

Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains

Public Safety Canada Report

May 2024

Acknowledging Indigenous Lands

Algoma University respectfully acknowledges that its three campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples. For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have inhabited and cared for these lands and continue to do so today.

The Sault Ste. Marie campus in Baawaating is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, specifically the Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation, and home to the Métis, located in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory. Sault Ste. Marie is also home to many urban Indigenous Peoples.

The Brampton campus is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We acknowledge the territory of the Anishinaabeg, the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Ojibway/Chippewa peoples. This land is also home to the Métis and many urban Indigenous Peoples.

The Timmins campus is located on Treaty #9 territory, also known as the James Bay Treaty. It is the traditional territory of the Ojibwe/Chippewa, including the Mattagami First Nation, as well as the Mushkegowuk (Cree), Algonquin, and Métis Peoples.

Who we are

Established in 1965 as Algoma College, Algoma U was initially established as an affiliate of Laurentian University in Sudbury. In 1967, Algoma College began offering classes in portable buildings located at the Cambrian College site, now the site of Sault College. Algoma University College moved into its current location, the former Shingwauk Residential School building, in 1971.

In 2008, Algoma U was granted its charter and, with that charter, achieved full autonomous University status as Ontario's 19th public University. As part of this process, the Ontario provincial government passed the *Algoma University Act*, which established Algoma U as an independent degree-granting institution. Most recently, the Ontario provincial government passed Bill 79, the *Algoma University Amendment Act, 2019*. This legislative change allows Algoma U to begin the process of granting future undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, including those at the Masters and PHD levels.

Today, Algoma University services students on three campuses located in the communities of Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton (Greater Toronto Area), Timmins, and is currently serving students globally (representing 60 countries) who are studying virtually and in person. Algoma U provides over 30 academic degree programs in a diverse range of fields through four faculties (Business and Economics, Sciences, Cross Cultural Studies and, Humanities and Social Sciences).

Vision and Values

Special Mission

It is the special mission of the University to,

- a) Be a teaching-oriented university that provides programs in liberal arts and science and professional programs, primarily at the undergraduate level, with a particular focus on the needs of Northern Ontario, and
- b) Cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities, in keeping with the history of Algoma University and its geographic site.

Vision

Leading meaningful change for generations to come.

Values

- Algoma University values respect, diversity, and adherence to academic freedom.
- Algoma University values and responds to the unique context and developmental goals of each of its campus communities.
- Algoma University values the historical significance of the Shingwauk Site.
- Algoma University values a supportive experiential learning environment.
- Algoma University values community partnerships and intercultural exchange.
- Algoma University values excellence in scholarship, creative endeavours, and research.
- Algoma University values and integrates Anishinaabe and Indigenous worldviews.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are commonly shared guiding principles of the Anishinaabe: Nibwaakaawin (wisdom), Zaagidiwin (love), Mnaadendimowin (respect), Aakodewewin (bravery), Gwekwaadiziwin (honesty), Dibadendizawin (humility) and Debwewin (truth).

Reporting Entity Summary

Reporting Entity Legal Name:	Algoma University
Financial Reporting Year:	May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024
Business Number:	826630865
Location(s):	Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton and Timmins Ontario, Canada
Entity Categorization:	Entity (University)
Sector:	Public Sector / Higher Education
Identification of a revised report:	N/A
Identification of a joint report:	N/A
Identification of reporting obligations in other jurisdictions:	N/A
Students	13,600 Students (FTE)
Employee Count (full and part time)	565

Policies and Due Diligence

As the public procurement landscape evolves, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and social responsibility, Algoma University will continue to uphold high legal, ethical, and professional standards in procurement.

Procurement Services ensures compliance with procurement directives, legislation, and international trade agreements including;

- Ontario Broader Public Sector Procurement Directives, issued by Management Board of Cabinet (BPS),
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA),
- Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA),
- applicable laws of Ontario including contract law, the law of competitive processes, privacy legislation, accessibility legislation and any other legislation that may be applicable.

Algoma U seeks procurement opportunities through collaborative frameworks like the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) and other consortia, including

Supply Ontario Vendor of Record arrangements, to leverage collective purchasing power and achieve cost efficiencies.

The University's Procurement Policy is reviewed to ensure alignment with federal and provincial legislation, related regulations, and domestic and international trade agreements. The policy is principles-based and includes a Purchasing Code of Ethics applicable to all involved in procurement activities, both internally (administrators, faculty, and staff) and externally (suppliers).

As of April 1, 2024, Broader Public Sector Directives (BPS) outlines requirements under the Building Ontario Business Initiatives Act (BOBIA). Established by the Ontario government with the intention to give preference to Ontario businesses for the procurement of all goods and services, wherever feasible. Algoma U procurement frameworks, including policy and process improvements are underway to support this and ensure compliance.

Activities & Supply Chain

Algoma's core business activities revolve around the provision of educational services, advancing research initiatives, and community engagement. Related supply chain activities include goods and services required for operations across our campuses (facilities management, information technology, lab equipment), acquisition of goods for research, educational supplies, furniture for teaching and learning spaces, as well as ancillary services.

The University sources materials from established suppliers and vendors to support its educational and ancillary services. Most goods are procured from within Canada.

Algoma U's direct import of goods and services are minimal and include the following categories;

- books/textbooks
- research and laboratory supplies
- scientific equipment
- electronic equipment

Algoma U does not manufacture, produce or distribute goods for sale /resale.

Assessing Forced Labour and Child Labour Risks in Our Supply Chains

We recognize the risks of forced labour and child labour in the supply chains for goods and services procured by the University. However, we believe the University's exposure to this risk is low, given the volume of goods we import from countries with reported controversial labour practices.

Remediation Measures

Based on our knowledge, the University has not identified any instances of forced labour or child labour in our supply chains. Consequently, no remediation measures were required for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2024, in respect of any modern slavery, including forced labour or child labour.

The University has not taken any associated measures to remediate the loss of income to the most vulnerable families that result from measures taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in their supply chains.

Future Initiatives, Education & Training

As an institution of cross-cultural learning, we recognize our responsibility to raise awareness of the issue of forced labour and child labour both internally and externally. Algoma U is committed to ongoing training for staff on forced labour and child labour risks and best practices, beginning with procurement offices in fiscal 2024-2025. This initiative will expand to include other major stakeholders and suppliers involved in our supply chain activities.

Assess Effectiveness

The University recognizes that regular monitoring and assessment of our efforts to mitigate the risk of forced labour and child labour in our supply chain operations are critical. Algoma U's commitment to key performance indicators (KPIs) to align with our efforts in reducing these risks in our supply chains may include;

- Percentage of procurement staff trained
- Spend on imports from high-risk countries and product categories
- Number of contracts that include specific language regarding compliance with the university's code of ethics on forced labour and child labour

Approvals and Attestation

This report has been approved by Algoma University Board of Governors in accordance with the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act.

Signature:

Name and Title: Kelli-Ann Lemieux, Vice Chair, Algoma University Board of Governors

Date: May 30, 2024