



FIRST NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
of CANADA

# 2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*tānsi*  
(Cree)

*toked yaúŋ he*  
(Dakota)

*ʔedlánet'e*  
(Dene)

*dóken ya'ú*  
(Nakota)

*ānīn*  
(Saulteaux)

*Sunrise at First Nations University, Regina Campus*



# STUDENT PRESIDENTS' GREETINGS

## **Lucy Musqua, Regina Campus Student Association President,**

Last year, the FNUUnivSA Regina Campus organized and hosted several events including: Halloween festivities, Summerfest, round dance, the Tony Cote Welcome Back Powwow during which time Oscapeos Roland Kaye and the Elders Office were honoured and given back the chair of that powwow while the SA will continue to be the Committee. The SA was also honoured to be a part of several events such as the Ted Nolan Bursary Announcement. These are just a few of our initiatives and we look forward to the upcoming year and providing even more events and services.



## **Vanessa Jack, Saskatoon Campus Student Association President**

My name is Vanessa Jack from Thunderchild First Nations. I'm currently in my fourth year of an Indigenous Social Work degree at the First Nations University of Canada – Saskatoon Campus.



I am the President of the First Nations University of Canada Student Association in Saskatoon which is such an honor to advocate and work with such compassionate people all wanting the best for our student body.

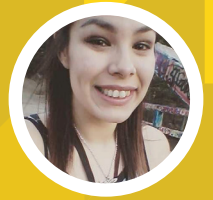
The FNUUniv SA team was instrumental in planning and organizing workshops of self-care to focus on balancing the four aspects of our life; we also brought in informational workshops regarding the Sixties scoop, two-spirited people and gang violence.

As the President of the SA my main focus is to ensure and provide a culturally enriched environment for the student body; for example creating a sewing group that created projects such as ribbon dresses, ribbon shirts and other traditional garments. We also created a class to learn how to drum and to learn the drum teachings the dances.

As part of health and fitness programs we provided sports program which includes all of Saskatoon teams such as volleyball and slowpitch; this coming fall we would like to have a woman's basketball team for the First Nations University of Canada Saskatoon campus. We are also focusing on the students and bringing an awareness to hunger and homelessness within our student body, we give our support to the student pantry, this helps with students facing food insecurities. We started an initiative to help support our students with their food insecurities by providing a monthly draw of \$100 hamper.

## **Kimberley Beatty, Northern Campus Student Association President**

The Northern Campus Student's association has been very active this year. After a bit of a late start, I became president in November 2018 and our association started getting set up soon after. We starting by re-establishing protocols and procedures within the Student Association, as well as working on our constitution. We have worked on monthly activities such as family and student days where we have gone bowling or had movie nights. This year we also organized a Pride Day and we helped coordinate the annual FNUUniv Round Dance. Our association is also very family and student focused, raising funds for 10 gift cards for families this past Christmas. Supporting our students and their families is incredibly important to us as an association and we are grateful to be able to be of service.



## **Elicia Munro-Sutherland, Saskatoon Campus Vice President of Finance**

Our job as the First Nations University of Canada Saskatoon Campus Student Association is to listen, serve, and to advocate the needs of the student body. It has taken us a long time to get to where we are now. The biggest need for the past couple years was a space to call our own and parking. After a few years of hard work and dedication, we were finally successful. Our contract at our new space is for ten years and we will be moving in this fall. That is a big deal considering the past of not having a steady place to call home. We are very grateful for those in head office who worked hard with us to get us here. However, we still have a long way to go but we understand that it will take time. A few other accomplishments that we were able to do this year was the Chasing the Buffalo Conference, Feast, & Round Dance. That event was to promote post secondary education where we waived the \$100 application fee for whoever was interested in attending FNUUniv or UofR. The student association also organized many workshops and presentations that focused on health and wellness in all four aspects of the being - emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. We put together family events, cultural activities, support groups, and sports teams this year as well. Other big things that we are looking forward to in the future, is a meal program for our students, new computers, and a subsidized daycare. Our hope in ten years is to have a campus exactly like Regina. Anything is possible and no dream is to big.



