



Thursday, August 27, 2020

UTMSU In-Person Orientation Programming Cancelled

The University of Toronto (U of T) informed the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) that it is prohibited from using campus facilities to hold in-person orientation programming.

The UTMSU is extremely disappointed in how late this decision was made. Since March, the UTMSU has worked diligently to adapt its programming to COVID-19 safety protocols. We worked closely with various U of T representatives to assess and discuss our planned events, precautions, and procedures to ensure safety amongst participants. The UTMSU's Health and Safety Committee thoroughly assessed the risks associated with in-person programming and developed a plan to ensure smaller groups, proper physical distancing, and enhanced sanitization and safety protocols. During this time, no concerns about our programming were raised by the university.

Orientation is essential to all students. Though students in residence will still have in-person programming offered by the university, commuter students will be left to fend for themselves during this transition time. Due to the short notice, the UTMSU will not be able to extend its online orientation programming past Saturday, September 5, however, we will continue to explore ways to engage all students in the coming weeks.

Important Notes:

- In-person orientation programming is cancelled
- Online programming will continue as scheduled
- Reimbursements will be administered to those who purchased hybrid tickets; an email will be sent out to students discussing this process further
- The UTMSU will continue to offer a variety of cost-saving services, events, and campaigns in accordance with health and safety protocols

The UTMSU is dedicated to fighting for our students and providing orientation programming to support first-years and new students and their transition to the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. We encourage students to reach out to the UTMSU for support, questions, and assistance by emailing our President, Mitra Yakubi, at president@utmsu.ca.

In Solidarity,
The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union