



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

**PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

OVERVIEW

Universities around the world, along with other institutions, are reckoning with the challenge of addressing their complex and sometimes troubling histories, including the recognition of individuals through the naming of buildings and programs, the awarding of honorary degrees, and the like. As time passes and our values change, or as we learn more about some of those we have recognized in the past, institutions must reckon with those we have honoured whose deeds or behaviour may now be considered objectionable or abhorrent.

Recently, we have made explicit and implicit commitments in the work done by the Truth and Reconciliation Steering Committee, the Task Force on Anti-Black Racism and other such initiatives to have our commemorations, including buildings, street names, and honorary degrees, align with our values.

As the University approaches its Bicentenary in 2027, enhancing and strengthening inclusive excellence is a key institutional priority, recognizing that U of T's contributions to the advancement of knowledge are inextricably linked to its ability to welcome and leverage ideas, talent, experiences and perspectives from all backgrounds. This is an especially appropriate time to review how we acknowledge historical injustices in our history of commemoration.

As a first step in responding in a thoughtful and prudent way to individual cases, there is a clear need to articulate general principles that can be used to guide our thinking and actions with respect to how we commemorate members of our community and their distinguished contributions. Such principles will be particularly helpful as we consider troubling questions about recognition of past, historical figures. They will also be useful in guiding future decisions on commemoration and naming.

PURPOSE

The Presidential Advisory Committee on Principles to Guide Recognition and Commemoration will be responsible for articulating principles to inform decisions on commemoration and naming, including the conditions under which the names of historical figures ought to be no

longer associated with the University's buildings, programs, or other elements of the physical and academic landscape.

Once these general principles have been articulated, they can be employed to guide decisions about individual namings, de-namings or re-namings.

To inform its work, the Advisory Committee should consult broadly across the University of Toronto to seek input and advice from our community.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

The Chair shall be appointed by the President of the University of Toronto.

Composition

The Advisory Committee, appointed by the President, shall be composed of approximately 12-14 members drawn from the following University estates: faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

TIMELINE

The Advisory Committee will submit its report to the President early in 2023, ideally no later than March 31st.

REPORT

The final report of the Advisory Committee should include a set of principles and guidelines to inform University decisions and actions. Where possible, it should also make recommendations regarding appropriate processes (including appropriate responsible bodies) depending on the type of recognition – building naming, honorary degree, etc. In addition, it should indicate whether any revisions to existing policies and guidelines are required.

The Committee's report will be submitted to the President. The President will take the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under consideration and these will inform the subsequent use, by the administration and by governance, of the general principles identified by the Committee. The report will be brought forward to the Governing Council for information.