# OUR ELDERS:

## FNUNIV ELDERS (KÊHTÊ-AYAK) COUNCIL

Our Elders were very busy this year. In addition to their regular duties – working with students, visiting classes, assisting with professors, and leading ceremonies – our Elders also took part in an expanded Elders' Gatherings. This year, gatherings were held on all three campuses in January, February and March. In addition to our resident Elders, knowledge keepers and guest Elders from across Western Canada and even the US, joined our Elders to share their knowledge with students, staff, and many others. Hundreds of people took part in these three events.

Our Elders were also busy working on: Asonamatowin – Sharing of Indigenous Knowledge, is a sequel to their first film, Waniska – an Awakening of Indigenous Knowledge. The film is slated for release later in 2019 and will feature Elders from the Kehta-ayak council as well as a medicine-picking trip travelling through northern British Columbia, Alberta and northern Saskatchewan. The Elders, just like the title of the film, Asonamatowin are passing along knowledge bundles and ceremonial protocols to honor tradition and culture.

To cap off the year, the council attended the Yorkton Film festival May 25th. They were nominated for an award for Waniska. They didn't win but the film itself had the largest number of attendees at the screening.



*Sylvia Obey, Jackie Nixon, Audrey Cochrane, Mary Lee, Florence Allen, Rose Bird, Margaret Reynolds, Preston Gardypie, Willie Ermine, William Rattfoot, Gilbert Kiwestep, Roland Kaye (left to right):*



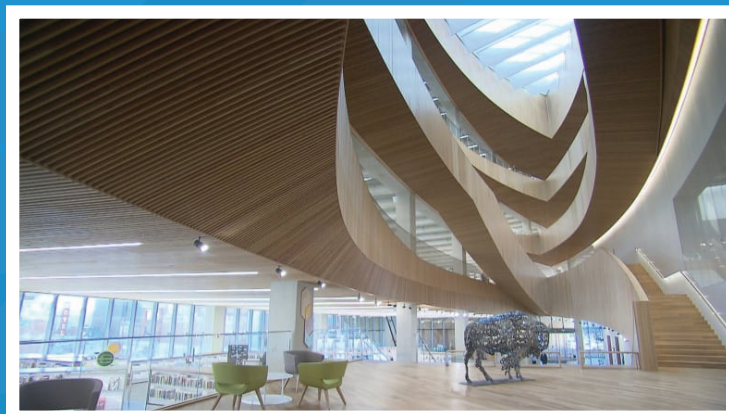


# FACULTY AND STAFF

Congratulations to Arzu Sardarli and First Nations University on winning one of the 2017 NSERC PromoScience competition spots. The “National Science Laboratory Video Lessons for Aboriginal Youth” is a three-year project that will create Laboratory video lessons for First Nations schools in the subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.



Over the next three years, the university will work with the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The project includes working with high school science teachers, recording and editing interactive video lab experiments, and helping schools purchase equipment so their students can participate in these interactive lessons.

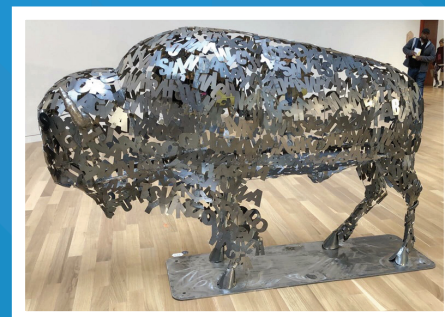


Lionel Peyachew was one of several Indigenous Artists to install work at the Calgary Public Library.

Peyachew’s work is now part of the Indigenous Placemaking series at the new Central Library. On the feature stairs leading to the mezzanine

level, there is a platform in the heart of the building that features a life-size buffalo sculpture made up of metal letters that spell various words in Indigenous languages, created by Lionel Peyachew.

