



Annual Report

2021  2022

Háu Han
tānisi
ānīn
?edlǎnet'e
Hau

WHO WE ARE

45-YEAR HISTORY



September 2021 was yet another milestone for the First Nations University of Canada. We reached the 45th-year of providing quality post-secondary education to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from across Canada and internationally.

Highlights over the last five years saw significant growth and impacts within the institution:

**MARCH
2018**

The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE) hosted the 1st Elders Gathering at Regina Campus and a National Forum in Ottawa.

**FEBRUARY
2019**

Star Blanket Cree Nation became the first in Canada to create an urban reserve specifically dedicated to the advancement of education - Regina Campus.

**MARCH/APRIL
2019**

Construction started on the 90-seat pamināwasowin Child Care Centre, Regina Campus.

**MARCH
2020**

Transition to remote, online teaching & learning for students due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Eventually, all campuses had limited accessibility with employees recommended to work from home.

**JUNE
2020**

During the 2020 Spring Virtual Graduation Celebration, FNUniv welcomed the first 19 Dene Teacher Education Program (DTEP) graduates who received a Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Education Degree. Students of the program have a unique quality - to speak, read and teach in the Dene language, and have learned traditional land-based knowledge to pass along to their students.

**JUNE
2021**

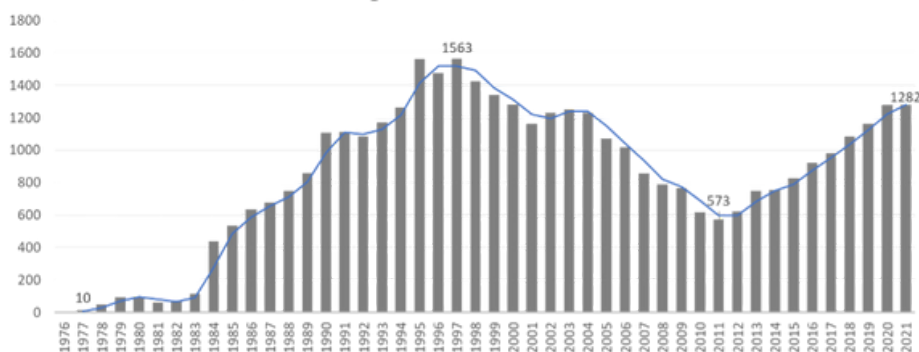
Mizowaykomiguk paypomwayotung Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann was appointed as new President of the First Nations University of Canada, with official commencement starting in September 2021.

**JANUARY
2022**

Launch of the Indigenous Continuing Education Centre (ICEC) and partnership the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and MyCreds™ to provide verified credentials electronically to all learners.

These past 45 years have seen registered students grow from nine in 1977 to almost 1,300 per term in Fall 2021. The Saskatoon Campus moved to Asimakaniseekan Askiy Urban Reserve, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, and leased additional space to expand classrooms and offices for Fall 2022. Several renovations have taken place on Regina Campus to accommodate its increasing institutional development.

SIFC/FNUniv Registered Students Fall 1976-2021



OUR CORE VALUES

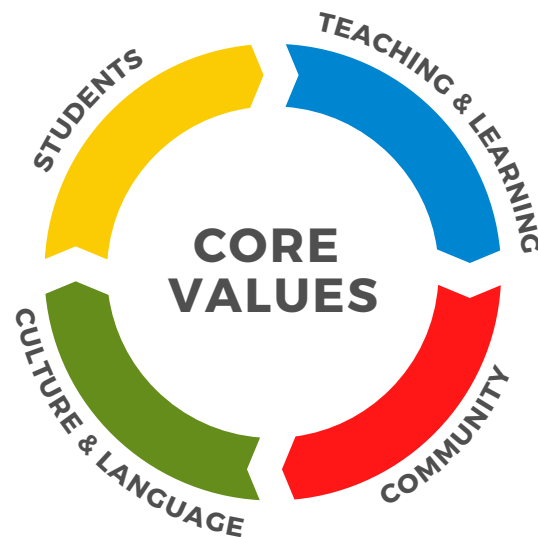
WISDOM **BRAVERY** **CARING** **HONESTY**
GENEROSITY **RESPECT** **HUMILITY**

As First Nations, we treasure and preserve our collective values. The traditions are passed down 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. Our university is a special place of learning where we recognize the spiritual power of knowledge and where knowledge is respected and promoted.

With the diversity and scope of the First Nations degree programs, the university occupies a unique role in Canadian higher education.



OUR APPROACH

The First Nations University of Canada blends traditional Indigenous knowledge within the context of western knowledge systems. This approach results in students understanding both Indigenous worldview and technical and professional expertise required in the social work, health, education, and business professions, amongst others.

OUR CAMPUSES

REGINA CAMPUS

The Regina Campus, located on the atim kâ-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve, Star Blanket Cree Nation, Treaty 4 Territory, began delivering programs on the University of Regina campus in 1976. We deliver nine undergraduate and four graduate programs in partnership with the University of Regina.

The campus is home to the paminâwasowin Child Care Centre and the Indigenous Continuing Education Centre (ICEC).

NORTHERN CAMPUS

Our Northern Campus in Prince Albert serves the north with Indigenous Social Work, Indigenous Education, Indigenous Business and Arts and Community-Based Programs.

Community-Based programming is central to the institution's core mission of providing Indigenous learners with access to post-secondary education offerings rooted in Indigenous cultural values. We have offered programs in Prince Albert since the early 1990s and have seen enrolments increase over the years.

SASKATOON CAMPUS

Situated in Treaty 6 Territory, our Saskatoon campus has evolved over many years of operations in various locations across the city. In early 2022, we expanded our long-term lease at the McKnight Centre on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation urban reserve to accommodate the increasing student population by providing more classrooms, meeting space and offices. A grand re-opening is scheduled for Fall 2022.

The FNUUniv Saskatoon campus offers multiple programs with the central area of academic programming in Indigenous 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, to create a permanent Traditional/Land-based Learning Campus. 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.

FNUUniv has utilized this property since 2017 for our Indigenous Social Work and Indigenous Education Culture Camps, sweat lodge ceremonies, and medicine picking teachings.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

This fiscal year has been one of transformation, adjustment, and continued growth.

With the global pandemic still at the forefront, student, Elder, staff, & faculty health & safety remained a significant concern. The University implemented safety measures and mandates aligned with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the University of Regina.

Although the world was not ready for the pandemic, it prepared the University for the future in more ways than one. The transition to remote course delivery, combining synchronous and asynchronous courses, provided enhanced learning, enhanced technological communication, and teaching opportunities. We upgraded the technological resources to benefit students and instructors, plus equipping our employees to adjust to this new remote work environment.

