



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

vpacad@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic
TEL: 778.782.3925
FAX: 778.782.5876

8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	March 19, 2025
FROM	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	PAGES	1/6
RE:	Establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM) (SCUP 25-)30		

At its meeting on March 19, 2025, SCUP reviewed and approved the establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM).

Motion: That Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM), within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for a 5-year term.

C: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research
Deanna Reder, inaugural Director for the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM), Undergraduate Chair, Department of Indigenous Studies

Memorandum

From: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research Date: March 5, 2025

Re: Establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM)

To: Dilson Rassier, Chair, *Ex-officio*, Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

Attached is a proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM). The proposal is led by the inaugural Director, Dr. Deanna Reder, Professor and Undergraduate Chair, Department of Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

The work of the proposed Research Centre aligns with their Faculty priorities, especially with regards to its focus on interdisciplinary and cross-department collaborations and to its engagement towards the community and knowledge dissemination. The activities of CRILOM will complete FASS's stated research objectives to: enhance research activity and reputation, build vibrant and inclusive research, integrate teaching and research. The objectives of the CRILOM do not significantly overlap with other SFU Research Centres or Research Institutes.

I recommend approval for establishment of the CRILOM as a Research Centre according to Policy R40.01.

Motion:

To approve and recommend to Senate the establishment of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM) for a 5-year term.



Attachments:

1. CRILOM Constitution
2. Memo from the Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



MEMO

Faculty of Arts and
Social Sciences
+1 778 782 9982
fassadri@sfu.ca
sfu.ca/fass

Academic Quadrangle
6165
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

**ATTENTION: Dr. Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice President,
Research (AVPR)**

FROM Steeve Mongrain, Associate Dean, Research & International

RE Approval of the CRILOM's Constitution

DATE March 5, 2025

PAGES 1

Dear Dr. Crooks,

The Dean's office is pleased to support the proposal for the constitution of the **Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM)**. The proposal presented by the **CRILOM's** Steering Committee, lead by Dr. Deanna Reder, is well-crafted and proposes a clear governance. The Dean's office appreciates the effort made by the Steering Committee of the new Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media.

The FASS Dean's Office supports the creation of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media. FASS communication team can help set up the website and prepare initial promotional material.

Sincerely,

Steeve Mongrain
Associate Dean, Research & International
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

CRILOM

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN INDIGENOUS LITERATURES, ORATURES, AND MEDIA
CRILOM
CONSTITUTION
24 February 2025

1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The objectives of the Centre for Research in Indigenous Literatures, Oratures, and Media (CRILOM) include the following:

- To provide a place for collaborative and/or multidisciplinary research on issues related to Indigenous storytelling on Turtle Island and around the world;
- To provide a special focus for collaborative research on: Indigenous Literatures, with particular focus on the neglected Indigenous archive (first axis); Orature by Indigenous storytellers, leaders, poets, artists in all its forms including stories told orally, speeches, spoken word, etc. (second axis); Indigenous Media and Indigenous Digital Humanities (third axis). Other collaborative projects and axes for research will be developed once the centre has been created;
- To provide a place for individual and collaborative research as well as creative and culturally-informed Indigenous methodologies;
- To host research fellows, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students specializing in one of the diverse areas of research in the field of Indigenous literary studies;
- To organize events and facilitate dissemination of research and ideas in Indigenous literary studies in the university as well as outside the university, in honour of and in collaboration with Indigenous communities and institutions, especially local host First Nations;
- To support the management of the Indigenous Voices Awards, already overseen since 2018 by Dr. Sophie McCall (ENGL) and Dr. Deanna Reder (INDG)
- To ensure that, in keeping with SFU strategic research plans, the research in Indigenous literary studies at SFU informs community discourse on pedagogy and Indigenizing the curriculum of schools at all levels from public school to graduate study.

