the Nominations & Elections Committee.

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Partner, WeirFoulds LLP

A Ryerson graduate, Frank is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been named as one of Canada's top lawyers in the area of corporate and commercial litigation by numerous legal publications. In addition to a Bachelor of Laws degree from Queen's University, he has a Certificate of Business Administration from Ryerson University.