

Memorandum

Re: Recommendation for Equity Award

Date: March 20, 2019

To: CAUT Council

From: Pat Armstrong, Co-chair
Momin Rahman, Co-chair

The CAUT Equity Committee is pleased to recommend Renae Watchman for the Equity Award.

Dr. Watchman is an Associate Professor in English and Indigenous Studies and Co-Director of the Office of Academic Indigenization at Mount Royal University (MRU). She has shown extraordinary commitment to challenging behaviours and practices that have excluded Indigenous and equity-seeking people from the academy, and made a significant impact.

She has been instrumental in deepening Indigenous content taught at MRU – leading a workshop on Decolonizing Your Syllabus, and creating a mandatory Indigenous course requirement in the Department of English, among other things. She has facilitated the hiring of Indigenous faculty, successfully lobbying for an upcoming cluster hire. Dr. Watchman mentors students and faculty alike, assisting their success.

Her community outreach work includes working with local Elders from Treaty 7 community partners and raising awareness of the global struggle of Indigenous communities, developing field schools with Indigenous communities in the Pacific.

Her commitment to activism has also positively impacted MRU and beyond. Dr. Watchman organized a #decolonize MRU day on John A. MacDonald's birthday and a Gender Celebration event to counter an anti-feminist and homophobic speaker on campus. These are just two of many examples of her efforts to change culture on campus and challenge exclusion.

Many letters of recommendations attest to Dr. Watchman's commitment and leadership. The CAUT Equity Committee is honoured to submit the name of Dr. Renae Watchman for this nomination.