

FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA



ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 2015



OUR PRESIDENT



STRATEGIC PLAN

FNUUniv continues to rely on Lighting the Path: 2013-2018 Strategic Plan to guide our progress as we work to strengthen and solidify our reputation as a leader and successful model of Indigenous higher learning.

FINANCE

FNUUniv remains committed to accountability. We employ sound business practices and are confident that the procedures, policies and controls that are in place will continue to steer us toward steady, sustainable growth for the benefit of our students and our institution.

FNUUniv's financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2015 can be found online at: www.fnuniv.ca/facts

The past year has been one of personal and institutional growth. I thank the Elders, Board members, faculty, staff, students, alumni and everyone else who helped me during my first year as President. I share your commitment to FNUUniv and will ensure our way forward honours the vision upon which FNUUniv was built.

As this report demonstrates, the past year has been full of accomplishments for FNUUniv. Our faculty and staff are all involved in activities that promote student engagement and success. The newly-formed Elders' Council is providing guidance to the institution. Our scholars are producing projects and publications with a strong emphasis on community service. We played host to a number of high-profile events celebrating Indigenous culture, including the North American Indigenous Games last summer.

Over the past year, FNUUniv has continued to see a steady increase in enrollments, and has expanded its offerings at its three campuses. We have doubled our classroom capacity at our Regina campus, and are developing plans for improved infrastructure in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. We are also expanding into more First Nations communities in Saskatchewan and beyond. We are now teaching face-to-face programs at Piapot First Nation, at Parkland College in Fort Qu'Appelle, and at Maskwacis Cultural College in Alberta. This coming fall, we will be reaching out to even more First Nations communities.

The coming year marks a milestone anniversary for FNUUniv: 40 years of remarkable progress and success as Canada's original Indigenous post-secondary institution. This will be a watershed moment for our institution, when we will celebrate our past and anticipate our future. Building on our record of stability and growth, FNUUniv is positioned to play a critical role in the future as a new paradigm is created for the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Responding to the urgent calls for action arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Report, FNUUniv will be a leader in reconciliation by educating people of all backgrounds, promoting respectful dialogue, and forging new links between Indigenous communities and stakeholders. This focus on leadership in national reconciliation will be a focal point of FNUUniv's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2016, and central to our strategic direction going forward.

— Dr. Mark S. Dockstator,
PRESIDENT, FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA

OUR STUDENTS



AUTHOR JOSEPH BOYDEN (LEFT) SHARES SOME LAUGHTER AND WRITING TIPS WITH STUDENTS DURING HIS VISIT TO FNUUNIV.

LEARNING BEYOND LECTURES

Joseph Boyden, Indigenous author of three award-winning novels including *The Orenda*, toured FNUUniv's Regina Campus and spent time with some of our students during his speaking tour in 2014. Boyden read from his latest novel, shared insights into the writing process and encouraged students to keep learning, in the classroom and beyond.

EVENTS THAT ENGAGE

One of the messages that our students share with us all the time is that they are grateful for FNUUniv's sense of community, which is enriched through student gatherings like the round dance that the FNUUniv Northern Campus Student Association hosted this past March.



FNUUNIV – PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF JOIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE 2015 NORTHERN CAMPUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION ROUND DANCE.



THE PROUD RECIPIENTS OF FNUUNIV'S FALL 2014 SCHOLARSHIPS CELEBRATE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS ALONGSIDE PRESIDENT DR. MARK DOCKSTATOR AND SCHOLARSHIP DONOR REPRESENTATIVES.

STUDENT SUCCESS SUPPORTS

FNUUniv offers a range of supports and services, from writing clinics to scholarships, to ensure our students' success both in the classrooms and in their daily lives.

OUR ELDERS

FNUUniv provides holistic education, bringing together quality academic studies with traditional Indigenous knowledge. We have Elders at each of our campuses and they are integral members of our team; they are holders of our traditions, values, languages and history. They are our leaders, our guides and are our teachers and they encourage what is best for our institution.



L-R: ROLAND KAYE, FNUUNIV ELDER'S HELPER; ELDER ROSE BIRD; BOARD ELDER WILLIAM RATFOOT; AND, ELDER ARMAND KICHEMONIA

In 2014 – 2015, the Katayak Elders Council was formed to provide advice, give direction and share important cultural teachings pertaining to FNUUniv programming and activities. The Council consists of one Board of Governor Elder, five campus Elders, three Elder's Helpers, one Elder Advisor, one faculty member, one management representative and a recorder.



L-R: ELDER MARY LEE; AND, ELDER FLORENCE ALLEN



OUR BOARD

We are fortunate to have a professional Board of Governors with national members who are deeply committed to Saskatchewan and FNUUniv. This commitment, coupled with their diverse skill sets and backgrounds, ensures strong governance.

Thank you to recently retired Board of Governor Peter Homenuck for all of his dedication and hard work on behalf of FNUUniv.



