

FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA



ANNIVERSARY
1976-2016

2016 - 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

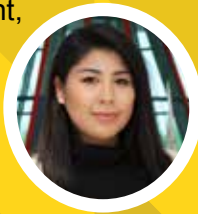


40th Anniversary

STUDENT PRESIDENTS' GREETINGS

HEATHER O'WATCH, Regina Campus Student Association President

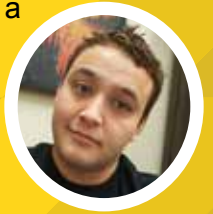
Being the Student Association President for our Regina Campus has been an amazing opportunity to grow through student leadership. As president, I've had the unique opportunity to participate in and lead engagement-based projects around our campus and our community preserving, protecting, and interpreting our Indigenous knowledge and culture. This is what I love about being a student on our campus, the ability to combine our educational path directly with our ancestral teachings. As we celebrate 40 years of Indigenous Education, I look forward to working with the Elders, professors, and fellow students to build upon this wonderful institution, strengthening my own knowledge and setting an example for future students as well. We are indeed so fortunate to have such an amazing institution through which to pursue our education.



we have all had to come together in so many ways to support each other through our educational goals. In doing so, we all become like one big family which is what I personally love most about being here. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this great institution. I acknowledge each and every one of you and wish you all the best for the future. Hi y hi y.

TREVOR DUBOIS, Northern Student Association President

It was an honour for students attending Northern Campus to be involved in celebrating the university's 40th Anniversary. This was a huge milestone that wouldn't be possible without the hard work from past and current faculty, executives, administrators, students, and Elders. This year, the Northern Campus had the opportunity to create partnerships with several local organizations. It was through these partnerships we were able to provide free swim nights, monthly lunches, various draws, presentations, and many other events throughout the year. Our student association is currently working to create an affordable lunch program that will begin next fall. On behalf of all Northern Campus Students we would like to thank each and every one of you who helped make this year such a success.



VERNE MARTELL, Saskatoon Campus Student Association President

On behalf the First Nations University of Canada Saskatoon Campus Student Association I would like to extend a greeting to our Elders, students, staff, and administration. It is with great pride that we celebrated our 40th anniversary and it was a wonderful opportunity to come together. Once again, it was a pleasure to meet all those who attended the celebrations in Saskatoon and I hope to see you all again in the years to come. The First Nations University of Canada has been home to many of its students over the years and this still holds true today. As students,



I personally would also like to thank all Northern Campus Student Association Members, Students, my counterparts on the Regina and Saskatoon campuses - SA presidents Heather O'Watch, and Vern Martell, as well as our staff volunteers Carol, Trina, Karen, Rose, and Florence. You all helped me make the most of my term as president.

ALUMNI MESSAGE

The First Nations University of Canada's Alumni Association celebrated the university's 40th Anniversary by hosting a Networking Social & Alumni Members' Panel on September 10, 2016. Panel Members included: Sid Fiddler, M.SW, 1992; Milton Tootoosis, B.A, 1985; Vera Tourangeau, B.Ed, 1990; and Diane Adams, B.E.Sc, 2015. Panelists shared their early memories of SIFC/FNUniv, discussed leadership and reconciliation and described what the concept 'education is the new buffalo' meant to them. The event gathered over 60 Alumni and it is the intent of the Alumni Association to connect with the over 5,000 graduates worldwide.

Respectfully,

Cherish Jean-Baptiste President, FNUniv Alumni Association



OUR STUDENTS:

Each year, we celebrate the drive, determination, talent, and academic achievements of our students. This year, numerous scholarships were handed out, many recognizing the efforts our students put into regaining and promoting Language and Culture through their own academic careers.

Recipients of the Drs. Lewis and Elizabeth Brandt Scholarship including Robin Goforth, Regina; Deirdre Herman, LaLoche; Farris Lemaigre, Clearwater River; and Cheryl Mercredi from Prince Albert were honoured at a First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv) scholarship luncheon, where students gathered to celebrate achievements and recognize such accomplishments.



Robin Goforth one of the recipients of the Drs. Lewis and Elizabeth Brandt Scholarship

The scholarship is aimed specifically at Indigenous language instructors and BEd Indigenous Education students enrolled in at least six credit hours of Indigenous language courses. The University is proud to offer programs that include, but are not limited to, the Cree, Sauteaux, Dene, and Nakota languages.

Scholarships like the Drs. Lewis and Elizabeth Brandt Scholarship, provide unique opportunities for students to learn their own, as well as other, Indigenous languages.

<http://fnuniv.ca/scholarship-winners>



Scholarship Presenters and Recipients

OUR ELDERS:

The 40th Anniversary Celebrations marked our inaugural Elder's Conference: pimâtisiwin: Our Teachings, Our Future. Our Elders and Elder's helpers gathered in Regina to share their traditional knowledge and teachings with students, staff, and the general public. Each Elder shared their knowledge on a variety of topics including water, protocol, treaties, and traditional roles of men and women.