The institution has flourished throughout the year. After several Presidential recruitment campaigns, the Board of Governors confirmed and appointed Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann in June 2021. We couldn't be happier selecting a well-respected, extremely educated, and wonderful anishinaabekwe from Treaty 4 Territory for the President's role. With her vast educational background, leadership qualities and vision, she will lead the First Nations University of Canada on a new path. However, FNUniv would not be where it is today without the guidance and leadership of Dr. Bob Kayseas. Thank you, miigwetch, for your years of leading the First Nations University of Canada as the Interim President.

I cannot say enough how proud I am of our students and their commitment to reaching their educational goals throughout the pandemic. The 2021 graduates were honoured and recognized for a second year via a virtual platform. FNUniv will celebrate these alums with an in-person ceremony when we've reached a safe environment.

I'm confident that the First Nations University of Canada will have another prosperous year as we continue to provide the best education and services our students deserve. We will continue to thrive and seek the guidance of our kēhtē-ayak (Elders) Council.

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

LORETTA PETE LAMBERT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS - CHAIR



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

The Board also has two non-voting Elder observers, a student representative from each campus and a faculty observer, who provide counsel and support for the Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I cannot believe that so many months have flown by since I began on September 7th, 2021. During this past year I've been asked many times about the transition from a mainstream university to one whose foundation is Indigenous Knowledge Systems. My answer remains consistent: ***I am in the right place at the right time.*** I have committed my energy, formed networks, and brought experience from previous school systems and post-secondary institutions (practical, theoretical, research-wise) to the growth of FNUUniv And, after these past many months, I continue to see the tremendous value this institution has in the Provincial, National, and International landscape. First Nations University of Canada is Indigenous-owned and operated and centres Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing like no other member universities of Universities Canada. Because of our uniqueness, the heightened obligation to the TRC Calls to Action, UNDRIP, and now the NIS (National Indigenous Economic Strategy) Calls to Action, The First Nations University of Canada has been recognized by all levels of government, leaders from a variety of sectors, organizations, and private citizens. With this comes accountability and responsibility.

The rapid growth, overwhelming opportunities, and structural change that some units have experienced over the last year has been welcomed, exciting, and affirming for many. These feelings have sometimes been accompanied with uncertainty as the norm ("the way we do things around here") and the familiar make way for the new (e.g., innovation, systems, units, initiatives, partnerships, and collaborations), and the old (deeper forms, intentional, pervasive, and evident weaving of Indigenous knowledge systems in all we do) to coexist.

This annual report will provide a picture of this past year. A significant shift happened when pandemic restrictions eased, then were lifted. Many are still transitioning from studying, working, and meeting in virtual spaces. Our campuses are, once again, filled with students' energy, and for this I am grateful. We welcomed two new units – the Indigenous Continuing Education Centre and University Relations. Work in these units have expanded our external reach and will provide FNUUniv with essential revenues as they gain momentum. We will continue to ensure that Indigenous Knowledge Systems – ways of being (ontologies), knowing (epistemologies), and doing (practices) – are evident in all we do and to provide us with programmatic guidance; we welcomed Elder Maria Campbell. We are very fortunate to have an esteemed literary author, and previous FNUUniv employee, join us on our journey. This past year, our focus on health and wellness continues to be strengthened. Along with academic and continuing education, wellness programming, forums, workshops, and training will be ongoing as mental health has been impacted during the pandemic. On the facilities front, we continue to strive for a new Northern Campus, work at fully moving into the Saskatoon Campus, and being creative in accommodating new staff and students in the Regina Campus.

Our research unit will be growing beyond our relationship with the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre as an Indigenous Ethics Board has been planned for and will soon be established. FNUUniv received recognition in numerous ways: being identified as the location where the National Indigenous Economic Institute will be housed; granting of significant funds to host a Cree Cultural Immersion Camp next summer (2023) and develop a National Indigenous Immersion Language Educators Collective; securing additional student scholarships; promotion at the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE) in Adelaide, Australia; progress and signing of Memorandums of Understanding with universities in South America, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, etc.; establishing academic programming across Canada; hosting the National Forum on Indigenous Identity in March, 2022, and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada in July, 2022. I know that I've missed many noteworthy events, awards, and accomplishments.

This past year, we hosted 4 graduation celebrations (2020, 2021, 2022), and this year we honoured 222 graduates. I would like to congratulate all these students and those who are continuing to focus on their studies, especially as extraordinary circumstances continue globally on various fronts. We have many amazing students. Let's seek, listen, and learn from the many stories of perseverance (akim mayn-no-mo-win), strength (musk-cow-zee-win), courage (ahp-meat-a-mund- gay-go), generosity (min-ut-tow-win), and love (zu-waan-do-win).

My focus throughout the past year has been on getting to know every aspect of The First Nations University of Canada, so I/we can make decisions that will ensure that this 'legacy' institution moves into the future in strong ways. The FNUUniv strategic plan ôê nîkân "in the future", alongside with highlighting the importance of the kêhtê-ayak, emphasizes students and FNUUniv's unique Indigenous Identity. This is what I've been reminding our internal community and sharing with the world. Finally, the work on academic autonomy continues. This is a huge and complex 'project' but one that we're more than ready for – it has been envisioned to be our destiny by First Nations leadership and Elders from our past.

During the presidential installation, I talked about the importance of legacy. Whether we are aware of it, we are all in the process of legacy building. We have a choice in the kind of legacy we work towards every moment and every day. Join me in building and leaving the legacy of an exceptional Indigenous University for our current students and those children not yet born seven generations into the future.

Gitchi-miigwetch to the Board of Governors, Student Associations, Staff, Faculty, kêhtê-ayak, and our many allies and supporters for ensuring that FNUUniv withstands storms, remains steadfast in its vision, mission, and mandate, and continues to take account and celebrate the many small and large successes.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Vice-President Academic Dr. Bob Kayseas for carrying out the presidential responsibilities, on an interim basis, during the brunt of the pandemic. Dr. Kayseas led the university through a very challenging time, and we are emerging transformed. Your long-term enduring commitment and dedication to FNUUniv are truly appreciated, Bob.

ni-gichi naennimak ni-tiniwaymahgunuk / In honour of all my relatives.

**Mizowaykomiguk paypomwayotung
Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann**

(L to R): Dr. Bob Kayseas (Vice-President, Academic), Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann (President), Gord Hunchak (Vice-President, University Relations), Jason Wong (Vice-President, Finance & Administration)



MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Háu midáguyabi, Amanda Leader emāgiyabi. Cega k'inna edá namákoda.

Hello, my relatives, they call me Amanda Leader. I am Nakoda from Carry the Kettle.

My traditional homelands are Carry the Kettle First Nation, with relations on Standing Buffalo First Nation and Muskeg Lake First Nation. I am the 2022-2023 President of the FNUivSA - Regina Campus, with experience as the Director of Finance and an Honorary Representative.