FNUUNIV'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND EXECUTIVE FROM L-R: PETER D. CARTON; JOCELYNE WASACASE-MERASTY; DR. THOMAS DIGNAN; DAVID SHARPE; FNUUNIV PRESIDENT DR. MARK DOCKSTATOR; FNUUNIV VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC DR. LYNN WELLS; CLAUDETTE COMMANDA; GLADYS CHRISTIANSEN; AND DELLA ANAQUOD. MISSING: JOHN PAUL

OUR PROFESSORS

RECOGNITION AND RESEARCH



SEATED (L-R): CARRIE BOURASSA; ASHLEY NORTON; LEONA QUEWEZANCE; AND, MARGARET POITRAS. STANDING (L-R): KATE ROSS-HOPLEY; GREG RIEHL; SUZANNE NASEWICH; ELDER BETTY MCKENNA; MARY HAMPTON; ERIC OLESON; AND, EARL NOWGESIC.

Indigenous Health Studies Professor Dr. Carrie Bourassa is passionate about community and collaboration; she is Co-Principal Investigator for *Digging Deep: Examining the Root Causes of HIV and AIDS among Aboriginal Women*, a community-based/academic partnership.



In 2014, Dr. Bourassa received the distinction of being named to the inaugural cohort of the Royal Society of Canada's College of *New Scholars, Artists and Scientists*.



L-R: MATTHEW ROWE, PRINCE'S CHARITIES CANADA; HONOURABLE KEVIN DOHERTY, FORMER MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION; JUDY ANDERSON; DR. MARK DOCKSTATOR; AND, LOUISE GREENBERG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION.



JUDY ANDERSON (STANDING) INSTRUCTS HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THE FINER POINTS OF QUILLWORK AND BEADING.

Judy Anderson, Associate Professor of Indian Fine Arts, spent eight weeks at the Prince's School for Traditional Arts in London bringing Canadian Indigenous art and culture to the school for the first time.

OUR PROFESSORS

BOOK LAUNCHES



DR. SHARON ACOOSE

DR. SHARON ACOOSE

Dr. Acoose, Associate Professor of Indigenous Social Work, inspires people both in and out of the classroom. In early 2015, she launched her autobiography *An Arrow In My Heart: A First Nation Woman's Account of Survival from the Streets to the Height of Academia* with enormous community support.

DR. LINDA GOULET

Indigenous Education Professor Dr. Linda Goulet co-authored *Teaching Each Other: Nehinuw Concepts and Indigenous Pedagogies* with her husband Keith Goulet, in which they share 25 years of Indigenous education expertise. They launched the book together at two separate events at both the Regina and Prince Albert Campuses.



KEITH GOULET AND DR. LINDA GOULET



L-R: JEAN OKIMĀSIS; SOLOMON RATT; AND, DR. AROK WOLVENGREY
PHOTO CREDIT: JEANELLE MANDES

SOLOMON RATT

Solomon Ratt, Associate Professor of Indigenous Languages, Linguistics and Literature, introduced his new book *nihithaw âcimowina/Woods Cree Stories* at FNUiv in the fall of 2014. The book is part of the University of Regina Press's First Nations Language Readers series, edited by FNUiv's Dr. Arok Wolvengrey. This volume presents stories in Cree syllabics, standard roman orthography and English translation.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

There are more than 140 years of combined service and commitment to FNUUniv represented in this photograph from our 2014 Achievement Awards Banquet.

FNUUniv faculty and staff are dedicated to the success of our institution and our students.

BACK ROW, L-R: WILLIE ERMINE; DR. JO-ANN EPISKENEW; DR. JAN VAN EIJK FRONT ROW, L-R: DOREEN OAKES; DR. SHARON ACOOSE; FSIN VICE-CHIEF HEATHER BEAR; ELDER TONY COTE (WHO RETIRED IN 2014); RHONDA THOMPSON; AND, SHANNON AVISON.



Willie Ermine (centre), Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, was blanketed by FNUUniv Board of Governors David Sharpe (Chair) and Claudette Commanda in recognition of his 20 years of service.



Peter Carton and Claudette Commanda from FNUUniv's Board of Governors, presented staff member Rhonda Thompson (centre) with a starblanket for her 20 years of service with FNUUniv.

CAMPUS LIFE

FNUiv's campus life reflects culture, ceremony and community, with students at the heart of every event.



FNUIV HOSTED THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES' CULTURAL VILLAGE IN SUMMER 2014, WELCOMING THOUSANDS OF ATHLETES AND VISITORS TO OUR REGINA CAMPUS.

MORE THAN JUST SCHOOL

FNUiv is often a hub of activity, bustling with people and pride. We host many community celebrations and cultural events and nothing makes us happier than when our students, faculty, staff and community members gather at our campus events to share laughter, food and companionship.



FNUIV'S 37TH ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION POW-WOW WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS WITH 700 DANCERS FROM ACROSS CANADA AND THE U.S. ATTRACTING MORE THAN 7,000 SPECTATORS OVER THE WEEKEND. WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO SHARE FNUIV PRIDE AND CULTURE!



