

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 22, 2025



**FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA**

First Nations University of Canada Celebrates the Renewal of the nēwoskan Traditional Campus

Prince Albert, SK — The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) is honoured to celebrate the renewal of the *nēwoskan* Traditional Campus near St. Louis, Saskatchewan — a place where land, culture, and learning come together. The renewed campus continues to serve as a vital space for ceremony, knowledge sharing, and land-based education that strengthens community connection and Indigenous ways of knowing.

Gifted its name by the *kêhtê-ayak*, *nēwoskan* comes from the Cree root *nêwo*, meaning “four,” symbolizing the four directions and the balance of life. The name reflects the Elders’ teachings of wholeness and unity — guiding the Traditional Campus as a place of learning, ceremony, and connection to the land.

Located on 22 acres of land near St. Louis, Saskatchewan, along the North Saskatchewan River, the *nēwoskan* Traditional Campus serves as a permanent traditional and land-based learning site where students, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers gather to learn from the land through Indigenous Social Work, Indigenous Education, and Indigenous Languages culture camps, sweat lodge ceremonies, and traditional teachings.

With support from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the renewed campus strengthens these learning experiences with improved facilities, enhanced accessibility, and expanded opportunities for community partnerships grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing.

“The Government of Canada is proud to have supported this important project with an investment of over \$1.8 million. The new Lands-based Learning Centre will serve as a vital resource for students, educators, and communities—fostering deeper connections to the land, culture, and traditional knowledge. This milestone reflects the strong collaboration of partners committed to advancing Indigenous-led education and creating spaces that honour both learning and the land. Congratulations to the entire First Nations University of Canada community on this remarkable achievement.”

— *The Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State (Rural Development)*

As FNUUniv celebrates this renewal, President Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann reflected on the spirit and purpose of *nēwoskan*:

“The renewal of the *nēwoskan* Traditional Campus represents more than infrastructure — it is a renewal of spirit, purpose, and connection to the land. Through this space, our students, Elders, and communities will continue to come together in learning that honours Indigenous ways of knowing and being. We are deeply grateful for the partnerships that have made this possible and for the continued support in strengthening Indigenous education across Saskatchewan.”

— *Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann, President, First Nations University of Canada*

“The *nēwoskan* Traditional Campus is a place where we learn not just from books, but from the land, the Elders, and each other. These renewed facilities will help more students experience that connection — to culture, to community, and to themselves. It’s something that changes how we see education and what it means to be an Indigenous learner.”

— *Wilson Bearhead, Northern Campus Student Association President*

Upgrades include:

- Renovations to the mess hall and commercial kitchen
- Construction of overnight learner cabins
- New shower and washroom facilities
- A permanent sweat lodge structure and outdoor learning area
- A modern water treatment and wastewater system

These enhancements ensure the *nēwoskan* Traditional Campus continues to be a space of learning, ceremony, and healing — a place where the land teaches, stories live, and knowledge is carried forward for generations yet to come.

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About First Nations University of Canada

Established in 1976, the First Nations University of Canada is the country’s only national First Nations-owned post-secondary institution. FNUUniv is a unique place of learning that serves both

Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, delivering high-quality post-secondary education through the lens of Indigenous knowledge, languages, and traditions.

Learn more at www.fnuniv.ca.