



FIRST NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
OF CANADA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



*First Nations University of Canada Campuses*





## Regina Campus

FNUiv Regina Campus is located on the atim kâ-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve, Star Blanket Cree Nation, Treaty 4 Territory. FNUiv began delivering programs on the University of Regina campus in 1976.



## Prince Albert Campus

Our Prince Albert Campus serves the north with programs in Indigenous Social Work, Indigenous Education, Business and Arts. We have offered programs in Prince Albert since the early 1990s and have seen enrollments rise over the years.



## Saskatoon Campus

Our Saskatoon campus has evolved over many years of operations in various locations across the city. We now have a long-term lease at the McKnight Centre on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation reserve. We offer a variety of programs in Saskatoon with the main area of academic programming being in Social Work.



## Traditional Campus

In early 2020 the University purchased 22 acres of land along the shores of the North Saskatchewan River, 30 minutes outside Prince Albert for the purpose of creating a permanent Traditional/Land-based learning Campus. FNUiv has utilized this property for our Social Work and Education Culture Camps, as well as for sweat lodge ceremonies and medicine picking teachings, since 2017. This campus offers our students an opportunity to live and learn on the land guided by Elders and allows faculty to take their classrooms outdoors where our teachings have always been.



## Community Based

FNUiv works collaboratively with Indigenous communities, local and regional educators, and tribal councils, to deliver programs and, on an on-going basis, identify and develop new and emerging post-secondary educational needs.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE:

## Loretta Pete Lambert

As the newly appointed Board Chair for the First Nations University of Canada, I'm delighted to take on such an integral role not only for the University, but most importantly, our students.

There have been a number of changes to the Board. I'd like to thank former Board Chair, Yvette Arcand, for her leadership over the past few years. Yvette is continuing with the Board of Governors as part of the Audit, Finance & Risk committee.

I'd also like to welcome Dr. Bob Kayseas, as the new Interim President. Dr. Kayseas was appointed by the Board in July 2019. His dedication to the university and students, with the concurrent roles of Vice President, Academic and Vice President, Finance & Administration, and Business Faculty member, have proven to be exemplary over the years. We look forward to the future of the University under his guidance.

Our new 2019-2024 Strategic Plan: ôê nîkân "in the future" is underway. The intersection of students pursuing post-secondary education and the heritage, culture and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples are the strategic priorities of the Board. In January 2020, the Board approved the new Academic Governance & Administration Framework, developed to ensure effective and efficient academic administration for quality academic delivery for students and enabling faculty to focus on high value teaching outcomes. With all plans, change will come; however these plans are paving the way for the continued success of First Nations University of Canada.

2019 was a year for growth. From the reconstruction and development of the new paminâwasowin Child Care Centre on the Regina Campus, to the renovation and relocation of our Saskatoon Campus, these final projects exhibit the dedication that the Executive Management team has for our students and their families.

As in previous years, the Regina campus was host to various youth camps emphasizing the Sciences and Entrepreneurship. Students from across the country were invited to participate in 1-2-week sessions, and supporting and harnessing with them, their own future educational visions and aspirations. Thank you to the faculty, staff and Elders for your contribution and added value to the University.

I must also recognize the Annual Spring Celebration Powwow and Committee for the warmth and inclusion this celebration brings to the community. Thousands of spectators, dancers, singers, Elders, Veterans and dignitaries took part in the 2-day event. On behalf of the Board, we say thank you to Richard Missens, Chair of the Powwow Committee for 25 years, for your years of dedication to the celebration. Richard has chosen to step down as Chair to focus on Business Development for his home community, Pasqua First Nation. The Co-Chairs will continue on with the legacy the annual celebration brings to FNUniv and the community.

I look forward to another year with the Board and the First Nations University of Canada.



# INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dr. Bob Kayseas

In July 2019, I was honoured to be appointed as Interim President while maintaining my role as Vice President, Academic. This is my twenty-first year at the FNUUniv. I am also an alumnus of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now known as the FNUUniv). My academic journey began here as a student many years ago. Today, I can still see the positive impacts the institution has on the students who make the life choice to attend the FNUUniv.

The University has undertaken numerous transformations throughout the year, including new additions to the Executive Team, the launch of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, ôê nîkân, "in the future," implementation of a revised academic administrative structure, the redesign of the institutional website, and the unprecedented changes everyone had to make because of the global pandemic that started at the FNUUniv in mid-March 2020.

At the beginning of the fiscal year in 2019, the design and construction of the new paminâwasowin Child Care Centre at the Regina Campus commenced, leading to a grand opening in January 2020. A high percentage of our students have young children and experience low incomes, so providing an affordable daycare facility on campus was a priority for many years. The facility came to fruition through a partnership with the Province of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education.

In mid-2019, FNUUniv signed a 10-year lease for a new Saskatoon Campus, situated on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation's urban reserve. The facility provides a learning environment for students, faculty, and sessionals that allows for direct interaction and exposure to First Nations political and business leadership. For the first time in years, there's a sense of home amongst the students, staff, Elders, faculty, and sessionals.

Amongst the tangible changes to the University, our executive and academic teams have evolved. In June 2019, we welcomed Jason Wong from the Gitksan Nation, located in BC., as the new Vice President, Finance & Administration. We also welcomed a new Director of Finance, Shannon St. Onge, into the Senior Management team in June 2019.