ELDERS ARE AT THE HEART OF EVERY FNUIV GATHERING AND ALWAYS SO WILLING TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, HUMOUR AND TIME WITH STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF.



PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR CAMPUS EVENTS – WE LOVE WHEN GOOD ENERGY AND SMILES ABOUND!



FNUNIV PROGRAMS INCLUDE DISTINCT CULTURAL EXPERIENCES SUCH AS ELDER-LED, LAND-BASED EXPERIENCES.



TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS BY FNUNIV ELDERS UNDERPIN MANY OF FNUNIV'S COURSES – ENSURING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE GETS PASSED ON TO NEW GENERATIONS.



FNUNIV HONOURS FIRST NATIONS VETERANS AND THEIR SACRIFICES AT OUR ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE IN THE VETERANS MEMORIAL TIPI.

TOPICAL AND RELEVANT EVENTS

FNUniv takes pride in being part of events that matter to our community – it's part of our mandate to enlighten, empower and educate. The Walking With Our Sisters exhibit resonated deeply with our students, faculty and staff, as well as with the broader community – we were honoured to host the exhibit at our Regina Campus.

FNUNIV ALUMNA TRACY GEORGE HEESE (LEFT) AND SHEILA COLES, HOST OF CBC'S THE MORNING EDITION, AT THE WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS EXHIBIT AT FNUNIV – REGINA CAMPUS, WHERE MORE THAN 1,700 PAIRS OF MOCCASIN VAMPS WERE ON DISPLAY, EACH REPRESENTING A MURDERED OR MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMAN.



RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

First Nations University of Canada is a national institution and our mission is to fill our campus and classrooms with students from every background and every part of Canada.



SHANE KEEPNESS IS OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND AN FNUUNIV ALUMNUS SUCCESS STORY WHO APPLIES HIS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE TOWARD HELPING OTHERS SUCCEED!

We put a lot of energy, effort and enthusiasm into our recruitment and outreach efforts. Last year saw the launch of the new FNUUniv recruitment brand, *What's Your Soul Reason*, which included a revamped website, new program catalogue and other promotional products bearing the new brand.

Our two Student Recruitment Officers are making good use of the new recruitment products in their travels across Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

Over the past year, they visited high schools, career fairs and other targeted events asked prospective students about their “soul reasons”.

Faculty and staff are instrumental to our outreach efforts. They commit their time and talents to specialized initiatives aimed at capturing the interest of aspiring entrepreneurs, budding scientists and future mathematicians.



L-R: FNUUNIV STUDENTS JESSICA DIETER, ESTHER PASKEMIN, AND AMANDA WORME PROMOTING FNUUNIV AT THE 2014 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES CULTURAL VILLAGE.



OUR NEW RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN RESONATES WITH PEOPLE BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO REFLECT ON WHY THEY CHOOSE TO COME TO FNUUNIV.

FNUUniv students make the best ambassadors, sharing their enthusiasm at high school career fairs and other community events.

FNUNIV ABORIGINAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMP



FNUNIV'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PUTS ON THE ABORIGINAL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMP EVERY YEAR. THIS IS A WEEKLONG BUSINESS INCUBATOR FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES WHERE THEY LEARN ABOUT RUNNING THEIR OWN BUSINESS.



OUR ANNUAL WISEMAN MATHEMATICS CONTEST HAS BECOME SO POPULAR AMONG CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS THAT IN 2014, WE HAD TO EXPAND IT TO INCLUDE GRADE 6 STUDENTS!



FNUNIV'S SCIENCE UNIT INTRODUCED THE *SCIENCE SHOWCASE SERIES* IN EARLY 2015 TO ILLUSTRATE HOW FUN SCIENCE CAN BE TO LOCAL STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 TO 8.

Student recruitment officer Cadmus Delorme travelled nearly 10,000 km last year while visiting 117 schools across three provinces.



Joey Sugai joined FNUniv as a student recruiter in 2014. He is based out of our Prince Albert Campus and is already an invaluable part of our Student Success Services team.



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

The First Nations of Saskatchewan

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

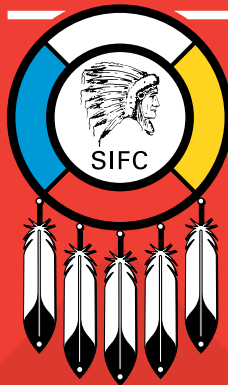
Government of Canada through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Advanced Education

University of Regina

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www.fnuniv.ca

toll free 1.800.267.6303

info@fnuniv.ca



facebook.com/fnuniv



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PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

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

SASKATOON CAMPUS

#207 2553 Grasswood Rd East
Saskatoon, SK S7T 1C8
Tel: 306.931.1800

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REGINA CAMPUS

1 First Nations Way
Regina, SK S4S 7K2
Tel: 306.790.5950