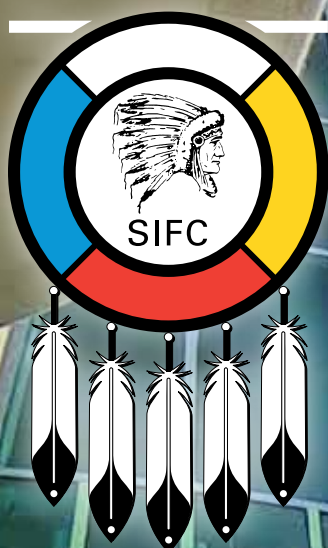


FIRST NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
OF CANADA



# 2015 - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*tānsi*  
(Cree)

*toked yaúŋ he*  
(Dakota)

*ʔedlānet'e*  
(Dene)

*dóken ya'ú*  
(Naakota)

*ānīn*  
(Saulteaux)



# STUDENT PRESIDENTS' GREETINGS

## **BRAD BELLGARDE, Regina Campus Student Association President**

On behalf of the First Nations University of Canada Regina campus student body, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to our stakeholders and community partners of Turtle Island. 2016 will mark the 40th Anniversary of FNUniv. It is also a time to reflect on where we came from and where we will go. Many great leaders have walked through the doors of FNUniv since 1976, and as we move forward it is with great pride that we take ownership of fostering our alumni to achieve success both spiritually and physically on their paths of life.

I would like all to remember that the First Nations University of Canada is for everyone and not just those of Indigenous ancestry. It is through the strong belief in Indigenous philosophy that our students not only gain education in academics but also in identity.



## **Trevor Dubois, Northern Campus Student Association President**

On behalf of all students, past and present, from the First Nations University of Canada Northern Campus I would like to acknowledge the people, organizations, and levels of governments that make up this great institution. To all the Professors, Elders, and Administrators your hard work and dedication is what helps make this institution exceptional.

Being located at the Prince Albert Northern Campus is great for anyone who wants to start or finish



their educational journey. The First Nations University of Canada will soon celebrate 40 years of Indigenous Education. The changes made since opening 40 years ago are the reason FNUNIV is such a great institution. At FNUNIV you are considered a person, not just a number.

From all of us at Northern Campus we would like to thank everyone who made this year amazing. We will continue to take pride in our campus and our community.

## **Melanie Dene nitisíyihkâson, Saskatoon Campus Student Association President**

Tânsi! Melanie Dene nitisíyihkâson. I am the Student President for the Saskatoon Campus of the First Nations University. I will soon transfer to the University of Alberta, where I will complete my undergrad in Indigenous Studies with a minor in Political Science. I was recently asked the question: Why is FNUniv so important? I can only answer this from my own experience. While attending FNUniv I felt a sense of belonging, a sense of community, and felt truly empowered not only by the courses I took, but also by my instructors and staff that supported me and my educational journey. As an Indigenous student, I felt a sense of pride, a sense of self, and a sense of culture that was incorporated into my learning. I believe that when we bridge Indigenous knowledge and western knowledge it balances our spirits as Indigenous people, thus creating a very rewarding experience.



## ALUMNI MESSAGE

For many of our Indigenous Alumni Members, we enroll into FNUniv with a desire to learn more about our culture, traditions and languages because often this was never taught to us with many of us being impacted by the residential school era. For our non-indigenous brothers and sisters, it is also a way for them to learn about the history of our people in a learning environment that is both welcoming and open. Although, we can never measure the attitude or behaviour changes in this people, the graduates themselves carry their teachings that they have learned far beyond their time spent at FNUniv. To us, that is the true measure of success.



The Alumni Association plans to work with FNUniv on goals that strategically aligning our goals with their 2013-2018 Strategic Plan to include such areas as: 1) extending outreach and awareness of cultural initiatives of the University; 2) strengthening the number of partnerships with Indigenous organizations, institutions and communities; and 3) take steps to strengthen relationships with K-12 schools.