In January 2020, the new Academic Governance & Administration Framework was introduced. It summarized the governance and administration structures for FNUUniv academic programming in order to provide clarity on decision making authorities and administrative roles and responsibilities. Under the framework, the following new positions were introduced in 2020 and established in the 2020-2021 fiscal year: an Associate Dean, Academic, an Associate Dean, Community, Research & Graduate Programs, an Academic Administrator, and Program Coordinators.

I'd like to thank and congratulate our staff and faculty on the numerous community development and partnership opportunities they've engaged in over the past year. The University was host to the 10th annual Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Camp and a Science Camp. Inviting youth from across the country empowers the growth potential of young people and often leads them to post-secondary institutions as students. Our Elders involvement in the hosted events are valuable to the University. FNUUniv and NCCIE hosted the 3rd annual Elders' Gatherings in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert. Attendance at these annual events has continued to grow over the years because of the traditional teachings from the living libraries of our time.

Although we can highlight the many accomplishments achieved by the University throughout the year, the close of the fiscal year introduced many challenges with the global pandemic, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), reaching Canada and Saskatchewan in early March 2020. FNUUniv and all educational institutions were abruptly impacted. In the course of days, we had to modify the delivery of our courses from primarily in-person learning and teaching methods to remote delivery. Despite the sudden changes to our institution, the staff, faculty, and students completed that first term successfully.

Our students are the first and foremost priority at the First Nations University of Canada. I look forward to serving as the Interim President and providing the support our students may need over the next year.

**mîkwêc**





# STUDENT ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

**Marissa Kakakaway**  
*Regina Campus President*

During this time the FNUUniv SA Regina have worked diligently in creating more structure, institutional memory, and accountability within its operational systems. Thanks to the support in sponsorship we received from Senior Management, we were able to collaborate with McNair Business Development on developing an FNUUniv SA handbook as well as updating our constitution. The FNUUniv SA Regina has been proudly driven to re-build relationships on campus with the UofR ta-tawâw Student Centre, URSU, and FNUUniv Student Success Centre. The FNUUniv SA Regina negotiated a new fee sharing agreement with URSU and are happy to announce we were able to secure an increase in funding for FNUUniv student initiative activities. All of our members are focused on transparency, trust and tenacity. We are student volunteers who are motivated to create and build a positive change for our community.



**Elicia Munro-Sutherland**  
*Saskatoon Campus Vice President, Director of Finance, and Sports & Recreation Representative*

Tanisi, Aniin, Boozhoo, my name is Elicia Munro-Sutherland. I am an Anishinaabe Nehiyaw woman from Beardys and Okemasis Cree Nation. I've sat on the FNUUniv YXE Campus Student Association since 2016 as the Sports & Rec Rep, Vice President, and Director of Finance. In my final year, I had the wonderful opportunity to be the President. It was an absolute true honor. I worked with the best team ever and grew tremendously through this experience.

The 2019 – 2020 Student Association focus was on revitalizing Indigenous Kinship Systems. To create a safe and inclusive space on campus. To support and advocate for the students. Lastly, to lessen any barriers that students are facing.

In our 2019-2020 school year, we have accomplished a lot considering what happened due to COVID. We had the grand opening of our new campus which included a signing of a 10-year contract, free parking, a new partnership with YWCA Child Care, a student lounge, classrooms, offices for staff, SA office, a kitchen, a library, and study space. Our campus hired an elder, a mental health counsellor, and an academic advisor as well. FNUUniv YXE Campus SA hosted events and workshops that focused on meeting the needs of students spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally. Also, we offered a variety of cultural programming, created a gender inclusive drum group, hosted ceremonies, and feasts. We incorporated a new nutrition program for students as well and monthly food hampers.

FNUUniv YXE Campus Student Association, put a request in to contact McNair to help us change our governing system for the better. We created a new handbook, constitution, and templates that reflected our values so we could better serve our student body.

There is so much more that our campus and Student Association has done throughout the year of 2019-2020. However, most importantly we have created a family here at Saskatoon Campus and a place to call home for our students.

**Santanna Ballantyne**  
*Northern Campus President*



# OUR PURPOSE

## VISION

The First Nations University of Canada is a First Nations owned post-secondary institution that aspires to have transformative impact by bridging our ceremonies, knowledge keepers, languages, and traditions with the delivery of high-quality education that will lead to the pride and success of all students, First Nations communities, and Canada.

## MISSION

The mission of the First Nations University of Canada is to enhance the quality of life, and to preserve, protect and interpret the history, language, culture and artistic heritage of First Nations.

The First Nations University of Canada will acquire and expand its base of knowledge and understanding in the best interests of First Nations and for the benefit of society by providing opportunities of quality bi-lingual and bi-cultural education under the mandate and control of the First Nations of Saskatchewan.

The First Nations University of Canada is a First Nations' controlled university-college which provides educational opportunities to both First Nations and non-First Nations university students selected from a provincial, national and international base.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Students are at the center of the First Nations University of Canada's mission. This is as true today as it was when the institution first opened as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in 1976. The pursuit of high-quality post-secondary education within an institution that reflects the goals, values and beliefs of Indigenous peoples is strengthened by the fact that the First Nations University of Canada is owned by First Nations people. The intersection of **students pursuing post-secondary education and the heritage, culture and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples** is what the Board of Governors identified to be the strategic priorities for the next five years

## VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

As First Nations, we treasure our collective values of **wisdom, respect, humility, generosity, honesty, bravery and caring**. They have preserved and passed down our traditions through countless generations. The Elders teach us to respect the beliefs and values of all nations. Under the Treaties, our leaders bade us to work in cooperation and equal partnership with other nations

The First Nations University of Canada provides an opportunity for students of all nations to learn in an environment of First Nations cultures and values. The university is a special place of learning where we recognize the spiritual power of knowledge and where knowledge is respected and promoted. In following the paths given to us by the Creator, the First Nations have a unique vision to contribute to higher education. With the diversity and scope of the First Nations degree programs, the university occupies a unique role in Canadian higher education. The university promotes a high quality of education, research and publication.

