



1 February 2019

**RE: Renaming Ryerson Proposal**

We, the elected representatives of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council, wish to express our conviction that the Ryerson house residence and Ryerson Vic One stream at Victoria college should be renamed.

Our mission, as stated in our Constitution, commits us to "advocate for and advance the interests of the union," to create "a safe, accessible and inclusive environment for all members of the Victoria College Community" and to "strive to eliminate inequitable practices both within its own institution and with regards to the broader Victoria College community by combating the systems of oppression in which they are rooted." It is in the pursuit of each of these commitments that we endorse this proposal.

We know that to stop glorifying Ryerson's name and instead honour someone or something else is the right thing to do. But further, we have learned that honouring this name over the many years at Victoria has caused additional harm. Prime Minister Trudeau, quoted in this proposal, speaking about the renaming of the former Langevin Block in Ottawa, said:

"we've heard from you and the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) and from many indigenous communities over the past year that there is a deep pain in knowing that ... building carries a name so closely associated with the horror of residential schools." (Kirkup, K. *Canadian Press* 2017)

It is this *deep pain* that is detrimental to Indigenous students' access to education at this University. It is a great threat to the 'safe, accessible and inclusive environment' that this Council is committed to creating. It is something Victoria must now begin to address, firstly, by renaming the Ryerson House and Ryerson stream. We call for this change with the knowledge that it is in the best interests of our student constituents, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation process which we must all answer to.



## **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

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We implore the governing bodies of Victoria University to respond to the calls to action presented in the proposal. We affirm this Council's commitment to contributing to any future consultative renaming process as may be appropriate.

In solidarity,

### **The Victoria University Students' Administrative Council:**

**Jayde Jones**, President  
**Devon Wilton**, Vice-President External  
**Nickolas Shyshkin**, Vice-President Internal  
**Zoe Ritchie**, Vice-President Student Organizations  
**Alexa Ballis**, Scarlet and Gold Commissioner  
**Ali Kehl**, Mental Wellness Commissioner  
**Cameron Davies**, Academic Commissioner  
**Carleigh Campbell**, Arts and Culture Commissioner  
**Emilia De Fabritiis**, Commuter Commissioner  
**Georgia Lin**, Equity Commissioner  
**Jared Connoy**, Sustainability Commissioner  
**Angela Medina**, Councillor  
**Gabrielle da Silva**, Councillor  
**Genevieve Crispin-Frei**, Councillor  
**Jai Kakkar**, Councillor  
**James Cassidy**, Councillor  
**Jenny Zhang**, Councillor  
**Katie Marsland**, Councillor  
**Lucy Faria**, Councillor