Answering the Call to Action:
Cape Breton University Work Study Program

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The CBU Work Study Bursary Program provided an opportunity to hire a research assistant for 15 hours per week for a total of 12 weeks. The student will be exploring examples of how other academic institutions have incorporated the concept of Indigenization on their campus. The research will focus on faculty engagement through library and archives collections. As time allows, the research assistant will also work to apply the Open Scorecard on Truth and Reconciliation in University using the archives as a test unit on campus.

The work study student is supervised jointly between the archive and Mi'kmaq Resource Centre (MRC). Additionally, a workspace has been established at Unama’ki College rather than only working out of the archive. A new round of work study positions have been announced for the Fall 2016 term, and the archive will be applying to continue the work towards supporting Indigenization efforts at CBU.

Some of the future tasks for the work-study student assistant will be:

- Update policies and procedures following the lead of other archives working toward decolonisation and in consultation with Mi'kmaq consultants.
- Support staff professional development through courses such as the Knowledge Keepers of Mi'kma’ki at CBU
- Continue providing course support for faculty and students and promote newly accessible content
- Engage faculty before course development to include primary source materials
- Continue improving subject headings, keywords and descriptions through a participatory process
- Participating in increasing community partnerships with First Nations communities

The work-study student will also be coordinating with the MRC and CBU Library to provide support for related initiatives.