# 2019-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN *ôtê nîkân* “in the future”

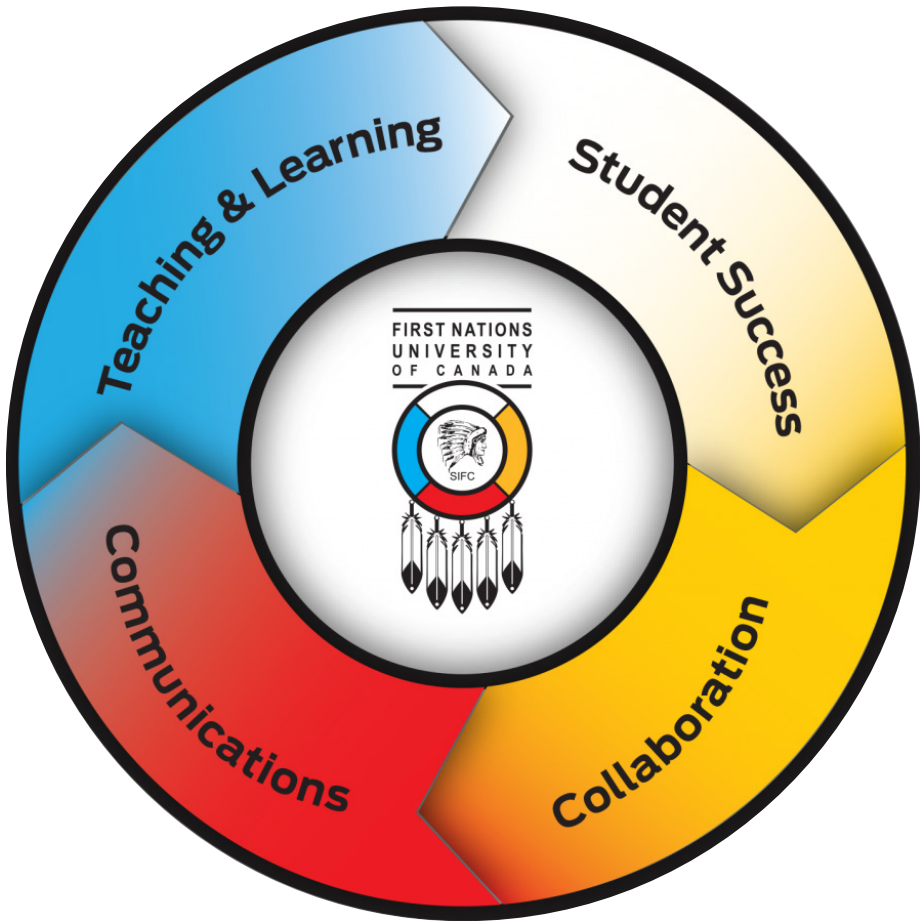
Senior Management and Academic developed the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan with consultation from faculty and staff. FNUUniv’s Strategic Plan is underpinned by the wisdom and strength of our Elders; the vision and leadership of our communities; the promise of our students; the commitment and experience of our faculty and staff; and the continued support of our many stakeholders.

## ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION FRAMEWORK

In January 2020, FNUUniv released the new Academic Governance & Administration Framework. The framework was created to ensure effective and efficient academic administration for quality academic delivery for students and enabling faculty to focus on high value teaching outcomes. The Framework provides consolidated documentation of the way the institution’s academic programming is governed and administered. The Framework summarizes the governance and administration structures for FNUUniv academic programming to provide clarity on decision making authorities and administration roles and responsibilities. The Framework governs FNUUniv’s internal academic administrative structure and decision-making processes.

In addition, key academic policies, processes and procedures have been included to provide clear documentation to improve consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of academic administration for all leadership, faculty and staff involved.

Both documents can be viewed or downloaded from the website. <https://www.fnuniv.ca/about-us/strategic-plan/>



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA INC.

### Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 2020

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	General	Restricted Trust	Research	Endowment	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Administration fees	\$ 3,795	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,795	\$ 204,247
Amortization of deferred contributions (Note 11)	532,827	-	-	-	532,827	525,407
Community-based program academic fees	543,560	-	-	-	543,560	555,101
Daycare	93,209	-	-	-	93,209	-
Donations	204,177	53,836	-	-	258,013	114,096
Facility lease	440,638	-	-	-	440,638	512,116
Federal government grant	7,000,000	-	-	-	7,000,000	7,000,000
Interest	185,380	-	-	-	185,380	381,072
Investment (loss) income	(971)	(13,681)	-	-	(14,652)	22,301
Miscellaneous	1,321	-	-	-	1,321	29,948
Provincial government grant	3,638,000	-	-	-	3,638,000	3,639,800
Research projects	-	-	129,234	-	129,234	306,142
Parking lot revenue	34,848	-	-	-	34,848	60,527
Special projects (Note 8)	3,237,983	-	-	-	3,237,983	3,809,359
Student academic fees	8,464,191	-	-	-	8,464,191	7,174,798
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>24,378,958</b>	<b>40,155</b>	<b>129,234</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,548,347</b>	<b>24,334,914</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Academic instruction	7,218,516	-	-	-	7,218,516	7,161,406
Administration	3,177,147	-	-	-	3,177,147	3,506,407
Amortization of capital assets	1,170,663	-	-	-	1,170,663	1,187,122
Parking lot expenses	75,944	-	-	-	75,944	14,914
Computing and communications	843,561	-	-	-	843,561	654,016
Community-based academic programs	483,984	-	-	-	483,984	420,471
Daycare	212,647	-	-	-	212,647	-
Interest on long-term debt	635,522	-	-	-	635,522	685,887
Library	363,069	-	-	-	363,069	343,810
Physical plant	2,000,144	-	-	-	2,000,144	2,041,075
Research projects	-	-	213,966	-	213,966	244,665
Scholarships, bursaries, grants	41,782	44,806	-	-	86,588	85,421
Special projects	3,238,145	-	-	-	3,238,145	3,815,608
Student services	1,655,411	-	-	-	1,655,411	1,556,611
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>21,116,535</b>	<b>44,806</b>	<b>213,966</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,375,307</b>	<b>21,717,413</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>						
	\$ 3,262,423	\$ (4,651)	\$ (84,732)	\$ -	\$ 3,173,040	\$ 2,617,501
Fund balances, beginning of year	2,691,468	9,572,662	111,757	565,550	12,941,437	10,323,936
Adjustments for retrospective change in accounting policy for collections (Note 2)	(1,453,295)	-	-	-	(1,453,295)	(1,453,295)
Adjusted balances, beginning of year	1,238,173	9,572,662	111,757	565,550	11,488,142	8,870,641
Interfund transfers (Note 13)	(977,276)	977,276	-	-	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 3,523,320	\$ 10,545,287	\$ 27,025	\$ 565,550	\$ 14,661,182	\$ 11,488,142

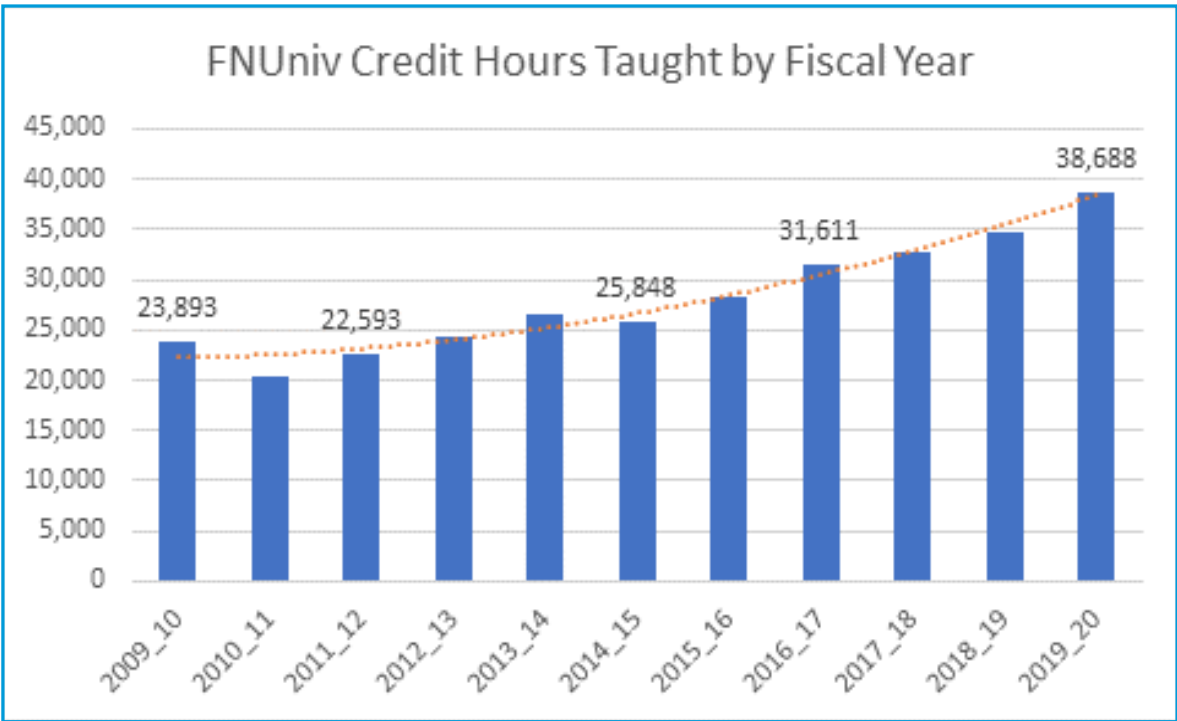
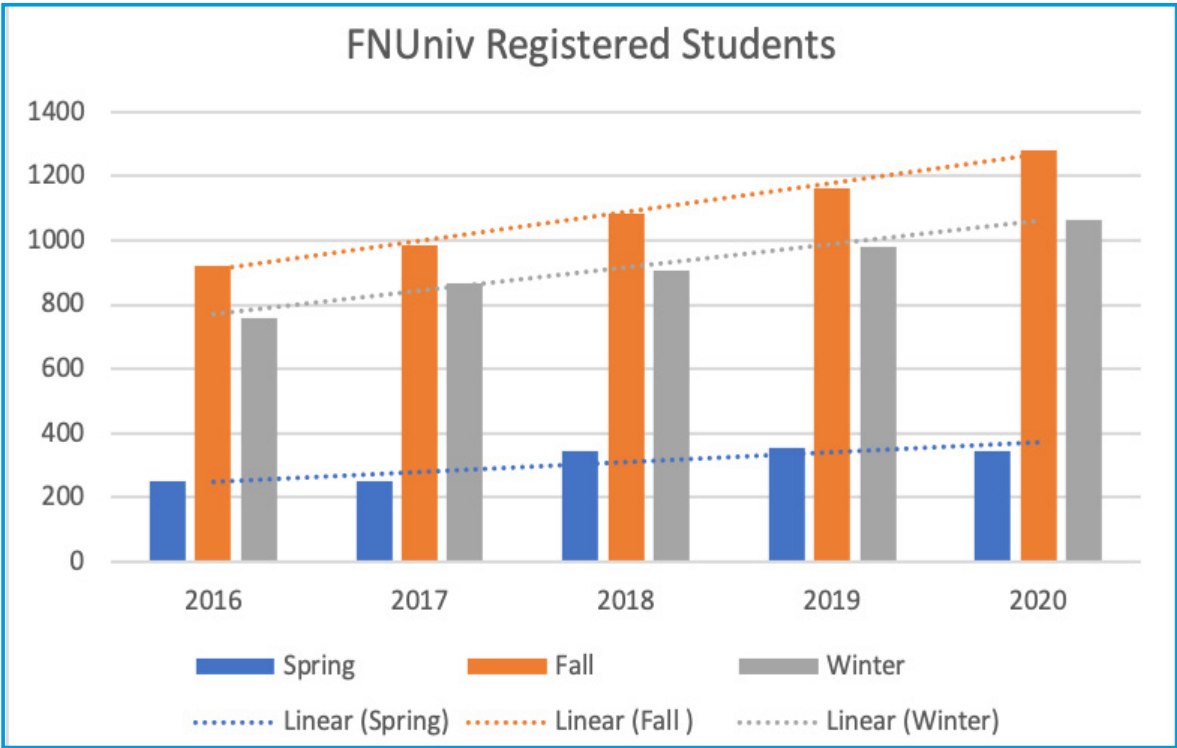
See accompanying notes to financial statements