It has been our mission to ensure safety, inclusivity, and equality for all FNUiv students. We have worked over the past year to bring forward student concerns, create policies, create positive change, and strive to work with others in a good way. We continue to work with our partners and administration to better relations and use our voice to hold to account any form of discrimination, and or lateral violence that our members may experience. We use our voice to emulate and uplift the student voice. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us more than ever that we as post-secondary students need to come together, because together is where our power is as Indigenous students. These spaces are for us and would not be here without us! We are excited to welcome students back to campus this year with events like the Welcome Back Tony Cote Powwow in Sept 2022. We have also been working with FNUiv to provide merchandise to the students, staff, faculty, and public. To date the FNUivSA maintains the merchandise at FNUiv and we hope to create a better way to promote our university and provide quality items to our community in the near future.

We continuously keep in mind the next seven generations of students and student leaders still to come in our work, this is imperative for future success and is some of our teachings as Indigenous people.

I would like to thank the previous FNUivSA - Regina Presidents, as well as the current FNUivSA - Saskatoon, and Northern campus Presidents for their hard work, and guidance through these tough roles that we take on as post-secondary student leaders.

Wópina k'ú - to give gratitude



AMANDA LEADER
REGINA CAMPUS PRESIDENT

tānisi, Krysta nitisiyihkāson, káh-kwīwīstahāw ēkwa oskana-kā-asastāki kayahtē ohci niya.

Hello, my name is Krysta; I am originally from Kahkewistahaw First Nation and Regina. I am humbled and grateful to have been re-elected as the Northern Campus Students Association President for the 2021-2022 academic year.

As an Indigenous-Francophone woman, I have focused on being an inclusive leader. I am happy to report that we have grown to a team of six in the NC Student Association. Last year was all about rebuilding our internal structure and improving communication strategies. This year we took it a step further by renegotiating our financial contracts. We were able to renegotiate our fee-sharing agreement with URSU and adjusted our contractual language to reflect our relationship as lateral peers between our two organizations. This organizational independence has allowed us to focus on food sovereignty during the complex COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from being on campus together; therefore, we worked on creating healthy food hampers for students and their families. We ensured our students were fed all year by purchasing several cows and grocery shopping. To ensure our students felt connected as a community, I took charge of creating branding for Program sweaters for the entire University. Working closely with the Communications department and the branding guidelines, we designed sweaters for all nine FNUiv departments. The SA provided three hundred sweaters to students across the province at no cost through sponsorship. Currently, we are in the works of developing a store for FNUiv where all merchandise can be made available and sold across the nation. Seeing the pride on our student's faces as they wear their Indigenous Education or Indigenous Business and Public Administration sweaters makes all the hard work we do as student volunteers worth it.

Our focus this upcoming year is on revitalizing Indigenous kinship systems to support strong community relationships with our stakeholders. We have gained many partners within Prince Albert's community and look forward to the continued work and collaboration. As always, our work surrounds achieving an inclusive, diverse, and culturally respectful home as we welcome students back into the hallways in Fall 2022.

Hiy! Hiy!

Respectfully



KRYSTA HATFIELD
NORTHERN CAMPUS PRESIDENT



KIERA GRASBY MUNROE
SASKATOON CAMPUS VICE - PRESIDENT

anin, t̓ānisi, hello nitisiyihkāson Kiera, pronouns are she/they. I am a proud Two-Spirit person from YellowQuill First Nation located on Treaty 4 Territory. I am honoured to serve as the Saskatoon Campus Student Association Vice-President.

In my first year of University, I knew I wanted to be of this association, to help be a part of the change and continue to make FNUUniv an inclusive, safe space to learn and have the students feel the cultural spirit of this special University. I started as the Two-Spirit representative, and in my second year, I got asked to step into the Vice-President role. Now I am more than grateful to just step into this president role. The First Nations University of Canada has changed my life in all the best ways, and I hope to be able to give back what the University has given to me.

Each of our representatives works hard to fulfill their positions and create programming for the students. We do a monthly food hamper all year around. We thrive on cultural programming and activities like sharing circles that will help our students create kinships. We organize and handle the merchandise for the students. We make sure our holidays are recognized, including mental health and wellness week, pride month, etc., while making posters and giving out gift cards. Students were given self-care bags with smudge, chakra stones, and smudge kits.

I look forward to continuing serving the students and working with the university presidents and other student presidents within FNUUniv and other student unions/associations.

Miigwetch, ninaskomon, and thank you.

ELDERS (kêhtê-ayak) COUNCIL

Back row (L to R): Preston Gardypie, Willie Ermine, William Ratfoot, Gilbert Kewistep, Roland Kaye

Front row (L to R): Judy Pelly, Sylvia Obey, Florence Allen, Margaret Reynolds, Mary Lee, Audrey Cochrane and Rose Bird



WELCOME TO THE NEW PRESIDENT Mizowaykomiguk paypomwayotung DR. JACQUELINE OTTMANN

INSTALLATION

Mizowaykomiguk paypomwayotung Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann was appointed President of the First Nations University of Canada. FNUUniv released the official announcement of the appointment on June 28, 2021. The Presidential Search Committee, led by the FNUUniv Board of Governor Chair and in consultation with Leaders International, selected Dr. Ottmann after nearly two years. Dr. Ottmann commenced her role on September 7, 2021.

Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann is Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) from Fishing Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. Before her academic career, Jackie was an elementary and high school teacher and principal. She remains an engaged scholar alongside her responsibilities as a senior academic leader. Ottmann is recognized as an international researcher, advocate, and change-maker whose purpose is to transform practices inclusive of Indigenous leadership, methodologies, and pedagogies. President Ottmann is also the first Indigenous person to become President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education.

On October 15, 2021, Dr. Ottmann was officially installed as the new President of the First Nations University of Canada by taking an Oath of Office from the Board of Governor Chair, Loretta Pete Lambert. Unlike other University Installation ceremonies, Dr. Ottmann was recognized traditionally through an honour song, prayer, blessings, and traditional gifts. Their Honours, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and Mrs. Mirasty were among the distinguished guests, and His Honour acknowledged Dr. Ottmann into her new presidential role. Other universities, communities and Indigenous leaders honoured her with special greetings.

As a gesture to the First Nations University of Canada's land, atim kê-mihkosit (Red Dog) Urban Reserve, Star Blanket Cree Nation, invited drum group, Red Dog and Red Dog Dancers sang and performed during the event. A performance by seasoned rapper duo, Eekwol and T-Rhyme, closed out the ceremony.



