



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

MIYO'MACI'HOWIN WRITING RETREAT

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 will be holding the *Miyo'maci'howin* Writing Retreat for the second year 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 is a Michif term that means good movement with possibility signaling how the integration of movement, mind and spirit lead to new possibilities. The purpose of the retreat is to explore how we can decolonize our writing, connect with the Land and with each other in order to build a Circle of support that is safe and non-judgmental. The writing retreat will provide space and time to write in relation to the Land and the self. 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.

There will be opportunities for mentorship, one-on-one consultation and group reflection. The four-day retreat will be focused on 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 former 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. She has created over 35 community based videos, including her recent harm reduction video portraits on reducing the harms of colonialism. Her recent book, *leave some for the birds- movements for justice* is also part of her legacy for the future. Marjorie has just been awarded the Canada Council for the Arts 2024 Governor General Award For Media Arts for her work in creative documentary.

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 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 post traumatic 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, is transformative.”

The Feast Centre *Miyo'maci'howin* Writing Retreat will take place in Manitou Springs Resort outside of Saskatoon, SK from June 10th to 15th, 2024.

Who is eligible?

Up to eight persons will be selected to attend the writing retreat. Preference will be given to Feast Centre award recipients who have not already attended two or more in-person activities. Once award recipients have been selected, additional people will be chosen on a first come first serve 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 by May 24th, 2024. 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.

Miyo'maci'howin Writing Retreat Application Form

Applicant name:

Institutional affiliation:

Email:

Phone number:

Mailing address:

First Nations, Inuit, Metis or non-Indigenous 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 in the area of Indigenous STBBI research 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?