Entire Financial statement can be viewed on our website: <https://www.fnuniv.ca/>



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

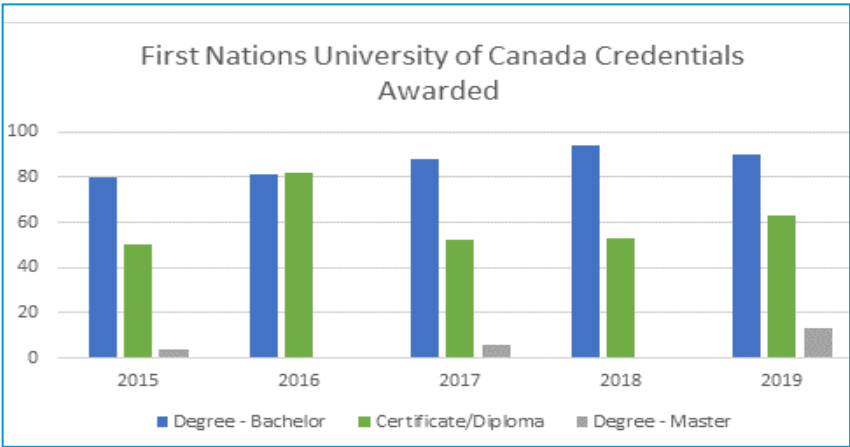
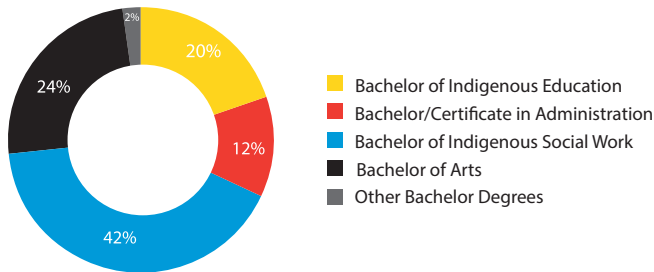
## OUR STUDENTS IN NUMBERS



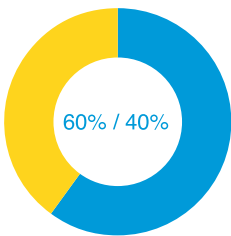
# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATES

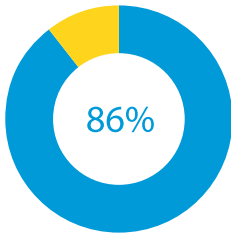
Since our founding, First Nations University of Canada has celebrated the graduation of 5,658 students, including 195 in 2020. The majority of our graduates over our almost 45 year history have received a Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work, followed by the Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Indigenous Education.



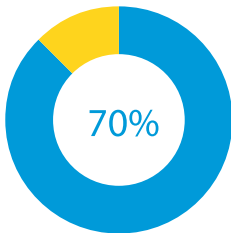
## OUR STUDENTS IN NUMBERS



OFF CAMPUS/ON CAMPUS



INDIGENOUS FACULTY



INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

# APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT & ACADEMIC TEAM

## INTERIM PRESIDENT

**Dr. Bob Kayseas, PhD., M.S.M., M.B.A., Pro.Dir**

The Board of Governors appointed Dr. Bob Kayseas, to Interim President as of July 1, 2019. Dr. Kayseas has spent the last 19 years with the University on many levels. He holds concurrent positions as Vice President, Academic and Vice President, Administration. With the term ending for outgoing President on June 30, 2019, Dr. Kayseas was best suited to lead the University until the search for President concludes. Dr. Kayseas will continue his role as Vice President, Academic.

## VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

**Jason Wong, MBA**

In June 2019, FNUUniv welcomed Jason Wong, MBA, as Vice President, Finance & Administration. Jason Wong is a proud citizen of the Gitksan Nation, located in BC, and has completed an Executive Master of Business Administration in Indigenous Business and Leadership. Jason has complemented his business education with Indigenous governance & law, economic development, and nation rebuilding. Additionally, Jason has 22+ years of practical business experience, with the past 15 years focusing on Indigenous education, skills training, and community development.

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

**Shannon St. Onge**

Shannon St.Onge joined First Nations University of Canada in 2019 as Director of Finance. In her current role, Ms. St.Onge is responsible for leading the finance department and providing strategic financial leadership to the executive team. Shannon provides exemplary financial stewardship with a keen focus on sustainability, alignment to strategic goals and our responsibility to stakeholders.

Ms. St.Onge has over 10 years' experience in financial and organizational management. Prior to joining First Nations University of Canada, she was an audit manager for not-for-profit organizations where she oversaw audit processes, made recommendations on policies and ensured the fulfillment of compliance reports.

Shannon holds a Bachelor of Commerce, with a specialization in Accounting from Laurentian University and the Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

<b>Reila Bird</b> , Senior Strategic Analyst	August 2019
<b>Rebecca Morris-Hurl</b> , Institutional Resource Planner	December 2019

## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

<b>Gordana Kolic</b> , Director, pamināwasowin Child Care Centre	July 2019
<b>Bonnie Rockthunder</b> , Senior Communications Officer	August 2019
<b>Tara Thompson</b> , Manager Human Resources	June 2019
<b>Tina Trombley</b> , Secretary to the Board of Governors	September 2019

## FACULTY

<b>Dustin Brass</b> , Lecturer, Indigenous Education	June 2019
<b>Andrea Custer</b> , Lecturer, Indigenous Languages, Literatures and Linguistics	January 2020
<b>Audrey Dreaver</b> , Lecturer, Indigenous Fine Arts	September 2019
<b>Susannah Walker</b> , Lecturer, Indigenous Social Work	August 2019



# FACULTY AND STAFF

## LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS

The success of the University is rooted in the dedication from our faculty and staff. In September 2019, 14 employees were honoured with special recognition and gifts for their years of service to FNUUniv.

### YEARS of SERVICE

#### 5 YEARS

**Loretta Bear**, Accounts Payable, Finance  
**Lisa Bighead**, Retention Specialist, Student Success Services  
**Dr. Andrew Miller**, Faculty, Indigenous Studies  
**Michelle Parenteau**, EA, Indigenous Education, Northern Campus  
**Dr. Tara Turner**, Faculty, Indigenous Social Work, Saskatoon Campus



#### 10 YEARS

**Hongru Liu**, Library Tech II, Library, Saskatoon Campus  
**Candace Cappel**, EA, Student Success Services, Regina Campus  
**Trina Joseph**, Community Based Programs Coordinator, Northern Campus  
**Dr. Olga Lovick**, Faculty, Regina Campus

#### 15 YEARS

**Dr. Carrie LaVallie**, Faculty, Indigenous Health, Northern Campus  
**Jackie Nixon**, Student Counsellor, Northern Campus



#### 25 YEARS

**Richard Missens**, Faculty, Business & Public Administration, Regina Campus  
**Lianda Tanner**, Registrar, Regina Campus  
**Dr. Arok Wolvengrey**, Faculty, Indigenous Languages, Arts and Culture



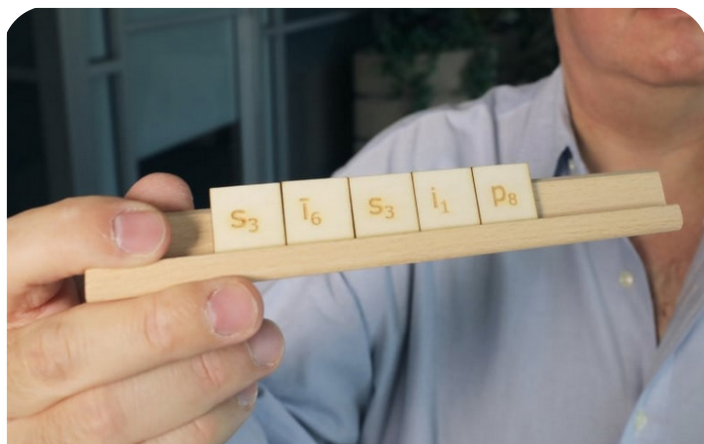
# FACULTY AND STAFF

**Faculty** have dedicated their time towards programs and other initiatives throughout the year. Here are a few highlights:

**Dr. Edward Doolittle** was featured on CBC Saskatchewan Online for turning the conventional Scrabble board game into “*Screeble*”, using the Cree language.