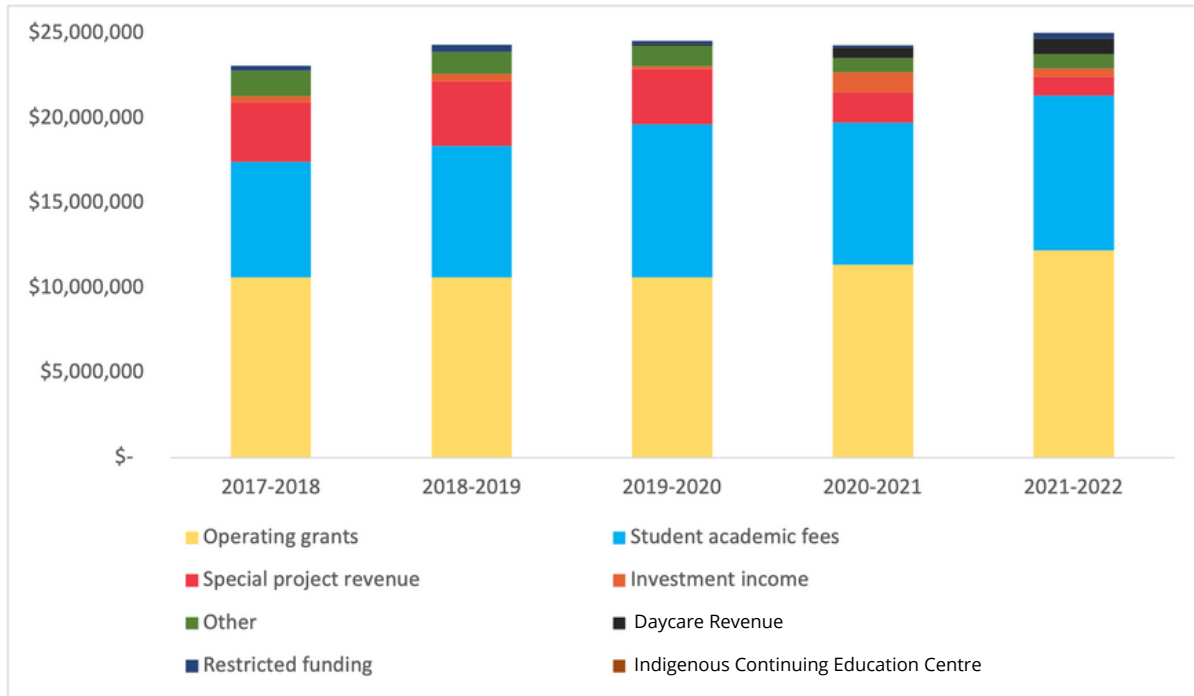


FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA INC.

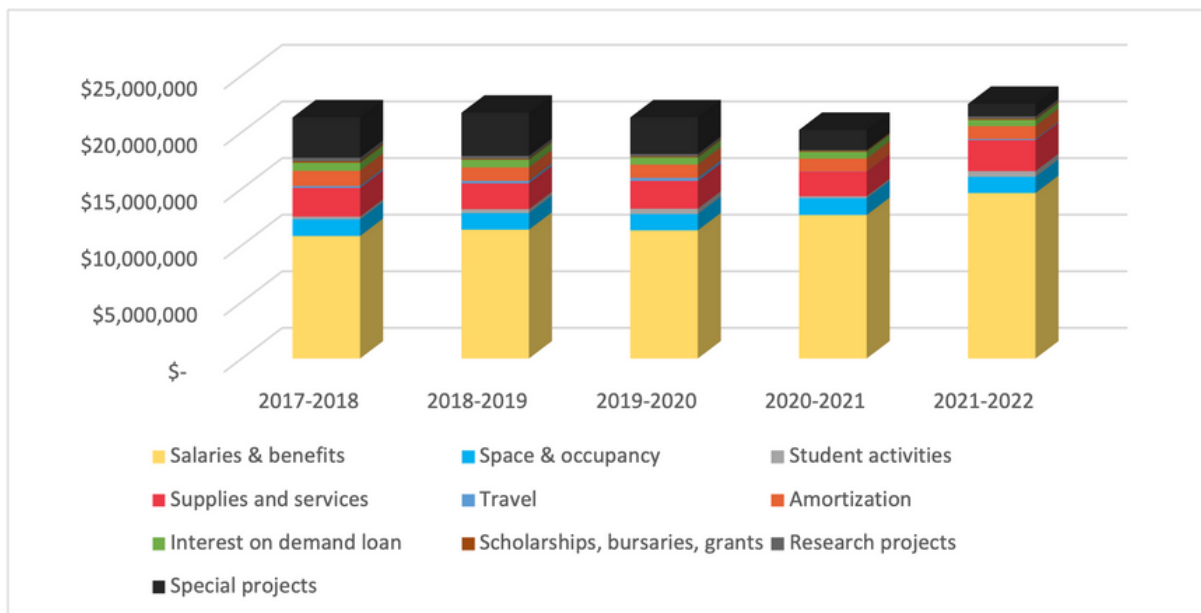
FISCAL YEAR ENDING, MARCH 31, 2022

- Total revenues increased by +\$1.475M, from \$24.306M to \$25.782M, an increase of (+6%).
- Revenue from operating grants increased by +\$858k, from \$11.369M to \$12.227M (+8%), an increase that has resulted from increased pandemic supports.
- Revenue from special projects decreased by (-\$681k), from \$1.794M to \$1.113M (-38%). This decrease was anticipated upon the conclusion of a major project in the prior year.
- Investment income decreased by (-\$677k), from \$1.156M to \$480k (-59%), resulting from the unprecedented market gains realized during the prior year.
- Total expenditures increased by +\$2.280M, from \$20.314M to \$22.594M, an increase of (+11%).
- Salaries and benefits increased by \$1.946M, from \$12.672M to \$14.618M, an increase of (+15%). This increase was planned for and expected as the University continues to work toward building capacity to catch up to its continued growth.
- Special projects expenditures decreased by (-\$681k), from \$1.794M to \$1.113M (-%). This decrease was anticipated upon the conclusion of a major project in the prior year.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



