

# Hello November



## Ombudsperson Update

If you don't completely understand what an "Ombudsperson" does, it's probably not your fault. The reality is that ombuds departments, and the role of ombudspersons themselves, will probably always be misunderstood to some extent. There are many reasons behind this misunderstanding, but some of the more interesting ones include:

1. Any variation of the word "ombuds" is inherently foreign to most people, especially to those without a background in Scandinavian languages (ombudsman is a Swedish word commonly translated as 'delegate', 'representative', or 'advocate');
2. An independent and confidential support department like this easily conjures up a mental image of a massive room staffed by a huge team of fairness advocates (almost never the case in postsecondary education, e.g. SAIT has *one* Ombudsperson);
3. Not all ombudspersons are created equal; a military ombuds serves a different purpose than the CBC Ombudsman, who operates differently than the Office of the Alberta Ombudsman, which exists on an entirely different scale than the SAIT Ombudsperson.

Fortunately, accurate understanding is not a prerequisite for accessing this resource. Staff, students, and faculty are welcome to reach out when they need a confidential space to discuss confusion or conflict they've encountered, including with a SAIT decision, policy, procedure, or regulation.

The easiest way to connect is by **booking an appointment online** through the [Office of the Ombudsperson website](#). Email, phone, or drop-in inquiries are also possible, however it's always best to nail down an exact time so you can know exactly when you will be able to access assistance.

For more information on SAIT's Ombudsperson, or to learn more about how the Office of the Ombudsperson can provide support, visit <https://sait.ca/ombudsperson/>.

## **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Update**

### **Join the International Women's Day Planning Committee**

The International Women's Day Executive Planning Committee is looking for new Committee Members!

Looking to be a part of a great community while gaining new experiences planning an Institutional event? The International Women's Day Executive Committee is a voluntary committee comprised of employees who work together to put on the annual International Women's Day conference. The committee meets monthly and strives to reflect diverse perspectives and ideas to plan a fun and educational day of learning, inspiration and take away actions to champion inclusion in the SAIT community and beyond.

The committee is looking to fill many roles to help plan for the upcoming IWD on Friday March 7, 2025. One-hour bi-monthly meetings will begin in November until March 2025.

Want to join? Email [jenna.nakamura@sait.ca](mailto:jenna.nakamura@sait.ca) with your interest.

Please note that committee members are expected to attend monthly committee meetings. Each committee member will be responsible for duties that align with a specific membership role. Members will need permission from their manager or director to participate in the committee as member positions require work outside of their role at SAIT.

## **Make Some Noise for Mental Health this November**

Join Athletics and Recreation in celebrating the annual Make Some Noise for Mental Health campaign! The Make Some Noise (MSN) campaign is an innovative initiative celebrated across the ACAC, aiming to break down barriers, spark real conversations about mental health, and reinforce that mental health matters. This is a campaign close to our hearts here at SAIT, with its inception in January 2015 right here on SAIT campus! We have some special events planned to celebrate MSN this year and would love for you to join:

- **November 9, MSN Volleyball game** – come support your SAIT Trojans at Rally Pointe! Women play at 6 PM and Men at 8 PM. Our Trojans will be warming up in special MSN campaign shirts and our event team will be promoting mental health through the night. Entry is free!
- **November 16, MSN Men's Hockey game** – come support your SAIT Trojans at Winsport at 7PM! Our event team will be showing our support for mental health through the night. Entry is free!
- **November 19**, visit the mental health information booth, hosted by student Outreach and Wellness Leaders (OWLs), promoting mental health facts and resources (location & time TBD)
- **November 20, MSN march** – join us in marching across campus to MAKE SOME NOISE for MENTAL HEALTH! We will be meeting in front of Heritage Hall (time TBD).
- **November 21, morning yoga** – start your day off right with mindful movement at free yoga classes. Spaces will be limited, registration information coming soon!

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Moments**

Hosting a meeting with colleagues? Start it off with an EDI moment — a brief educational talk on a topic related to equity, diversity and inclusion.

[Pull inspiration from our collection](#) of talking points below, or share your own diversity moment — perhaps a takeaway from training you've attended, or an action that helped a student or colleague feel included. Begin to recognize these moments in your day-to-day work and share them!

- An effective diversity moment should:
  - be quick to explain
  - be positive in its impact

- spark discussion and learning

### **Introduction to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion course at SAIT**

Introduction to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at SAIT is a one-hour online, asynchronous course which introduces foundational principles, concepts and terms related to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). It is designed to be the starting point for employees on their individual EDI journeys. Learners will begin to grow their understanding of self and how to relate to others, as well as identify tangible ways to promote a healthy campus environment where everyone feels welcome, respected and empowered to succeed.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the current components of equity, diversity, and inclusion at SAIT
- Describe the foundational principles, concepts, and terms of equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Develop self-awareness and ways to respectfully work across differences
- Recognize the professional development opportunities available to continue EDI learning at SAIT

**New employees** are encouraged to complete the course as part of their new hire [Onboarding Checklist](#).

**Current employees** can complete the course by signing into [PeopleNOW](#).

### **Micro-learning: Teaching in Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Classrooms**

The Centre for Academic Development and Innovation (CADI) has created a pathway of four micro-learnings exploring teaching in culturally and linguistically diverse classes. Each module is asynchronous and can be completed in as little as 30 minutes.

**Log in to [PeopleNOW](#)** and search by module title to register:

- Module 1: Introduction to Supporting EAL Learners
- Module 2: Getting to Know Learners
- Module 3: Classroom Management

- Module 4: Assessments and Feedback

#### **4 Seasons of Reconciliation**

SAIT now offers the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course in partnership with First Nations University of Canada. Those who complete this three-hour training will gain foundational knowledge on Truth and Reconciliation and earn a certificate.

The course, along with its online resources, promote a renewed relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canadians, through transformative and engaging learning towards anti-racism education. This learning is in direct response to the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the importance of educating all Canadians in workplaces and classrooms.

- Employees can access the course through [PeopleNOW](#).
- Students can access the course through [mySAIT](#) using the [instructions found on sait.ca](#).

#### **Diwali on November 8th**

Student Engagement, in partnership with the Office of EDI, International Centre, and Interfaith Centre, is excited to announce the upcoming Diwali celebration—an inclusive festival for all SAIT students, staff, and faculty.

Join us for a lively event featuring traditional performances and interactive activities that embody the essence of Diwali. Whether you're already familiar with this festival or experiencing it for the first time, you're welcome to enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

**Date:** November 8, 2024

**Time:** 12 PM to 2 PM

**Location:** Irene Lewis Atrium, Stan Grad Building

We invite everyone to take part in this special celebration of unity in diversity and to create lasting memories together.



Student  
Engagement  
STUDENT SERVICES

Festival of Lights

# DIWALI

**STAN GRAD CENTRE**

**Friday, November 8th**

**12 PM to 2 PM**



Celebrate with us through amazing performances, music, and refreshments! All SAIT students and staff are invited.

In cooperation with:

Office of EDI  
Interfaith Centre  
International Centre



**SAIT**  
Southern Alberta  
Institute  
of Technology



We want to hear from you — please take a moment to provide your thoughts by scanning the QR code:

