



Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research  
Centre du festin traditionnel de recherche autochtone sur les ITSS

## *MIYO MACI HOWIN* WRITING RETREAT APPLICATION FORM

### **What is the Feast Centre *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat?**

As part of a suite of supports for Feast Centre Indigenous STBBI scholars, the Feast Centre is piloting the *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat for those who are committed to engaging in an Indigenous approach to writing aimed at integrating one's whole self into one's writing.

*Miyo maci howin* contains good movement with possibility signalling the integration of movement, mind and spirit. The purpose of the retreat is to explore how we can de-colonize our writing and connect with the Land and each other to build a Circle of support that is safe and non-judgmental and write from our whole selves. This retreat is aimed at those developing Indigenous STBBI writing projects (i.e., thesis chapters, journal publications, community publications, creative community-targeted projects, grant applications) who would benefit from dedicated space and time to write among your peers.

The writing retreat will provide space and time to write in relation to the Land and self. The goal is to bring body, mind and spirit together into the process of creating writing that is accessible. There will be opportunities for mentorship, one-on-one consultation and group reflection and input. The four-day retreat will centre time to reflect, share, and receive feedback on your writing as well as engage with the Land and with ceremony. The retreat will be grounded in ceremony and will provide applicants an opportunity to share and discuss their writing journeys, struggles and successes. We would like to emphasize that these projects are not limited to academic writing, as noted above.

The *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat will be hosted by our Feast Centre Elder Marjorie Beaucage. Marjorie Beaucage is a Two-Spirit Métis Auntie, filmmaker, art-ivist and educator, a land protector and a water protector. Born in Vassar, Manitoba, to a large Métis family, Marjorie's life's work has been about creating social change, working to give people the tools for creating possibilities and right relations. Whether in the classroom, community, campsite or the arts, Marjorie's goal has been to pass on the stories, knowledge and skills that will make a difference for the future. For Marjorie, story is medicine.

Marjorie takes on the tough topics that need to be discussed. Her work is focused on giving voice to, and creating safe cultural spaces for, traditionally silenced or excluded groups. Marjorie is known on the local, regional and national levels as an Elder who speaks truth to power, and who holds space for difference. She has been a Grandmother for Walking with Our Sisters; the Elder for OUT Saskatoon; and the Elder-In-Residence for the University of Saskatchewan Student Union. She has also been called on for national research initiatives that focus on Indigenous women living with HIV, Indigenous Harm Reduction, Indigenous youth who experience sexual

and gender-based violence, and posttraumatic stress. In all of these, Marjorie returns to story as medicine, to art as medicine. Marjorie says of her work, “creation is a powerful thing; whether you’re making a baby or a loaf of bread or a movie, it comes from the same place. To get people to tap into that energy, that creates possibilities, so they don’t get stuck in this craziness that we’re in, is transformative.”

The Feast Centre *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat will take place in Manitou Springs Resort outside of Saskatoon, SK from June 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Who is eligible?**

Up to eight persons will be selected to attend the writing retreat on a first come first served basis. Only those who submit a complete application will be eligible.

Flights, accommodations, and food will be provided.

### **How do I submit my application?**

Applications are to be submitted electronically using the following instructions:

1. Save your completed application as a PDF and send it to [feastapp@mcmaster.ca](mailto:feastapp@mcmaster.ca) by April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As stated earlier, applicants will be accepted on a first come first served basis so please submit as soon as you are able.
2. Your email subject line should include a) your name and; b) “Writing Retreat”.

Any information provided in any application may be subject to clarification and/or verification.

**Successful applicants who have been accepted to attend the *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat will be notified by email.**

## **Feast Centre *Miyo maci howin* Writing Retreat Writing Retreat Application Form**

Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

First Nations, Inuit, Metis Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Questions:**

**In order to support you in your writing journey, please answer the following questions (maximum of 2 pages double-spaced).**

1. Please briefly outline your writing project and specify where you are in its development.
2. What would help you the most to meet your writing goals during this retreat?
3. Please describe how you engage your full self in the writing process:
  - How do you move your body?
  - How do you shift your emotions?
  - How do you calm your thoughts?
  - How do you nourish your spirit?
  - How do you find your true North?
4. How do you like to get feedback on your writing- Peers? Mentors? Other?