At First Nations University, we are fortunate to have 5 Elders and 3 Elder's helpers with which to work. Our Elders lecture in the classroom and share their knowledge through traditional activities like the beading circles. In addition, several guest Elders also work with students and staff both in the classroom setting and at other events.

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. The Elders also help staff incorporate traditional knowledge, teachings, and concepts into their classrooms and online course development.

The Kehte-ayak Elders 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. The council's role is to sit together and find ways to work for the benefit of the university and the students.



The Honourable Ralph Goodale with the Elder's Council, during the 40th Anniversary celebrations.



Elders lead the Grand Entry to the 40th Anniversary pow wow held during the Regina campus celebrations.



Margaret Reynolds leads a presentation during the inaugural pimâtisiwin: Our Teachings - Elders Conference.

TRADITIONAL CAMPUS

At the First Nations University of Canada, we are committed to the preserving and promoting Traditional Indigenous Knowledge. One of the most exciting developments this year in that regard is phase one of our Traditional Campus. The campus will be located in Prince Albert, and will allow our Elders and educators to use traditional knowledge and land-based practices to enhance academic programming.



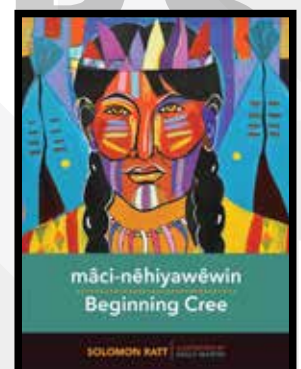
The long-term goal will be to expand on this model and have traditional campuses in both Regina and Saskatoon. A first in Canada, the traditional campus will integrate Indigenous knowledge, practices, and ceremonies into the educational experiences of our students.



Indigenous Social Work Camp

OUR PROFESSORS

This year, marked the publication of Solomon Ratt's introduction of Cree Learners book, *Beginning Cree*. The book is a self-study aid, and included basic grammar units and every day vocabulary. *Beginning Cree* is an incredibly valuable addition to the preservation of Cree language in Canada.



Complete List Of Faculty Achievement and Publications

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

FACULTY AND STAFF LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS

The Faculty and staff of FNUniv 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:

Laura Debassige
Shirley Delorme
Lynn Wells
Dalton Kingfisher
Grace McLeod
Ida Swan
Dan Vallee



*Grace McLeod with
President Dockstator*

10 Years:

Jody Bellegarde
Lorena Lynn Cote
Fidgi Gendron
Sharon Moberly
Brenda Green
Leanne Stricker



*Lorena Lynn Cote with
President Dockstator*

15 Years:

Carrie Bourassa
Edward Doolittle



*Edward Doolittle with
President Dockstator*



*Solomon Ratt with
President Dockstator*

30 Years:

Solomon Ratt

Spotlight: Dr. Blair Stonechild

Blair Stonechild was the first Indian Studies professor at what was then known as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College when he joined the faculty in December, 1976. Blair earned his BA at McGill and his PhD at the University of Regina. He is a member of the Muscowpetung First Nation and is married to his wonderful wife Sylvia. The couple has three children. In his own words:

"First Nations University has a special mission because it provides a unique opportunity to grow intellectually in an environment of cultural affirmation. It is an inspiration for Indigenous people across the world and has touched so many people in a positive way. I would also say that our caliber of students increases each year. For myself I have had a wonderful opportunity to grow by researching, writing and teaching. I suppose my 4 major books are a highlight: *Loyal Till Death*, *The New Buffalo*, *Buffy Sainte-Marie* and *The Knowledge Seeker*. Working with the Elders and being involved with First Nations communities is amazing."



Complete List Of Faculty Achievements and Publications

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40TH ANNIVERSARY

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Our Future



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RECONCILIATION IN THE CLASSROOM:

This year in the Justice Studies 351 TRC group project, the class wanted to learn how to make a star quilt as a process of reconciliation. Jolene Generoux facilitated the making and teaching of the star quilt, which was a joint venture to create traditional First Nations art that holds significant cultural meaning and diversity in educational opportunities. As instructor Ida Swan noted, "We believe that making the star quilt in educational programs will assist in the TRC Calls to Action to teach the legacy of residential schools, the true history of First Nations people, First Nations worldview and traditional teachings, bring back language and culture and to involve the parents, Elders and community."



*Justice Studies 351 December 6, 2016
Prince Albert Northern Campus*



The completed star quilt presented December 6, 2016 at the Prince Albert Northern Campus by Justice Studies 351 class.



Front row - (left to right) Jennifer Kasagan, Kristen Ballantyne, Bertha Ballantyne, Arlene Bird, and Giselle Mercredi. Back row - (left to right) Jolene Generoux, Loretta Young, and Jarrod Jobb.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

Grace McLeod is the Director of Student Success Services and in her role oversees the Academic Advisors, Recruitment, and Retention Specialists, Writing Instructors, Tutors, and Administrative support staff on all three campuses. Grace has been instrumental in the formation of our Elders Council, has worked on the formation of the traditional campus, helped to collaborate and share resources with SIIT, and helped form a partnership with Tutor learner connection to bring about a peer mentor program in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. Grace also oversees Elder services for all three campuses.