Respectfully,  
**Cherish Jean-Baptiste President, FNUniv Alumni Association**

# OUR STUDENTS:

## Diane Adams

This year marked an impressive first for a First Nations of University Canada student. Métis student, Diane Adams, won the Dean's Medal in Engineering and Applied Science. It is given to the most distinguished graduate in the Faculty of Engineering at each convocation on the basis of academics, leadership, and community involvement. Diane Adams is the first FNU student to ever win this award. She was the valedictorian for FNU and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Health Sciences (great distinction) and a certificate in Indigenous Health Studies. She is also a certified Public Health/Environmental Health Officer. Diane won the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Centennial Scholarship for a promising Aboriginal graduate.



Diane Adams

She is now pursuing a Masters of Public Health with the School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan, focused on First Nations Drinking Water Security.

For a full list of our scholarship winners please go to:  
<http://fnuniv.ca/scholarship-winners>



Jamin Mike (left) winner of the Fall 2015 Indigenous Author Award and First Nations University of Canada President Mark Dockstator

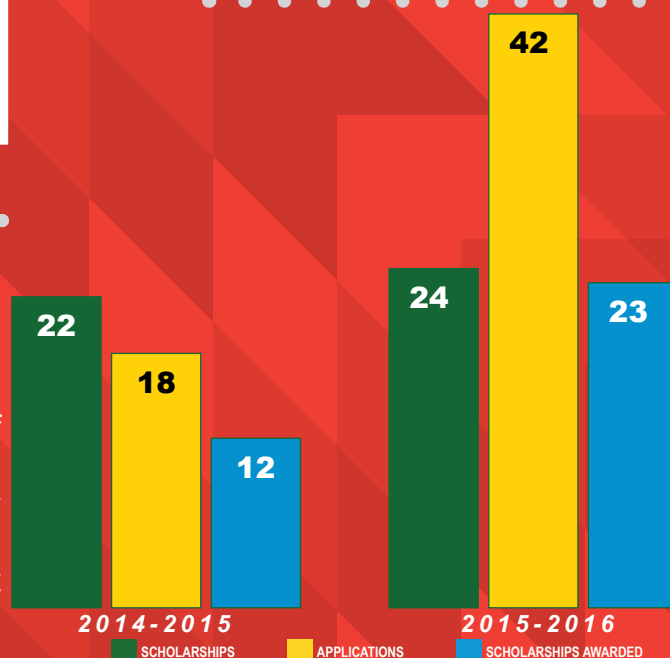


Fall 2015 Scholarship Presenters and Recipients

## Cherish Jean-Baptiste

Our own Cherish Jean-Baptiste is one of the recipients of the 2015 Crowning Alumni Achievement Award.

Cherish graduated from First Nations University of Canada in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on marketing. She now works as a business consultant for Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) and is the President of the First Nations and Métis Fund (FNMF) and First Nations Business Development Program (FNBPD).



SCHOLARSHIP COMPARISON



## OUR ELDERS:

The First Nations University of Canada has 5 Elders and 3 Elder's helpers working at our campuses in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. We also have numerous guest Elders who take part in ceremonies, class presentations and other university gatherings/events. Each Elder has their own expertise in the areas of traditional culture, medicine, and knowledge, as well as languages, ceremonies, and history. Students can sit down and talk with our Elders whenever they need guidance or knowledge. Our staff is also fortunate to have access to our Elders, as they assist in meshing Academic rigour with strong Indigenous cultural values, traditions and languages.



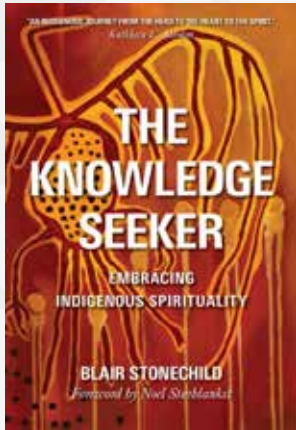
The kehte ayak Council was formed in 2014. The Council provides guidance and shares important Indigenous knowledge that informs all of the activities and teaching at the First Nations University of Canada. Their role is to sit together and find ways to work for the benefit of the University and the students. The Elders are integral to every part of our University. They help support students (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), many who are far from home, and aid them in maintaining or developing connections to culture.





