

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Under Nipissing University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 29, 2023 and ratified by the Quality Council on May 5, 2023

In academic years 2024 - 2025 a program review was scheduled for Bachelor of Arts – Indigenous Studies. This was the 2nd program review for this program. The timeline of the review was as follows.

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
Bachelor of Arts – Indigenous Studies	January 16, 2026	Provost and Vice-President

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	December 17, 2024
2. Site Visit Conducted	March 18 – April 4 2025
3. Reviewer's Report Received	August 29, 2025
4. Department's Response Received	October 15, 2025
5. Dean's Response Received	November 12, 2025

A. REVIEW SUMMARY

Two external reviewers conducted the review. During the in-person site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals:

Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Dean and Associate Dean, Arts and Science

Internal Review Committee

Library Executive Director and Librarians

Registrar and Associate Registrars

Current Students

Associate Vice-President, Research Innovation and Graduate Studies

The academic programs offered by the Department which were examined as part of the review included:

Bachelor of Arts – Indigenous Studies

The follow program strengths were noted:

The Indigenous Studies program is distinguished by its foundation in Indigenous pedagogies, community accountability, and experiential, land-based learning. Its interdisciplinary approach spans multiple disciplines, employing blended and innovative delivery methods, culturally relevant assessments, and active community partnerships, including the Dadibaajimo Indigenous Storytelling Lecture Series. The program also offers cross-listed courses and certificates demonstrating responsiveness to student and community needs.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The review team recommended advancing Indigenous faculty hiring with cross-appointments, establishing an Indigenous-specific Canada Research Chair, expanding online and hybrid learning to enhance accessibility, leveraging cross-listed course enrollments for certificate development, tracking Indigenous student retention, developing interdisciplinary certificate clusters and Indigenous content requirement courses, and enhancing student research and community engagement opportunities.

Status:

Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2028

Date of next Cyclical Review: 2031

B. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Below are the recommendations that require specific action as a result of the Review, along with the identification of the position or unit responsible for the action in question. Notwithstanding the position or unit identified as being responsible for specific recommendations, the Dean of the Faculty has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the recommended actions are undertaken

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
Submit INDG cross-appointment position request	INDG	December 2025
Submit INDG CRC position request	INDG	Winter 2026
Establish mechanism to track and report Indigenous student retention rates	Dean/Institutional Planning	Fall 2026