



**FÉUO - SFUO**  
FÉDÉRATION ÉTUDIANTE  
de l'Université d'Ottawa  
STUDENT FEDERATION  
of the University of Ottawa

07 - 85 University Pvt  
Ottawa, ON, K1N 8Z4  
Tél. | Tel: (613) 562-5966  
Télec. | Fax: (613) 562-5969  
[www.feuo.ca](http://www.feuo.ca) | [www.sfuoc.ca](http://www.sfuoc.ca)

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **Canada Day Statement**

Dear members,

We cannot continue to allow the resistance and struggle of indigenous communities on Turtle Island go without acknowledgement. The land that we live on, work on, learn on is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin people. However, all around Kanata (also known as Canada) these same communities are still being put through the traumas of colonization, forced assimilation, institutional and systematic exclusion and racism. As settlers and displaced peoples on this land it is important that we pair our recognition of injustice with action to rectify the wrong that has been and continues to be done.

As Canada Day approaches we can take the moment to as well as recognizing the long history of this land and its peoples also looking at the Canadians that have contributed significantly and positively to our history moving forward; those who have made efforts to make diversity matter and freedom the goal. It is a day to take in the fact that this land and history stretches past 151 years and the beginning of us commemorating its history should not be by celebrating genocide.

Our role as a students' union is to take stances to ensure a safer and more equitable and barrier free institution and access to education for our students. Last year the federation decided not to celebrate Canada Day or participate in the Canada 150 celebration. This year once again we will be taking the same stance and urge our student body to do the same. All over the world we are currently seeing the devastating effects of not properly acknowledging our past histories of colonialism, racism, and genocide and it is important that we work to break that cycle.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> we will be having the Continue the Fight event during which we will be making art, banners, and posters that will then be put up and photographed around the city. This is to remind folks while they are celebrating, that Canada began and continues to participate in a genocide of the indigenous peoples and traditional keepers of this land. To celebrate Canada day is to celebrate residential schools, forced sterilization, boil water advisories, underfunding



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of these communities in health and education, criminalization of traditional practices, pipelines MMIWG and so many more injustices being imposed on the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. To celebrate Canada day is also to celebrate the inaction of Canada and the support this nation has given in colonization and genocide in other parts of the world.

The SFUO stands with indigenous populations on this land and all around the world and we hope that you will stand by us

Yours truly,

The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa

*The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa is an Ottawa based students' union which represents over 33,000 undergraduate students and is also a member (local 41) of the Canadian Federation of Students which represents over 350 Canadian Colleges and Universities.*

Rizki Rachiq, President: [president@sfuo.ca](mailto:president@sfuo.ca)

Leila Moumouni Tchouassi, RISE Coordinator: [rise@sfuo.ca](mailto:rise@sfuo.ca)