Grace and her entire team in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert are instrumental in helping our students excel in their academic work.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Greetings from former graduates poured in from every corner of the country and around the world. They sent their well wishes, shared stories of their university days, and also thanked the university for helping them find success and balance in their lives.

To read all of those stories go to: www.fnuniv40.com




"We will see the day where the next generation will teach us the language and teach us the stories," says Solomon.

SOLOMON RATT 40th
GRADUATED: 1985




"I found my identity when I began my education," she says. "The program that I was in was the type of program that allowed me to do a lot of personal growth. I was proud of that for the first time in my life, I had a sense of who I am."

MARLENE MCNAB 40th
GRADUATED: 2007




"You have to live your life in balance, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, physically. It's easy to make your life hard, but it's hard to make your life easy," he says.

KELSEY STARBLANKET 40th
GRADUATED: 2002



"I just really thought that everybody was there to see me succeed," says Joely.

JOELY BIGEAGLE-KAQUAHTOWAY 40th
GRADUATED: 1995



"I had to do some learning and living before feeling ready to come back to university," she says.

ANNIE CHARLES 40th
GRADUATED: 2016




"I wanted to prove success in the program, and the whole concept of SIFC."

MARK MERASTY 40th
GRADUATED: 2015



"I wish that everyone could have the experience that I did going to university," says Nora. "The love that I have for that place and for all the people in it is based on my experience."

NORA MADILL 40th
GRADUATED: 2005



"I figured if my dad could do it, so could I," says Bruce.

BRUCE SPENCE 40th
GRADUATED: 1989

FINANCIALS

Comprehensive audited financials can be found on the First Nations University website at the following link: <http://fnuniv.ca/facts>

CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

David Sharpe

I want to start by thanking you all for the opportunity to be your chair as we marked 40 years of Indigenous Education. My time as chair has been one of growth both for the institution and myself. I have learned so much, and will continue to support and celebrate your success and continued growth. This university is, and will continue to be, a leader in Indigenous Education. This is due in large part to the commitment Elders, students, and staff have made to preserving Indigenous cultures, languages, and knowledge. The result is generations of Indigenous leaders who not only receive an excellent academic education but are grounded in their traditions and culture.

For many, reconciliation is a new endeavour. At First Nation University, it has been ongoing for more than 40 years. Elders are brought in to share traditional knowledge in every program on campus, as well as teaching through traditional activities such as beading and also through ceremonies held on all three campuses. Students and staff have a supportive environment in which to learn and grow. It is that strength that each individual connected to this university takes with them out in to the world. Through those efforts real change begins to take shape. Congratulations for all that has been accomplished and I look forward to seeing what is yet to come.



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

The board also have two non-voting Elder observers, plus a student and faculty observer, who provide council and support for that board.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an exceptional year to be a part of the First Nations University of Canada. This year we celebrated 40 Years as a leader of Indigenous Education. It has been a time to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments of those who helped establish this institution. It has also been an excellent opportunity to look ahead and make plans for the future. We can do this because for another year we have grown and increased our stability.

When the then National Indian Brotherhood called for 'Indian Control of Indian Education' there was recognition that Indigenous peoples needed an education that not only prepared them for mainstream careers, but also rooted them in their traditional knowledge and culture. This university was created to meet that need. As a result, we have been working at reconciliation for more than 40 years. Work that has positioned us as a leader who can help support others who also want to get involved.

From the creation of a traditional campus to the expansion of our online offerings, First Nations University continues to build new spaces for academic excellence. Our professors are leaders and experts in their fields. They are also leaders in combining academic work with Indigenous knowledge and perspective. Together, we offer more than an advanced education. As I have said previously, at the heart of this university 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 languages and cultures, has always formed the basis of our classes and the programs in which they reside.

The 2016-2017 year has continued to see increased enrollments on all three of our campuses, with increased offerings in both Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Technology has a large part to play in this, both through online instruction and through video conferencing methods. By creating flexible learning environments, we allow our students to pursue their dreams while remaining close to home and acting as role models in their own communities. This also allows students the opportunity to remain close to family and community support networks.

Throughout this report, you can see highlights from our 40th anniversary celebrations, as well as some of the accomplishments and achievements of our students and staff. We continue to build on the foundation of our strategic plan, Lighting the Path: 2013-2018. In closing, I want to thank you all for your hard work and support of this institution, and I look forward to the new projects and programs on the horizon, as we focus our strategic direction and take our place as a leader in Reconciliation and Resurgence.

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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www.fnuniv.ca

toll free 1.800.267.6303

info@fnuniv.ca

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PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

**1301 Central Ave.
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4W1
Tel: 306.765.3333 Ext: 7000**

SASKATOON CAMPUS

**#306 229 4th Avenue S
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4K3
Tel: 306.931.1800**

REGINA CAMPUS

**1 First Nations Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K2
Tel: 306-790-5950**