The unveiling was November 1st, 2018.



**Complete List Of Faculty Achievements and Publications**

<http://fnuniv.ca/faculty-achievements>



# “KÊHTÊ-AYAK” ART INSTALLATION

The “kêhtê-ayak” Art Installation was a dynamic and living artistic interpretation of our history, traditions, way of life, languages and knowledge systems. The project was a student project lead by Professor, Lionel Peyachew and Peter Brass. Seven current and former students were commissioned to complete the project, which had 4 elements:



**ELEMENT 1:** The Tipis



**ELEMENT 2:** The art work (liners) that adorned each tipi



**ELEMENT 3:** The lights that shone each night



**ELEMENT 4:** The buffalo sculptures

The tipis were part of an art project entitled kêhtê-ayak named after our Elders Council at First Nations University. The symbolism incorporated into the project has many meanings.

1. The tipis represented tradition.
2. The art work on the winter liners represented our stories, from the time of Creation to the present – including contact, the history of residential schools and our current journey for self-determination.
3. The lights represented our traditions and stories that still burn bright and serve to light the path forward
4. The buffalos represented education, with education as the new buffalo

The installation was in place for eight months.



# ATIM KÂ-MIHKOSIT RESERVE RED DOG RESERVE SIGNING CEREMONY FEBRUARY 13TH, 2019



*"The importance of education has been instilled in us from our ancestors," Michael Starr, Chief of Starblanket Cree Nation. "Right from our first leaders, we knew education was very important."*



# ROSE NOLAN SCHOLARSHIP – TED NOLAN FOUNDATION

This year, a very generous donation was made to First Nations University on behalf of the Ted Nolan Foundation. Ted Nolan, former NHL player and coach traveled to Regina to present the cheque in person. First, Mr. Nolan delivered a very inspirational and moving keynote at breakfast for students, staff, and alumni.



Mr. Nolan also announced the \$75,000 donation to fund an annual Rose Nolan Scholarship at First Nations University and presented the cheque to Regina campus student association president, Lucy Musqua. The scholarship is named after Ted Nolan's late mother, Rose Nolan, and was created to assist Indigenous Women working on their degrees.



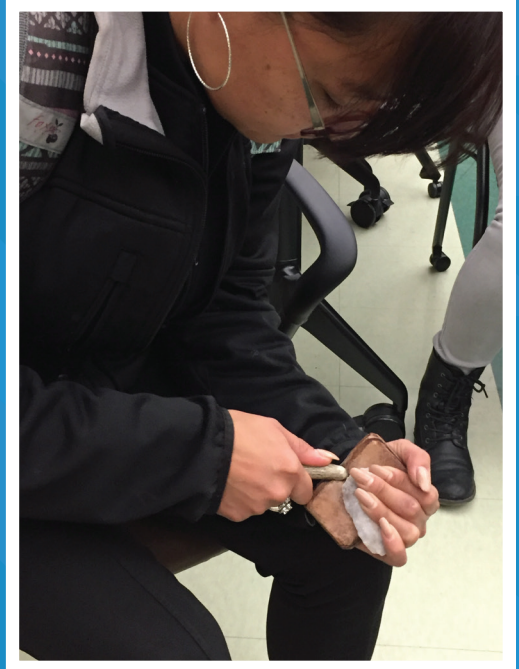


# INDIGENOUS STUDIES 290 – BUFFALO AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PLAINS –BUFFALO HARVEST

On September 29th, students took part in a buffalo harvest on George Gordon First Nation. The students then stretched the hide in the FNUUniv basement and our students tried their hand at scraping the flesh and hair sides. We had a visit from Gabe Lamarche, a graduate student of Archeology at Univ Saskatchewan who taught us about stone tools. Students got a chance to try their hand at flint knapping and tried out the Knife River flint tools like those that made their way from North Dakota 1,000's of years ago.