# OUR PROFESSORS

**Dr. Blair Stonechild**, Professor of Indigenous Studies, and the first professor hired at the First Nations University of Canada forty years ago, continues to teach, publish and inspire. Dr. Stonechild continues to be a trailblazer and continues to seek



a space for Indigenous spirituality both in the classroom and the wider community. His most recent work, ***The Knowledge Seeker, Embracing Indigenous Spirituality*** – shares his own journey of the last 60 years, from attending residential school to getting his PhD, and after. Dr. Stonechild shares the teachings and philosophy of his people.



Definitely a book on this year's must read list, it explores Dr. Stonechild's own journey to reclaim his own spirituality and culture.

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Congratulations to **Lionel Peyachew**, Associate Professor, Indian Fine Arts, whose beautiful and poignant artistic concept was chosen to honour Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) as a permanent monument outside the Saskatoon Police Headquarters.



Lionel's design was inspired by a story shared by the mother of a young woman who is one of our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. According to her, watching her daughter dance was like watching an eagle in flight dancing on a cloud.





**Dr. Fidji Gendron**, Associate Professor of Biology, was awarded the University of Regina's Teaching Award of Excellence in Flexible Learning for her unique online teaching of science courses.

Dr. Gendron's use of such teaching methods like LivePen and VoiceThread, along with her engagement of Elders in her classes, demonstrates innovation and leadership in non-traditional methods of teaching and learning.

**Dr. Sharon Acoose**, Associate Professor of the Indigenous Social Work Department, released her book: ***An Arrow In My Heart: A First Nation Woman's Account of Survival from the Streets to the Height of Academia***. It is an autobiographical account on her life before she started her academic career.

In the book, Dr. Acoose talks about the life experiences and hardships she's endured such as being molested as a child, prostituting herself on the streets, and spending time in prison. She's been working on this book for a long time, starting off as journal entries which transpired over the years into a book. Dr. Acoose felt it was important to tell her story with the hope it will inspire someone who reads it.



### Complete List Of Faculty Achievement and Publications

<http://fnuniv.ca/2015-2016-faculty-achievement-and-publications>

## FACULTY AND STAFF LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS

The Faculty and staff of FNU are dedicated to the success of our students and our institution as a whole. In return, we want to recognize their hard work and achievements. This year's long term service awards saw many milestones achieved:

### YEARS OF SERVICE

- 5 years:** Todd Itcush, Rena Littlepine
- 10 years:** Joanne Goodpipe, Tania Kristoff, Lionel Peyachew
- 15 years:** Cory Gauthier, Dr. Bob Kayseas, Joan Mantee, Amy Morris
- 20 years:** Karen Richard
- 25 years:** Joan Sanderson, Lorie Smith
- 35 years:** Del Anaquod



2015-2016 Long Term Service Award Recipients

### Lorie Smith, Assistant Registrar-Northern Campus:

Lori began working with the First Nations University as a full time, permanent employee since October, 1990. She started at Regina Campus when it was still known as the "Saskatchewan Indian Federated College" working for both the School of Business and Public Administration and the Off Campus Programming. In 1993, she transferred from the Regina to the Prince Albert Northern Campus and continued to work with the Extensions and Northern Operations Department. Lorie is the mother of one son, Dillon and step mom to two, Mallory and Jordan. She is now proud to have gained the new title of "Grandma" to her 1st Grandchild Lily.





# LANGUAGE SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY:



The First Nations Language Instructors' Certificate, which was offered on the Carry the Kettle Nakoda First Nation, launched in the summer of 2015. Five students completed the program, which included intensive summer and fall sessions.

While much of our programming takes place in our campus classrooms, FNUUniv is dedicated to supporting language retention and revitalization within our communities. For more information please visit <http://fnuniv.ca/programs> under Indigenous Languages and Linguistics.