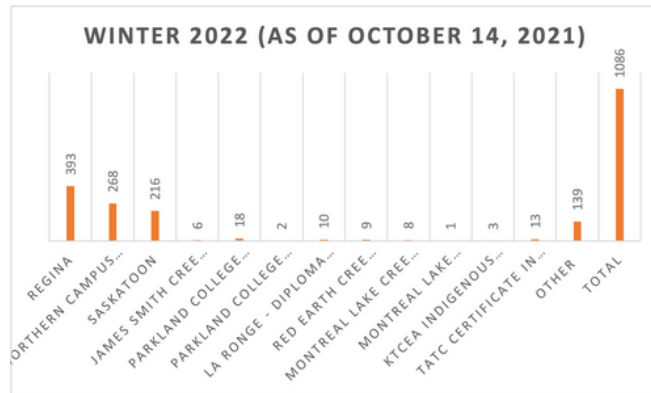
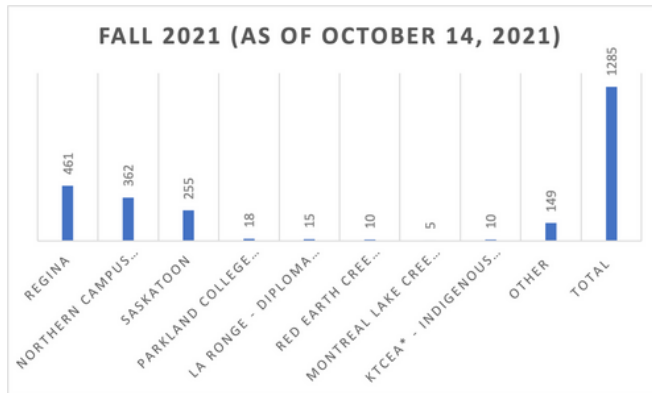
FINANCIAL STATEMENT CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://WWW.FNUNIV.CA/ABOUT-US/ANNUAL-REPORTS-FINANCIAL-STATEMENTS/](https://www.fnuniv.ca/about-us/annual-reports-financial-statements/)

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

OUR NUMBERS

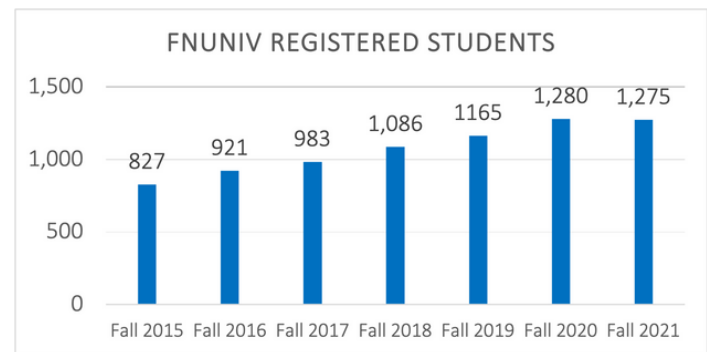
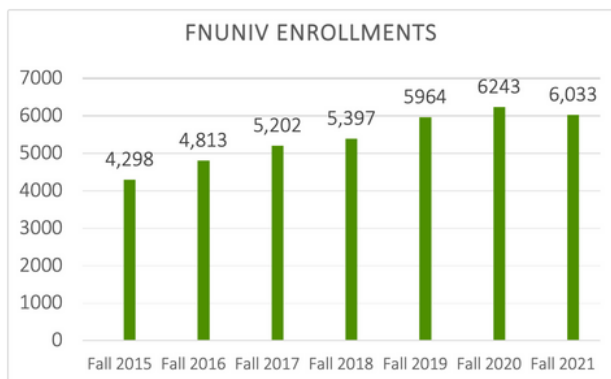
When we look back on the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 numbers for all campus locations, our partnerships with other colleges and communities indicate the extent of our reach with our Community-Based and Web-Based programs. Parkland College, La Ronge, Red Earth Cree Nation, Montreal Lake Cree Nation and Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTCEA) in Northern Alberta have added to the continuous student population growth throughout the year.

These programs allow students to remain in their own communities while taking university courses. Programming is based on community needs and delivered on-site or through video conferencing technology.



A GROWING STUDENT POPULATION

The number of registered students has remained consistent for the past 2 years.



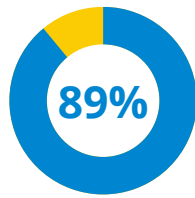
RESPONSE TO THE ON-GOING GLOBAL PANDEMIC, COVID-19

FALL 2021

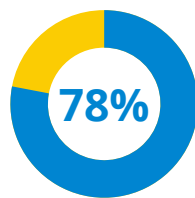
Throughout the pandemic, the First Nations University of Canada prioritized the health and safety of our students, Elders, and staff while working to offer the best teaching methods and course delivery for the success of our students.

The University aligned with Universities across Canada and declared Mandatory Vaccinations for all students by October 1, 2021. The Mask Mandate remained in effect for all campus locations (March 31, 2022). As FNUniv's Board of Governors and Board Elders recommended, the University mandated full COVID-19 vaccination for faculty and staff working in and from FNUniv campuses. FNUniv created a process for Exemption Requests with the understanding that circumstances could prohibit some individuals from receiving a vaccination. A Rapid Antigen Testing regime was available through a partnership with an SHA-approved third-party company, Haztech, in October 2021.

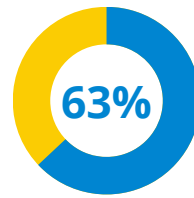
DEMOGRAPHICS FALL 2021



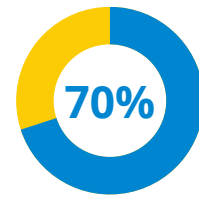
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



FEMALE IDENTIFYING STUDENTS

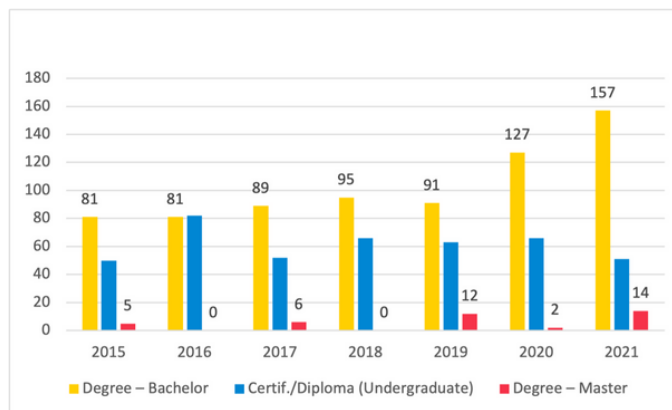


BAND - FUNDED STUDENTS



INDIGENOUS FACULTY

GRADUATES



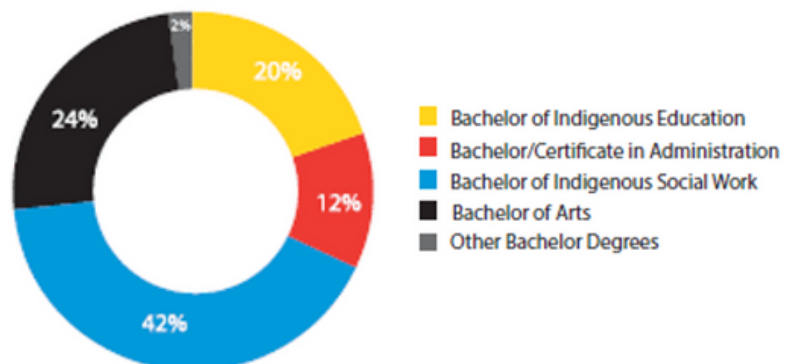
Since our founding, FNUniv has celebrated the graduation of 5,880 students, including 222 in 2021.