Over the fall break, students finished scraping the hair and then cut out 14 inch disks, miniature rawhide shields that each student stretched over a willow frame with help from Fine Arts professor, Lionel Peyachew. Finally, students were able to display their work at a Round Dance, which was enthusiastically embraced as an opportunity to pass on the Buffalo's gifts to our student and First Nations communities. Students raised funds from their families and communities and we've received generous donations from FNUUniv faculty, staff, sessionals and the FNUUniv Powwow committee.





# IN THE COMMUNITY:

## STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND STAFF

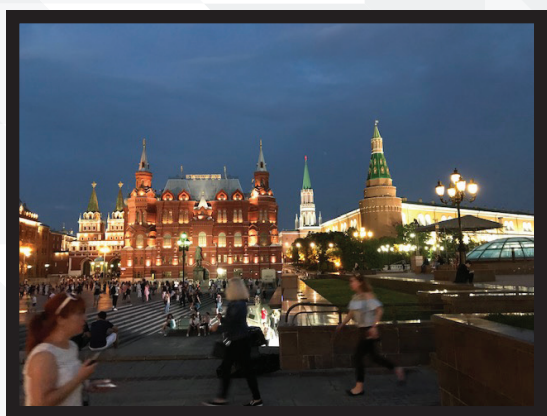
### ALUMNI:

Ben Ironstand and Erin Goodpipe are working with Grade 11 and 12 students at Regina's Thom Collegiate, to teach students about Indigenous history and treaties. The students conveyed their culture through art developoing strong nations within their classroom. During the course students are shown how to use an axe, saw, make wooden bow staves, bead moccasin vamps and sew ribbon skirts.



### PROFESSORS:

Edward Doolittle was invited by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russian Federation to judge the Yakutia



International Science Fair in Yakutsk, Russia, part of the first Yakutia International Science Games, from July 8 to 15 of this year. 85 contestants from Russia, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Slovenia, Singapore, Turkey, and Bangladesh participated in the science fair. The science fair was judged by an international team of 25 judges led by Canada's Jeffrey Hoyle, with judges from Russia, Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Malta, Great Britain, Jamaica, and six from Canada, including First Nations University's Edward Doolittle, who was on the group judging the mathematics and computer science projects.

"It was great to meet people from all around the world participating in the international science fair," said Edward Doolittle. "The strength of some of the projects created by young students, including Indigenous students, some just 15 and 16 years old, was astonishing. The experience has inspired me to encourage our own Indigenous students to engage in similar activities here in Canada."

### NORTHERN CAMPUS:

The Northern Lights Community Development Corporation "Elder Teachings Project" and the Culture Committee organized a Teepee Teaching afternoon on the Roof of the FNUniv Northern Campus.

Cultural Advisor Preston Gardypie set up a Teepee and Elders Florence Allen and Rose Bird shared their wisdom and teachings with many students, using the Teepee as a great teaching tool.

Students gathered for teachings and were rewarded with BBQ hotdogs, hot chocolate and some treats. It was a great opportunity for staff and students to build on community and relax in the cool, but sunshine filled afternoon.





# CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

## Yvette Arcand

It has been another exciting year as Board Chair for First Nations University of Canada. As you know, this year some new board members will be joining us. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Allan Adam and Richard Boudreault to our board. We are very lucky to have them.

Once again, I'm struck by the initiatives undertaken by both staff and students each year. The expansion of our online programming and delivery allows many from our furthest locations in our province to begin their academic journeys from their home communities. This allows them to gain confidence and experience through online offerings without having to sacrifice their support networks.

This year, we hosted excellent science and entrepreneur camps on our Regina campus. Dozens of students from across the country came to learn more about both the fields of science and business from an Indigenous perspective. These kinds of initiatives are not only important for recruitment but also demonstrate to our young people how important their worldviews are in each and every aspect of our lives. In addition to these camps, our library hosted to sets of day camps for kids focused on literacy. Such important work would not happen without the dedication of our Elders, staff, and students.