## OUR LANGUAGES:

*At First Nations University of Canada the foundation of Indigenous Knowledge lies in our languages. At First Nations University we are dedicated to retaining and increasing language retention and knowledge. As such, our Linguistics and Language specialists have been incredibly busy this year, publishing, presenting, and teaching.*

**Dr. Vincent Collette** was one of the lead organizers of the 3rd Prairie Workshop on Language and Linguistics, on March 5, 2016. All four of our linguists including *Vincent Collette, Olga Lovick, Jan van Eijk and Arok Wolvengrey* delivered papers, as did our Saulteaux instructor, Lynn Cote, and several of our students. Graduate student Natalie Owl, who concluded her MA with us in August 2015 with her thesis *"Effects of the Intergenerational Residential School Experience and Negative Racial Stereotyping on Ojibwe Speech Patterns in Sagamok Anishinawbek"* and undergraduate students Anna Hengen, Leah Carter, Megan Koot and Emily Dmyterko also presented.



Dr. Vincent Collette

### DR. COLLETTE'S PUBLICATIONS

2016 L'histoire des mots : toboggan. *Revue historique* 27(1):55.  
2016 Morphologie et morphosyntaxe du creenglish. *La Revue de l'association québécoise des enseignants du français langue seconde* 32(1):88-104 (peer review)

Two idiomatic verbs of speaking in North East Cree. *Papers of the 46th Algonquian Conference*. Macauley, M. (ed.), Buffalo: SUNY Press (in press, peer review)

# FNUUniv supports the revitalization of our traditional languages.

tānisi  
(Cree)

tókhed yaún he  
(Dakota)

ʔedlánet'e  
(Dene)

dóken ya'ú  
(Nakota)

ānīn  
(Saulteaux)



# CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Every year, FNUniv host hundreds of students from different First Nations and other communities.

It is an opportunity to introduce them to campus life, talk about university requirements, and also connect with our Elders and members-at-large.



This year, Jody Bellegarde, Fidji Gendron, Leanne Stricker, and Vincent Ziffle from the Science unit had fun in the lab with grades 11 and 12 students from the Nakoda Oyate Education Center - Carry the Kettle Nakoda First Nation. Students discovered that food coloring and milk mixed with detergent create tie-died art; soy milk, not so much.



*Exchange Students from Fujioka, Japan visit First Nations University.*





# RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

Every year, 3000 students take programs in person, online, and via video-conference, on all of our three campuses. This success is due in part to the efforts of our Recruitment and Retention Staff, Community-Based Programmers, and Academic Advisors.

Our 2015-2016 Recruitment Campaign was taken to every Saskatchewan First Nation high school and Career Fair possible. We also made targeted trips to Alberta and Manitoba, showcasing our campuses, and unique programming based on Indigenous Knowledge.



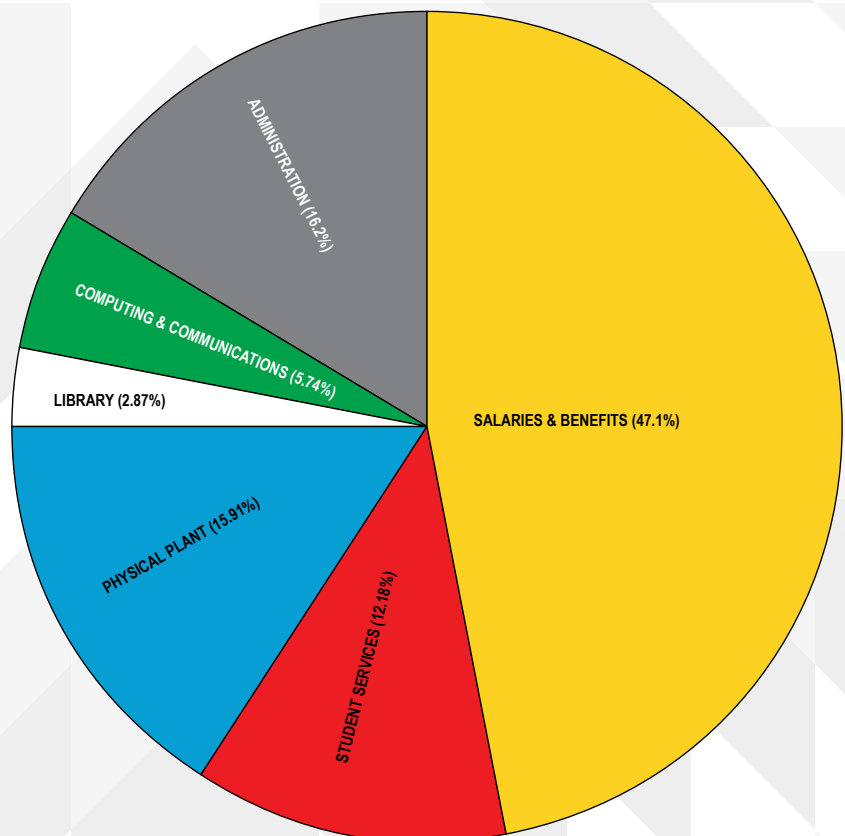
*Trina Joseph and Joey Sugai – Retention Specialist and Student Recruitment Officer, Prince Albert Campus*