2 ALIGNMENTS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH CENTRE WITH FACULTY PRIORITIES

The work of the proposed Research Centre aligns with Faculty priorities; especially with regards to its focus on interdisciplinarity and cross-department collaborations (in FASS as well as with other faculties such as the Faculty of Education and School of Communication) and to its engagement toward the community and knowledge dissemination. In particular, the 2024-2029 FASS Strategic Plan celebrates the following strengths, each of which is embedded in the goals of CRILOM:

- a) our centre will model research that is based on a “diversity of research focus, methodologies, perspectives” because Indigenous literary studies draws on a full range of storytelling across a variety of media as well as a wide range of theoretical approaches
- b) our centre will model the commitments that FASS has made to “Indigenization, decolonization, social justice, and EDI across departments”

- c) our centre will grow “the capacity of the Department of Indigenous Studies and the Indigenous Languages Program”
- d) our centre will amplify diverse and innovative methods for “knowledge mobilization”
- e) our centre will provide opportunities to mentor “strong graduate student researchers” and create “opportunities for undergraduate research.”

The activities of CRILOM will therefore complete FASS’s stated research objectives to

1. **Enhance Research Activity and Reputation.** While several SFU scholars (and CRILOM members) are already leaders in Indigenous literary studies, the establishment of this centre will allow us to work in tandem to raise the profile of the field and of our work and the work that needs to be done.
2. **Build Vibrant and Inclusive Research:** Unlike any other institution across the country, CRILOM will be able to bring together both Indigenous and settler scholars who are at this moment are highlighting and redefining the study of writing and storytelling by often neglected Indigenous writers and creatives.
3. **Integrate Teaching and Research:** the work of CRILOM members will affect both the K-12 curriculum as well as undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate study.

3 AN INNOVATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE INSTITUTION

The objectives of the proposed Research Centre do not significantly overlap with other SFU Research Centres or Research Institutes. While according to the list provided on SFU’s website [Centres and Institutes | SFU Research](#), there are other centres that focus on Indigenous content, none are designed to support Indigenous literary studies across Turtle Island. For example, the Indigenous Language Centre is dedicated to Indigenous language revitalization and the Bill Reid Centre of Northwest Coast Studies is focused on the visual and material culture of Coast First Peoples specifically. No research institute that currently upholds a similar function.

4 FACULTY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PROPOSED RESEARCH CENTRE

Leftover funds used to manage the Indigenous Voices Awards will be transferred from the SFU Publishing Program financial account. Numerous grants have also been submitted to support additional activities including: a Partnership Engage Grant (P.I Deanna Reder, \$25,000, results March 2025); an LOI for Stage One of a SSHRC Partnership Grant titled “Amplifying Diverse Voices: Spoken Web Phase Two” (co-director Deanna Reder, \$2.5 million, results of Stage One June 2025); an application for the CFI Innovation Fund (hosted by C. Crompton at UOttawa, with SFU as the second of ten partner institutions) titled “Open Science Infrastructure for Canad(ian)a: Digital Collections of the Future (DCoF)” (\$9,896,997.00; results November 2025). Reder will also apply in Fall 2025 for an Insight grant for the second stage of The People and the Text: Indigenous Literatures in Lands Claimed by Canada.

Any additional funds provided by the Faculty would allow the centre to hold special events during the first year of the centre’s creation and to host a research fellow or a (post)graduate student for a limited period of time.

5 PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR

It is proposed by the steering committee that the centre's director during its first year of creation is Dr. Deanna Reder from the Departments of ENGL and INDG. The first Treasurer will be Dr. Sophie McCall from ENGL; the first secretary will be Dr. Alix Shield from INDG.

6 CONDUCT

The Steering committee recognizes the obligation to conduct its activities in accordance with the University's policies, more precisely in:

- 6.1. ensuring that all agreements involving a Research Centre have secured the necessary approvals in accordance with SFU Policy B10.11 *Signing Authorizations*;
- 6.2. ensuring that governance documents and constitutions exist, are adhered to, and are amended as necessary;
- 6.3. maintaining a record of Research Centre meetings and relevant decisions; and
- 6.4. ensuring the timely and accurate submission of annual reports and, when applicable, renewal requests.

7 GOVERNANCE

- 7.1. The steering committee will be composed of at least three members: a director, a treasurer and a secretary, who are also regular Faculty, Term Faculty and Other Faculty members.
- 7.2. The committee is the primary decision-making body for the Research Centre;
- 7.3. The committee will hold at least one meeting every six months during which minutes will be taken;
- 7.4. The committee will maintain an up-to-date web/social media presence that includes a list of members and research activities;
- 7.5. The steering committee will inform the Department of Indigenous Studies and the Department of English of its activities.