

**Pretendian Found to be Occupying Canadian Professorship Designated for Indigenous Scholars Only**

**Subject:** Dr. Sandra Muse Isaacs

**Title:** Associate Professor, Dept of English and Creative Writing, University of Windsor

**Indigenous Identity falsely claimed:** Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians ancestry

**Determination:** Zero American Indian ancestry

Cherokee, North Carolina

Responding to complaints from Native people, the Tribal Alliance Against Frauds (TAAF) conducted an extensive investigation into the genealogy of Dr. Sandra Muse Isaacs, a U.S.-born white woman who claims to be a descendant of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

TAAF's investigation revealed that Isaacs has zero Indigenous ancestry.

Yet in 2018, the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada hired Isaacs into a professorship that is part of the President's Indigenous Peoples Scholar Program. By filling this position, Isaacs appropriated from actual Native scholars a tenure-track faculty position that the University had created exclusively for Indigenous scholars. These positions are in part a response to the educational priorities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Unfortunately, the University of Windsor appears to have failed to follow the lead of other universities in Canada. There is no evidence that it has developed or is in the process of developing an Indigenous verification policy of any kind.

At the University of Windsor, Isaacs teaches Indigenous literature to Native and non-Native students alike. She purports to do so from a Cherokee perspective, which she has never had and never will have.

In 2010, McMaster University, which at that time had no process for vetting claims to being Native, passed over actual Native students to four times award Isaacs the Harvey Longboat Graduate Scholarship for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Students. Additionally, Isaacs's book, *Eastern Cherokee Stories*, is full of falsehoods about her family, yet it won the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award.

TAAF demands that Isaacs publicly renounce her claims to being Cherokee, proclaim that she is in fact a white woman, apologize to American Indians and non-Indians at length, explain her past actions in full, and acknowledge the harm she has done. TAAF also demands that Isaacs resign from her faculty position at the University of Windsor and return to McMaster the funding from the four scholarships she received that were designated exclusively for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students. Finally, TAAF demands that Isaacs find ways to take additional actions to redress the harm she has done by falsely claiming to be Indigenous.

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