For the second year, FNUniv hosted the Graduation Celebrations through a virtual platform. Integrating a “Live” Facebook event allowed the Spring 2021 graduates and families full engagement. While FNUniv delivered a YouTube Livestream to our Facebook platform for the Fall 2021 Graduation Celebration.

Spring Virtual Graduation Celebration
Fall Virtual Graduation Celebration.

3.6K Viewers
209 Viewers

The largest portion of our alumni base received a Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work, followed by the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Indigenous Education, and the Bachelor/Certificate in Administration.



APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT & ACADEMIC TEAM

Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann commenced her role as President of the First Nations University of Canada, effective **September 7, 2021**.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Debbie Venne, Executive Administrative Officer

September 2021

Meika Taylor, Senior Policy & Strategic Officer

November 2021

Dr. Bob Kayseas, Vice President, Academic

November 2021

Gord Hunchak, Vice President, University Relations

March 2022

Maria Campbell, Indigenous Knowledge & Wellness Coordinator

March 2022

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

Reila Bird, Director, Indigenous Continuing Education Centre

December 2021

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Sheila Pelletier, Interim Director, pamināwasowin Child Care Centre

July 2021

FACULTY

JULY 2021

Olivia Cox (Sammons)

Assistant Professor, Indigenous Languages

Shane Keepness

Lecturer, Indigenous Studies

Jade McDougall (1-Year Term)

Lecturer, Indigenous Literatures in English

Chris Scribe (On Leave)

Assistant Professor, Indigenous Languages & Indigenous Education

Juliano Tupone (1-Year Term)

Lecturer, Indigenous Business & Public Administration

Cassandra Opikokew Wajuntah

Lecturer, Indigenous Health

AUGUST 2021

Ben Schenstead (1-Year Term)

Lecturer, Indigenous Education

RECOGNIZING YEARS OF SERVICE

At the First Nations University of Canada, we acknowledge our employees for the excellent years of service they provide to the students, colleagues, Elders, and the community. In 2021, Senior Management gifted nine faculty members and staff with beautiful gifts and certificates to say thank you for their years of service to the University.

5 YEARS

David Beaudin

Plant Property & Maintenance

Joseph Cliff

Library Services

Rob Deiter

Manager, Plant Property & Maintenance

Herman Louison

Plant Property & Maintenance

10 YEARS

Shirley Delorme

Plant Property & Maintenance

Dan Vallee

Technical Support Analyst II,
Information Technology Department

15 YEARS

Jody Bellegarde

Faculty, Indigenous Knowledge & Science

Lorena Lynn Cote

Assistant Professor, Indigenous Languages

Sharon Moberly

Executive Assistant, Office of the Vice President, Finance & Administration

Dr. Fidji Gendron

Program Coordinator & Professor
Indigenous Knowledge & Science and Associate Dean, Academic

Dr. Brenda Green

Program Coordinator & Associate Professor, Indigenous Health

Dr. Edward Doolittle

Associate Professor, Indigenous Knowledge & Science

35 YEARS

Solomon Ratt

Associate Professor, Indigenous Languages

40 YEARS

Dr. A. Blair Stonechild

Professor, Indigenous Studies

RESEARCH

The First Nations University of Canada has received Tri-Council grant holding status. FNU can now hold its grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and receive the indirect costs from all Tri-Council grants.

The Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC) successfully transitioned to FNU from the University of Saskatchewan & the University of Regina in late Fall 2021. A re-brand and redesign to the website will be launched in late Fall 2022.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Dr. Angelina Weenie and Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly were successful co-applicants on a \$2.5 Million SSHRC Grant focused on PUPP (Partnership on University Plagiarism Prevention), a six-year project. In April 2021, the Ministry announced the First Nations University of Canada as one of the partner institutions. Whitney Ogle, currently enrolled in the Master of Indigenous Education program at the First Nations University of Canada, is the Research Assistant for this project.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATION ARTS (INCA)

In Fall 2021, Canadian Heritage awarded a grant to Assistant Professor, Shannon Avison in Indigenous Communication Arts (INCA) to produce a website and podcasts in the Indigenous languages of Saskatchewan. After consulting with language keepers and Elders, the project was named *pikiskwêwin*—means "language" in Cree. Due to COVID, INCA conducted most of the training for podcasters and designers over Zoom; however, Shannon Avison says "we did record the first four episodes of a cooking show in person, following COVID protocols and entirely in Michif." Although there are many podcasts by Indigenous producers, few are in Indigenous languages.

The *pikiskwêwin* podcasts are produced entirely in Indigenous languages, with English used only in the program summaries and producer bios.

To listen to the podcasts, visit the website: <https://www.pikiskwewin.ca/>

INDIGENOUS HEALTH

The FNU Indigenous Health Research Team was awarded a 4-year CIHR Project Grant of over \$500K to conduct a study centred on the teachings of Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) to develop educational materials on traditional birthing and child-rearing. The project entitled *takohpinawasowin* means 'wrapping around to support each other where life-giving and child-rearing is a community responsibility and wholistic activity' in Cree. The FNU research team consists of Dr. Brenda Green (Nominated Principal Investigator), Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly, Indigenous Education, and Cassandra Opikikew Wajuntah (PhDc).

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & SCIENCE

Indigenous Knowledge & Science Faculty members were recipients of various 2021 University of Regina Grants.

President's Research Seed Grant Recipients:

Dr. Richard Dosselmann and Dr. Edward Doolittle: Application of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge to Modern Technology.

Dr. Arzu Sardali and Dr. Andrei Volodin: Statistical Analysis of The Influence of Temperature Oscillations on Birth and Death Time Series in Provinces and Territories of Canada.

Dr. Vincent Ziffle: Analytical and Organic Chemistry of Southern Saskatchewan Medicinal Plant Secondary Metabolites, and Molecular Modification towards Privileged Structures.

Dr. Arzu Sardarli and Dr. Andrei Volodin (University of Regina) Through this grant, they will work on the research project, Statistical Analysis of The Influence of Temperature Oscillations on Birth and Death Time Series in Provinces and Territories of Canada. Ph.D. student Khaysa Osmanli was appointed Research Assistant to work on the project.

OER Publishing Program Grant Recipients:

Dr. Arzu Sardarli and Professor Ida Swan The authors prepared the second edition of the "Cree Dictionary of Mathematical Terms with Visual Examples" using the grant. FNU alumna Larissa Kitchemonia, an Indigenous artist, designed the visual examples. Elders George McLeod and Jerry Saddleback, Professors Solomon Ratt and Lionel Peyachew reviewed and alumni, Steven Swan, proofread the book. Presently the authors are working on an electronic version to publish on the Pressbook web portal.

