



**Graduate  
Students'  
Association**  
University of Alberta



June 2025

# STRATEGIC WORK PLAN 2025-2026

Priorities & Actions for Graduate Students

## About the Strategic Work Plan

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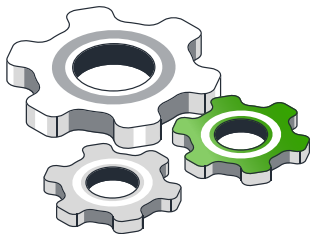
The Strategic Work Plan (SWP) is the GSA's roadmap for the year. It outlines the key priorities and goals that the elected leadership—Directly-Elected Officers (DEOs)—commit to working on during their one-year term. The SWP ensures the GSA stays focused, responsive to member needs, and accountable to the graduate student community.

The SWP *is not a list of everything the GSA does*, but rather a set of **intentional priorities** that reflect student feedback, emerging issues, and the capacity of the current board. These priorities guide how the GSA allocates time, advocacy efforts, and internal collaboration.

## How This Plan Was Built

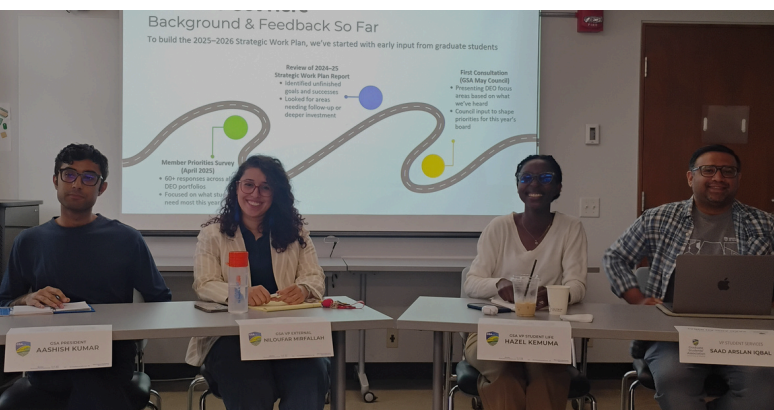
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The GSA began the 2025–2026 Strategic Work Plan process with a Priorities Survey (April 4 – June 9, 2025), where graduate students shared what they wanted the DEOs to focus on. This was followed by two consultations: the Town Hall on May 27 and a Labour-focused session on June 6, where students directly engaged with the executive team.



DEOs also reviewed last year's Strategic Work Plan—identifying what was accomplished, what was left unfinished, and what priorities should carry forward. These inputs helped shape each portfolio's goals for the year.

The VP Indigenous Relations, elected during the July Council meeting by the council members, has developed her priorities through consultations with First Peoples' House, IGSA, and other Indigenous groups on campus from July to August 2025.





# VP Indigenous Relations

Tamara Dubé

The VP Indigenous Relations supports the GSA's work related to Indigenous graduate students by coordinating programming, assisting with outreach efforts, and maintaining relationships with key partners like First Peoples' House and Indigenous Graduate Students' Association (IGSA). This role also helps ensure Indigenous perspectives are considered in GSA initiatives, in line with the GSA's existing commitments

## 2025–2026 Strategic Priorities

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### GSA Indigenous Awards

*Revive or establish a GSA award to honour outstanding Indigenous graduate students.*

#### Goals:

- Work with the GSA Awards Selection Committee, Faculty of Native Studies, Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, and First Peoples' House to set culturally appropriate criteria and selection process.
- Look into the previous Indigenous Graduate Student Award (last active in 2023) to decide whether to relaunch or replace it.
- Finalize criteria and nomination materials by November 2025 to align with the 2026 GSA Recognition Awards timeline.

### Cultural Safety & DEO Onboarding

*Create an Indigenous-focused training module to strengthen cultural safety within GSA leadership.*

#### Goals:

- Collaborate with First Peoples' House, Faculty of Native Studies, Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, and Dr. Florence Glanfield to co-develop the training module.
- Pilot it with current DEOs and prepare for full rollout in May 2026 during DEO onboarding.
- Expand access to GSA Council and committee members later in 2026.



## Creation of GSA Indigenous Relations Committee (Wahkohtowin Committee)

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*Lay the groundwork for a future standing committee to support Indigenous graduate student engagement and representation within the GSA.*

### Goals:

- Consult with Indigenous Graduate Students' Association, Indigenous students, and relevant stakeholders to explore the committee's purpose and structure.
- Begin drafting a proposal for the Governance Committee, including mandate, membership, and voting guidelines.
- Flag honorarium needs and explore funding options through the Budget & Finance Committee.
- Aim to complete a draft proposal by March 2026. If not finalized this term, prepare a transition plan for the next VP Indigenous Relations.



Photo from University of Alberta website