Language, innovation, mathematics, and family fun! Keep an eye out for more of board game development from our Department of Indigenous Science, The Environment and Economic Development.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/cree-scrabble-regina-1.5299049>



Doolittle would like to be able to distribute Screeble to schools, and hopefully be ready to host a Screeble tournament with a few different boards ready to go by this February. (Daniella Ponticelli/CBC News)

A second season of the radio podcast ***Home on the Rez*** went into production with Indian Communications Arts (INCA). The first episode of ***Home on the Rez*** was a six-episode podcast series produced by INCA students for the First Nations National Building Officers Association (FNNBOA). Podcasts were hosted by students Jennifer Francis and Mick Favel, with chase producer, Annette Ermine. Topics range from home ownership on reserve, to high efficiency housing, to how First Nations can set up housing authorities, to innovative community beautification programs.

***Home on the Rez*** was broadcast on six (6) Indigenous radio networks, from CHON in the Yukon to Wawatay in northern Ontario. In total, 366 communities heard ***Home on the Rez*** on their regional radio stations, via paid airtime. Based on the success of the first season, FNNBOA has expressed interest for INCA to produce another six (6) episodes.

All six (6) episodes are available on Radio FNNBOA at <https://www.fnnboa.ca/radio-fnnboa>



L-R - Mick Favel, Jennifer Fracis, FNNBOA consultant John Kiedrowski and Shannon Avison

**Creating partnerships, hosting camps and events** on campus has enabled FNUniv to be part of the community throughout the year. From the Verna J. Kirkness Science Camp in May and the one week Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Camp in August, to the official venue host for the Saskatchewan Indigenous Mentorship Network and the *Whose Settlement?* A Conference partnerships in the fall, FNUniv opened its doors to students and the public from across Canada.



Verna J Kirkness Science Camp  
May 5 – 10, 2019



Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Camp  
August 18 – 24, 2019



Whose Settlement? A Conference  
October 10 – 11, 2019

## STUDENT SUCCESS SERVICES

The Student Success Services Department saw modest growth this year with a new Academic Advisor in the Saskatoon Campus, a new Retention Specialist and an Administrative Assistant at the Regina Campus, and a new Student Recruiter located at the Northern Campus. Building staff capacity and aligning staff to meet students' needs further allow the department to expand supportive services. In addition to our standard academic support services, we focused on adding two essential non-academic supports: nutrition and mental wellness.

A nutrition program was offered at all three Campuses this year and included a daily light breakfast and lunch options. Before and after class, offering a light meal ensured that students could attend class with some nourishment while reducing pressure on their grocery budget. All three campus libraries provided students with an option to contribute a non-perishable food item donation in place of fines for late book returns. The donations were added to food pantries/banks at each campus that provided emergency food support for students in need.

An enhanced focus on student mental health and wellness was supported with participation in research projects and focus groups on learning more about student mental health, presenting wellness talks and coffee sessions to talk about grief and crises, and offering healing and talking circles. FNUUniv hired three campus wellness counsellors, one at each campus, to provide therapeutic services to students.





# FNUniv ELDERS (kêhtê-ayak) COUNCIL

The Elders Council attended several events throughout this past year. Beginning in April 2019, the Elders attended the university's long-term service awards and made a special presentation to outgoing president Drs. Mark and Jennifer Dockstator. In May 24 - 26, 2019, the Elders attended their quarterly council meeting at the Regina Campus followed by a trip to Yorkton to attend the Yorkton Film Festival. The Elders Council film "Waniska" was nominated under the Documentary Arts/Culture category.

In mid-August, the Elders Council attended the annual NCCIE Conference in Ottawa, ON. The council members attended as participants and conference panelists. The group enjoyed a site seeing tour of downtown Ottawa and a visit to the National Museum. A trailer for the Elders' second film "Asonamatowin" was released at the conference.

Here is a link for the trailer: <https://www.4seasonsreconciliation.ca/asona>

A fall Elders' Council meeting was held at the Northern Campus in Prince Albert where participants viewed and discussed the newly proposed academic governance structure and the Elders role in the structure. The Elders Council also met in mid-November at the Regina Campus to attend a meeting on prospective presidential candidates.

The January Elder Council meeting at the Saskatoon Campus included: a visit to and INSW class, a presentation on taxation and income, a discussion on the council terms of reference, a discussion on the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE) annual gathering; and wrapped up with a session on medicine mixing.

The Elders Council also attended the annual Elders conferences in January, February and March at all three campuses whereby the Elders were both participants, presenters and panelists.



# NEW SASKATOON CAMPUS

## Official Open House – November 15, 2019

The First Nations University of Canada hosted an Open House on Friday, November 15, 2019 to officially open the new Saskatoon Campus and Library located at #91 and #230 – 103B Packham Avenue.

The Saskatoon Campus is now situated on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation's urban reserve. The facility provides a learning environment for students, faculty, and sessionals that will allow for direct interaction and exposure to First Nations political and business leadership. After several years as a tenant of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), it was time to move and secure a space of our own. FNUUniv signed a 10-year lease and has occupied the location since August 10th, 2019.

The second-floor space underwent weeks of renovation and remodeling to meet campus requirements in order to be ready for the start of the September 2019 Fall Semester. The campus has four (4) classrooms that are equipped with videoconferencing technology, a student lounge, a staff lounge/meeting room, faculty/staff offices, a Student Association office and an Elders/Traditional room where students and staff can meet with Elders for smudging and prayer. The Library is located on the main floor of the building and undergone renovations. Study areas and additional computers enhance the learning environment for our students.