# FINANCIALS

Comprehensive audited financials can be found on the First Nations University website at the following link:

<http://fnuniv.ca/facts>

*A snapshot of the Functional Areas based on the 2015-2016 operating budget.*





# CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

## David Sharpe

It's hard to believe another year has gone by so quickly. As the Chair of the First Nations University of Canada Board of Governors, I would like to congratulate you all on a year filled with continued success, growth, and stability. This institution is, and has always been, a leader in Indigenous education. Having launched almost 40 years ago, the university has always sought to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, languages, and culture into its academic programs. This was not just a lofty goal, but indeed this philosophy formed, and continues to form, the very foundation of the work that has taken place here for almost four decades.

The result is an institution which is not only ready to respond to the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, but is in fact already a leader of that action as well as a home for the conversations that have started to form around the goals of Reconciliation. It is a great honour to be a part of these talks. I look forward to the year ahead, where we will have an opportunity to look back on all of our achievements and triumphs. However, I am most excited to look ahead to the continued leadership this institution is uniquely situated to provide as our country begins to tackle the unique opportunities presented by Reconciliation.



*The First Nations University of Canada is fortunate to have a strong Board of Governors with nine members, who volunteer their time and expertise, to help guide the university. The Board also have several non-voting observers, including Elders, a student and a faculty member who provide council and support to the Board.*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As our university community, past and present, prepares to celebrate 40 Years of Indigenous Education, it's also time to look back and reflect on this past year of success and growth at First Nations University. It is a great privilege and honour to be fortunate enough to witness firsthand the hard work and subsequent accomplishments of our students and staff. This has been another year of success and increased stability.

Almost 40 years ago, the First Nations University of Canada was conceived as a response to the call of 'Indian control of Indian Education'. Since that time we have grown to be a national leader in many areas, such as language retention, cultural renewal and academic programs designed and delivered with the input and support of First Nations communities. Ahead of our time, we have been working on the process Reconciliation for almost 40 years. As such, we are perfectly positioned to help support others find their own path on the road to national Reconciliation and we are doing this on a daily basis.



From participation in national events, to cutting-edge research, and prolific academic publishing, our professors are known as leaders and experts in each of their fields. At the heart of this research are the core values and beliefs found in our Indigenous languages, cultures, and traditions. These continue to be guiding forces in our personal lives as well as the unique educational experience we provide. Our Indigenous knowledge, embodied in our Elders and traditional knowledge holders, has always formed the basis of our academic and student support programs.

This is the unique education our students seek. As such, 2015-2016 has continued to see increased enrollments on all three of our campuses. This is coupled with increased offerings on both the Prince Albert and Saskatoon campuses, which thanks to technology, are increasingly connected through distance learning and expanded online offerings. These flexible learning environments give students both the quality education they seek, as well as the convenience of taking their degree from locations near or within their home communities. For many, this allows connection to family and community while also providing a quality education.

We continue to build on the foundation of our strategic plan, *Lighting the Path: 2013-2018*. With those principles in mind, we can now focus on how to teach others the lessons of Reconciliation and Resilience we have learned over the last 40 years, and we have much to share.

In closing, I hope to see you all at our 40th Anniversary celebrations, which will be held on all three of our campus locations in the fall of 2016. This next year will be pivotal for our institution, as we focus on our strategic direction to become a national leader in Indigenous education and guide others in the process of Reconciliation and the resurgence on Indigenous peoples in Canada.

**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  
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development**

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

**University of Regina**

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