I would also like to congratulate this year's First Nations University of Canada Powwow Committee. Once again, you drew countless people to our community in Regina to showcase their talents and culture for hundreds of people every day. At First Nations University, we integrate our ceremonies, traditions and culture into our institutions so we can teach current generations how to learn and pass on knowledge. This is our way and it leads to so many good things.

As we also say goodbye to outgoing President Mark Dockstator, we look forward to the process of finding a new president – one who will no doubt be able to build on the strong foundation left for them. As your board chair, along with the board, we look forward to being part of the next step in the university's journey.



**BACK ROW** (left to right): Dr. Thomas Dignan, Edward H. Mirasty, Dr. Ken Coates, Ruby Sinclair  
**FRONT ROW** (left to right): Bernadine Walkingbear, Loretta J Pete Lambert, Yvette Arcand, Lori-Ann Daniels  
**MISSING:** Dr. Alike Lafontaine

*The First Nations University of Canada is fortunate to have a strong board of 9 voting members, who devote their time and expertise, to help guide the university.*

*The Board also has two non-voting Elder observers, plus a student and faculty observer, who provide council and support for the Board.*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the summer of 2014 I had the privilege of being hired, for a five year term, as President of First Nations University. Now, with my five year term coming to an end and I depart the University, I reflect on what an amazing opportunity it has been to serve the students of First Nations University, the First Nations of Saskatchewan and the many wonderful friends, colleagues and enthusiastic community of supporters that lift up the University on a daily basis. It has been an amazing five years.

I would like to highlight and extend my heartfelt thanks to the committed team of faculty, staff and Elders at the University who accomplish so much every day. Through their individual and collective efforts the University has transformed over the last five years to become a strong, stable and successful First Nations institution that is now a recognized national leader in Indigenous education. Our students have transformed the University, through their many initiatives, to become the first choice for all those who want a quality, First Nations-based post-secondary educational experience. Our record student enrollments over the past few years are testament to the wonderful job our students have done in this regard.

Of special note the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders/Helpers, through their founding of the Elders Council (“kêhtê-ayak”) and the work they do every day, have become the heart and spiritual soul of the University. Their many accomplishments are perhaps best captured by the award winning film they directed entitled “Waniska”. The film highlights the lives of First Nations University students and the efforts by Elders to help “awaken” Indigenous knowledge as part of the educational and learning experience at the University. The unique feature of having Elders direct a film is a first in Canada, if not the world and is emblematic of the many wonderful, insightful and leading edge efforts undertaken by the University over the last five years.

There are many other programs, initiatives and projects that, over the last five years, have served to transform the University. Although too numerous to enumerate all, I would like to highlight the following as being indicative of these transformative changes: the National Science Camp, Youth Entrepreneurship Camp, the first annual “Honouring the Next Generation” Round Dance held at the Saskatoon police headquarters, a new daycare for both the Regina and Saskatoon campuses, the eminent development of a Traditional Teaching Space near the Prince Albert campus, the development of the national Indigenous educational initiative entitled the “National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education” (NCCIE), a new and improved location for the Saskatoon campus, and the creation of the atim kê-mihkosit Reserve Territory at the Regina campus, in partnership with the Star Blanket Cree Nation.

Thank you to everyone...faculty, staff, students, Board members, Elders and supporters for your incredible contributions to make the positive and transformative changes that have occurred at the University over the last five years. I very much look forward to witnessing, from afar, the continued growth of the University into a world leader in First Nations post-secondary education.



**Dr. Mark S. Dockstator, President, First Nations University of Canada**



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**We would like to acknowledge the supporters and funders  
who assist us in achieving our mission.  
They include:**

**The First Nations of Saskatchewan**

**Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations**

**Government of Canada through the  
Department of Indigenous Services Canada**

**Government of Saskatchewan through the  
Ministry of Advanced Education**

**University of Regina**

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