Dr. Arzu Sardarli and Dr. Andrei Volodin (University of Regina); Using this grant, the authors will write the textbook "introductory Statistics." Masters student and FNU alumna Jana Sasakamoose was appointed Research Assistant to work on examples with Indigenous content. The authors will recommend this textbook in introductory Statistics courses at the First Nations University of Canada, University of Regina, and federated colleges. An electronic version will be published on the Pressbook web portal.

PARTNERSHIPS

At FNUUniv, we are guided by the core values to work in cooperation and in partnership with other nations and communities. Our community-based programs provide that opportunity to work with others and educate students in their home community. We continuously seek and welcome those partnerships year after year.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS

In the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 terms, we launched six new partnerships in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

1. Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SK – Indigenous Access Transition Education Certificate (IATEC)
2. Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) / Red Earth Creek, AB – Indigenous Access Transition Education Certificate (IATEC)
3. Northlands College (La Ronge, Buffalo Narrows, Ile a la Crosse, Creighton & La Loche, SK) – Diploma of Business Administration
4. Meadow Lake Tribal Council, SK – Certificate in Indigenous Management I
5. Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Labour Force Development (TATC LFD), Quinton, SK – Certificate in Indigenous Social Work
6. Cumberland College / James Smith Cree Nation, SK – Indigenous Access Transition Education Certificate (IATEC)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Influence Mentoring and FNUUniv partnered this past winter and will officially begin working together this upcoming fall. Influence is an Indigenous-led organization whose goals are to create better opportunities for Indigenous post-secondary students and to create opportunities for mentors to raise their awareness of Indigenous issues, culture, and history. Influence's primary strategy is a mentoring program, a new initiative to build capacity, talent, and career opportunities for eligible Indigenous students committed to achieving their career goals. FNUUniv faculty will serve as mentors, and FNUUniv will help to recruit its students into the Mentorship Program, support them throughout the application process, and provide ongoing support for students and mentors throughout the mentoring partnership.

In 2021, **St. John's Ambulance (SJA)** and the FNUUniv entered into a new partnership. St. John Ambulance is a registered not-for-profit and charitable organization that offers state-of-the-art first aid and CPR training programs, community services, and several other initiatives across the country. With thousands of volunteers across the country, SJA puts the proceeds from online and in-person training to training volunteers, engaging seniors and youth, and responding to critical emergencies.

St. John Ambulance has offered free naloxone training and kits to FNUUniv staff & students. To receive and administer these free nasal naloxone kits, FNUUniv staff and students must first complete the SJA Naloxone Training Course, a virtual 90-minute interactive presentation led by SJA's course instructor. Through the online training, participants can join from a group setting or separately on personal devices. A total of 20 participants (11 students and nine staff) attended the first training in November and received naloxone kits. In March, 54 Indigenous Social Work students took the training and received naloxone kits.

FNUUniv and the **Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO)** partnered this last fall to work together to deliver internships for credit and full-paid internships to support further employment progression of FNUUniv students in the cultural sector. The RSO is a full-scale professional orchestra led by the innovative and exciting Music Director Gordon Gerrard. The RSO is offering both for-credit and paid internships to FNUUniv students. Two students, one alumnus and one current FNUUniv student, successfully participated in the internship program throughout the fall and winter.

In 2021, FNUUniv partnered with **UNINTER**, one of Brazil's largest higher education institutions. With over 700 on-site support centers throughout the country and a portfolio of over 400 undergraduate and graduate courses, UNINTER currently provides quality higher education to 300,000 students. The partnership with UNINTER will focus on joint research programs, joint student programs, and student and faculty exchanges.

In 2021, FNUUniv partnered with **Correctional Service Canada**, Prairie Region, to offer practicum and internship for credit opportunities to FNUUniv students.

The **BMO** and **RBC** partnerships with **4 Seasons of Reconciliation** continue with growth in participant numbers taking the course.

STUDENT SUCCESS SERVICES



Student Success Services staff continued to provide services remotely but also began planning to transition back to in-person services before the Fall term in academic advising, retention, recruitment, academic writing, tutoring, wellness and Elder support.

Academic advisors enhanced their availability by offering drop-in advising zoom sessions and virtual appointments. Virtual Orientation sessions were held at the beginning of the term to ensure students successfully transitioned into the university setting.

Providing wholistic wellness supports across all three campuses was a key factor throughout the pandemic. Wellness Counsellors offered in-person, phone calls, or virtual counselling sessions focused on managing the uncertainties of the pandemic, grief and loss, and the challenges associated with online learning. Wellness Counsellors provided psycho-educational presentations focused on managing anxiety related to academics and how to foster resiliency.

The FNUUniv URCourse platform continues to be a resource for students to access information on events, seminars, tutors, and all other available academic resources. As we move back to in-person learning, the department continues to grow its capacity to strengthen capabilities to ensure students' success.

STUDENT NEWS

Savannah Asapace (Indigenous Business & Public Administration) was awarded a Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WEDO) national scholarship. WEDO's mission is to educate and support Future Women Entrepreneurs by granting scholarships and awards to deserving female university and college Students across Canada.

Congratulations to Amber Bear, an FNUUniv student in Indigenous Business & Public Administration, on successfully completing the **BRAIN CREATE** summer students research program in 2021. BRAIN CREATE is a joint summer student research program, in partnership with Hotchkiss Brain Institute HBI, University of Calgary.

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARD & BURSARY RECIPIENTS

The First Nations University of Canada has numerous scholarships available to FNUUniv Students. The scholarship committee accepts applications twice per academic year, February 28 and October 31. Students are encouraged to apply and must meet the eligibility requirements.

Thank you to the donors and contributors for dedicating their financial contributions toward the students' success and education goals. Congratulations to all recipients.

RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2021-2022 YEAR:

