

Mission

Yellowhead Institute generates critical policy perspectives in support of First Nation jurisdiction.

The Institute is a First Nation-led research centre based in the [Faculty of Arts](#) at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Privileging First Nation philosophy and rooted in community networks, Yellowhead is focused on policies related to land and governance. The Institute offers critical and accessible resources for communities in their pursuit of self-determination. It also aims to foster education and dialogue on First Nation governance across fields of study, between the University and the wider community, and among Indigenous peoples and Canadians.

Why Yellowhead?

For too long, the relationship between First Nation peoples and Canadians has been characterized by inertia: the same old, paternalistic and racist policies and the corresponding apathy and neglect. Yet, the resistance of Indigenous peoples continues to grow and spread and today, there is an acceptance on behalf of governments and Canadians that change is required. This is a tremendous opportunity. The challenge is ensuring the direction of change is towards the transformational. Yellowhead Institute can play an important role here, scrutinizing government policy, standing up for the rights of First Nation peoples, and advocating models of change that support First Nation jurisdiction.

Outside of First Nation political organizations, activists, or academics, there is no national entity that brings an evidence-based, non-partisan, and community-first perspective. This is a glaring absence in First Nations ability to organize and mobilize to protect their rights and jurisdiction. The Yellowhead Institute aims to address this gap.

Five Core Objectives

1. Shaping new governance models and supporting governance work in First Nations communities and urban communities
2. Influencing policy development and holding governments accountable for policies affecting First Nations
3. Contributing to public education on the legal and political relationship between first Nations and Canada
4. Facilitating opportunities for, and supporting Indigenous students and researchers
5. Building solidarity with non-Indigenous students and researchers

Leadership

Hayden King

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Advisor to the Dean on Indigenous Education,
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