All phases of the renovation have been designed from the perspective of making positive impacts on the learning experiences of FNUUniv students. This emphasis on placing students first is in keeping with the priorities of the 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan, *ôê nîkân* "in the future".





# NEW pamināwasowin CHILD CARE CENTRE – REGINA CAMPUS

## Official Grand Opening – February 4, 2020

The Official Grand Opening of the pamināwasowin Child Care Centre, Regina Campus, was hosted on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. The Centre unofficially opened January 7, 2020; however, further renovations were needed to meet license requirements.

The pamināwasowin Child Care Centre was designed and renovated to accommodate 90 spaces, ranging in age and groups for 12 infants, 53 Preschoolers and 25 Toddlers.

The First Nations University of Canada partnered with Douglas Cardinal Architect Inc., Ray Gosselin Architect Limited, and Ledcor Construction Limited, to design and renovate the space, formerly the Student Success Services department. Within a period of four (4) months, the area was transformed into three (3) play areas, an infant sleeping room, a kitchen, converted washroom, laundry room and office spaces. A playground will be added in Spring 2021.

The Child Care Centre fee structure is now one of the lowest in the City of Regina. The University wants to ensure, to the best of our ability, that students needs are met as we understand the financial constraints encountered as a post-secondary student.

The design and renovation of the pamināwasowin Child Care Centre was to place students first and remain in line with the priorities of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan *ôtê nîkân* “in the future”.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH YMCA SASKATOON CHILD CARE CENTRE

Students have expressed the need for reliable child care options for many years. The partnership allows FNUUniv to address the need in a way that gives access to a broader range of services that most childcare providers can offer.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Saskatoon YMCA and FNUUniv signed an MOU to provide child care services to FNUUniv students and staff. Thirty priority spots are allocated to FNUUniv in the four locations in Saskatoon. The YMCA maintains all responsibility for the operations of their facilities.





# NATIONAL CENTRE FOR COLLABORATION IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (NCCIE)

## 4th Annual Elders Gatherings – Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert

First Nations University of Canada, in collaboration with the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE), hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Elders' Gatherings. This is the second year to host the Elders' Gatherings in three of its campus locations.

The theme was **Indigenous Languages and the Intricacies of our Worldviews**. Both resident and guest Elders and Knowledge Keepers from across various provinces shared their knowledge, stories, teachings, and practices at all three events. The first gathering was held January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre in Saskatoon, the second on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> on our Regina campus, and the third and final gathering took place on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Prince Albert, at the Prince Albert Inn.

This event was free and open to the public and the media, however, attendees had to register. Total attendance for all gatherings was estimated at 750, which included 46 presenters from across Saskatchewan.



## OTHER FEATURES THROUGHOUT 2019-2020

### 42nd Annual Spring Celebration Powwow – April 20 & 21, 2019 EVRAZ Place, SK.

The annual Spring Celebration Powwow is the first of the season, considered a “kick-off” to the powwow season with dancers, performers, and visitors from across Canada and the USA anticipated to attend. It is a celebration of spring and a sharing of First Nations culture that adds to Saskatchewan’s diversity and cultural mosaic. In 2019, our celebration attracted more than 7,500 visitors and more than 850 registered dancers, 19 drum groups, and more than 150 volunteers!

Richard Missens, chair of the annual celebration committee, decided to step down and focus on business development for his community of Pasqua First Nation. After 25 years of dedicating his time to building the celebration to a highlight of the powwow trail, FNUnt wishes him well and thank him for his contribution. The new Co-Chairs, Thomas Benjoe and Bonnie Rockthunder, both seasoned powwow dancers, committee members, and FNUnt Alumni, will continue on the legacy and look forward to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Celebration Powwow.



### In the Community – Hosting the Fire Evacuees from Pikangikum, Ontario

The Saskatchewan community worked together by providing essential services and human resources to assist with the fire evacuees from Pikangikum First Nation, Ontario. During the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>, residents were displaced across several provinces, seeking basic necessities, after a rash of fires devastated their homes and community.

The university community, along with the Red Cross, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Tribal Councils, and the Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services assisted and hosted many activities and events during their time spent in Regina.



## NEW REDESIGN OF WEBSITE

The University advanced through the RFP Process for Website Redesign and selected Engineered Code as the successful firm. Engineered Code is an Indigenous owned and operated company, who have also designed the National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE) website. The new design will enhance the look of the website, while enabling easier perusal for students and visitors.

Initial consultation is set to begin November 2019, with a delivery date of the redesigned website to go Live in early Spring 2020.

## COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) reached the province of Saskatchewan in mid-March, eventually causing the closures of organizations, establishments and the university communities. First Nations University of Canada is dedicated to its students, their success, their health and their wellness. We faced an unprecedented global emergency that changed the way we live, work and study for the time being. During this time, our priority was the Students. In mid-March, the emergency planning committee suspended all in person instruction and activities on campus and reverted to remote learning distance delivery of all courses.



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

**The First Nations of Saskatchewan**

**Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations**

**Government of Canada,  
Indigenous Services Canada**

**Government of Saskatchewan,  
Ministry of Advanced Education**

**University of Regina**

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**REGINA CAMPUS**

atim kâ-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve  
1 First Nations Way  
Regina, SK S4S 7K2  
P: 306.790.5950

**NORTHERN CAMPUS**

1301 Central Ave.  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4W1  
P: 306.765.3333

**SASKATOON CAMPUS**

Asimakaniseekan Askiy Urban Reserve  
203-103B Packham Ave.  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4  
P: 306.931.1800