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARD OR BURSARY	RECIPIENT		AMOUNT
	October 2021	February 2022	
Adam Dreamhealer Prize		Kelly Cremo	\$ 500.00
BMO Financial Group Indigenous Business Scholarship	Kirsten McArthur		\$ 2,500.00
	Tabitha Dieter		\$ 2,500.00
		Shauwna Sha'Oulle	\$ 2,500.00
		Amber Bear	\$ 2,500.00
		Kirsten McArthur	\$ 2,500.00
		Cree Lavallee	\$ 2,500.00
Bobby Bird Memorial Scholarship	Krysta Hatfield		\$ 600.00
Drs. Lewis and Elisabeth Brandt Scholarship	Michelle Jobb		TBD
	Ernestine Ray		TBD
Edna Irene Allen Estate Scholarship		Cheyenne Chanin	\$ 600.00
FNUUniv Library Book Award		Ellery Lewis	\$ 300.00
Freda Ahenakew and Jean Okimâsis néhiyawewin Scholarship	Sherrie Bellegarde		\$ 500.00
		Shirina Evans	\$ 500.00
Grain & General Services Union Bursary		Ellery Lewis	\$ 2,000.00
Hudson's Bay Company Student Achievement Award for Excellence	Krysta Hatfield		\$ 2,700.00
	Kirsten McArthur		\$ 2,700.00
Indigenous Author Award	Ethan Maxie		\$ 350.00
Jack Adilman Scholarship		Amber Bear	\$ 600.00
Jean Shoebridge Memorial Book Prize	Brittany Boshman		\$ 800.00
		Brittany Boshman	\$ 800.00
Jerry and Florence Kayseas Scholarship		Shannon Montgrand	\$ 2,000.00
Jo-Ann Episkenew Indigenous Writing Award	Rochelle Moore		\$ 400.00
Joely BigEagle-Kequahtoway Award	Amanda Leader		\$ 500.00
		Beverly Fullerton	\$ 500.00
John B. Tootoosis Award	Pearl Robertson		\$ 800.00
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Award	Krysta Hatfield		\$ 1,000.00
Pro Metal "Every Child Matters" Bursary	Kirsten McArthur		\$ 2,500.00
		Nicole Gutka	\$ 2,500.00
Rose Nolan Scholarship	Brittany Boshman		\$ 5,000.00
SaskEnergy Scholarship	Kirsten McArthur		\$ 1,000.00
	Amber Bear		\$ 1,000.00
SGI (Stan Hamilton) Scholarship	Amber Bear		\$ 2,500.00
The Co-operators Scholarship		Amber Bear	\$ 1,250.00
		Kristen McArthur	\$ 1,250.00
Tony Cote Scholarship	To be determined by Family	To be determined by Family	\$ 1,000.00
			\$ 1,000.00
Viola Anaquod Single Parent Bursary		Leo McAdam	\$ 2,000.00

pamināwasowin CHILD CARE CENTRE



PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

During 2021-22, we completed the Playground development required steps with the Provincial Capital Commission's "Proponent Development Checklist." Collaborating with Crosby Hanna & Associates landscape architects, a final version of our playground's "Detailed Design" was submitted in the late Spring of 2022. The Provincial Capital Commission's Board of Directors approved our application and has advanced us onto the development phase, tentatively scheduled for 2022-23.

FNUNIV INTERNAL COLLABORATIONS

We participated in more than one project with the Indigenous Communication & Fine Arts Department. The children visited the art studio on more than one occasion and participated in various activities. The students from INAH 204 – Indigenous Art in the 21st Century visited our program, where they introduced a variety of teacher-led activities to the children.

We joined Student Success Services by offering two pilot projects: the Triple P - **Positive Parenting Program** to parents and students at no charge; and Study Night with the FNUniv Library. The library opened on Wednesday evenings for students while we provided supper and childcare at no cost once a week.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP) – Support to our children, families, and staff.
- Children's Program – Wascana Rehabilitation Centre – Support for children with diverse needs.
- Saskatchewan Health Authority – Dental - Fluoride Varnish Program offered at daycare.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR COLLABORATION IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (NCCIE)

- An NCCIE Teacher's Resource Guide was completed June 2021.
- The NCCIE website and resources were advertised to schools and through social media.
- Two final reports regarding the NCCIE project were completed by Jennifer Dockstator.
- New NCCIE videos were developed on Indigenous Teaching and Research. Elders from FNUUniv were interviewed in these videos.



**INDIGENOUS
EDUCATION**
The National Centre for Collaboration

INDIGENOUS CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRE (ICEC)



MyCreds.ca **MesCertif.ca** **MyCreds™** is a secure and trusted electronic document sharing online network that enables the official exchange of digitized and verified academic credentials between and beyond Canadian post-secondary institutions. The **MyCreds™** service is owned by the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada – ARUCC. The First Nations University of Canada is a member of both ARUCC and **MyCreds™**.

First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) has expanded to serve Indigenous higher education needs nationally. FNUUniv is an internationally recognized Centre of global Indigenous knowledge, attracting students and scholars from many different Indigenous backgrounds in Canada and worldwide.

On January 11, 2022, the FNUUniv announced its Indigenous Continuing Education Centre (ICEC). ICEC provides distinct Indigenous-focused non-accredited, short course programming for individuals, professionals, businesses, and communities – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. Successful learners of the ICEC course offerings will earn digital credentials in badges, micro-credentials, and professional certificates. Increasingly, micro-credentials are recognized within corporate Canada to enhance employability by up-skilling and increasing competencies. The First Nations University of Canada is in partnership with the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and **MyCreds™** to provide verified credentials electronically to all learners.

Since its launch in January, the ICEC has evolved with an expansion of course offerings which leverages content from the FNUUniv's National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE.ca). In addition to the highly sought-after course, 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, ICEC added several new courses in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in education, business, health, child welfare, economy, culture, and language.



ICEC INDIGENOUS
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
CENTRE

OTHER FEATURES THROUGHOUT 2021-2022

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS IDENTITY FORUM MARCH 9 & 10, 2022

The First Nations University of Canada (FNU) in partnership with the National Indigenous University Senior Leaders' Association (NIUSLA), hosted the first National Indigenous Identity Virtual Forum on March 9 & 10, 2022. It was an invite-only event for Indigenous participants, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, staff, students, scholars, and academics from across Canada.

The Forum included discussions of wise practices for validating identity for Indigenous-specific opportunities at academic institutions and setting the stage for ongoing dialogue. The two-day Forum was an Indigenous-only safe space that was urgently needed for Indigenous university campus members to gather for constructive and respectful dialogue.

In the era of Truth and Reconciliation and UNDRIP, hosting such a dialogue provided NIUSLA with the opportunity to develop the frameworks, principles, guidelines, wise practices, and procedures to determine citizenship or ancestry requirements for Indigenous Peoples status within the Canadian post-secondary context.

Forum statistics indicated that over 480 individuals registered, with over 3,200 online views over the course of two-days. Dates for the second forum are slated for October 2022.



mino-ayā-win “we’re feeling good” HEALTH & WELLNESS FORUM MARCH 24 & 25, 2022

mino-ayā-win
("we're feeling good")

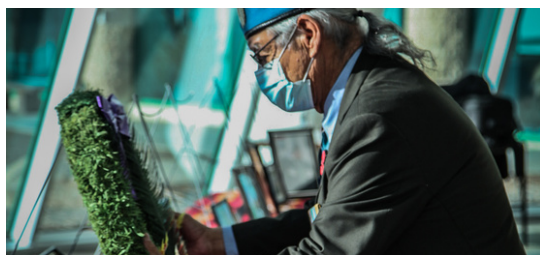
Virtual Health & Wellness Forum

SOME OF OUR AMAZING SPEAKERS!

- ✓ Dr. James Makokis
- ✓ Anthony Johnson
- ✓ Brigitte Lacquette
- ✓ Dr. Jacqueline Ottman

March 24 & 25
8:30a.m.-1:00p.m.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



**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



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

TRADITIONAL CAMPUS

St. Louis, SK