

MEDIA RELEASE



**FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indigenous Peoples, Media & Democracy Conference in Regina Explores Transformative Sovereignty

Regina, SK - April 12, 2024 – Join us for the first ever Indigenous Peoples, Media, and Democracy Conference on May 7, 2024, at the First Nations University of Canada, Regina Campus. This inaugural event promises to be a transformative experience, uniting Indigenous leaders, scholars, and advocates to explore the nexus of media, democracy, digital protocols, and Indigenous sovereignty.

"We are excited to announce the first-ever Indigenous Peoples, Media & Democracy Conference," said Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann, President of FNUC. "This conference represents a crucial opportunity for Indigenous voices to be heard and recognized within the Canadian media landscape."

The conference, a collaborative effort between FNUC and the Canadian Digital Media Network (CDMRN) at the Media Ecosystem Observatory, McGill University. It will feature a diverse lineup of speakers and panelists from across Canada. Participants will engage discussions on a wide range of topics, including the role of media in shaping democratic processes, the revitalization of Indigenous storytelling, the role digital protocols should play in sharing Indigenous knowledge, and the importance of Indigenous communities controlling their narratives.

"We are very excited to partner with First Nations University of Canada to explore the intersection between media, Indigenous narratives, and democracy," said Aengus Bridgman, Director, Media Ecosystem Observatory. "We hope this event leads to further exploration of these ideas and inspires the students that will be attending."

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from esteemed speakers such as Kim Wheeler, an Anishinaabe/Mohawk writer and podcaster, Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans, University of Toronto researcher and author of *A Digital Bundle*, Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter researcher and Assistant Professor from FNUC, and many more. The day will culminate in a banquet featuring an evening address by Pulitzer Prize-winning Cree journalist, Connie Walker.

Registration is underway, with a special rate of \$25 (plus fees) available until April 30. Registration includes meals and parking for all attendees, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

"We invite everyone to join us for this historic event," urged Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter, "together, we need to examine the role both traditional media and online social networks affect how we share our stories, we need our allies to support our efforts to be heard, and ensure our narratives reach the ears of policy makers that shape the democratic process."

For more information about the conference, including the agenda, speakers, and registration details, please visit the official conference website at <https://www.fnuniv.ca/events/indigenous-peoples-media-and-democracy-conference/>.

To secure your spot at this transformative event, register now on Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/3xDtvBg>.

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About First Nations University of Canada:

The First Nations University of Canada (FNU) was founded in 1976 and 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 post-secondary education that will lead to the pride and success of all students, First Nations communities and Canada. For more information about FNU, please visit <http://fnuniv.ca>

About McGill University

Founded in Montreal, Quebec, in 1821, McGill University is Canada's top ranked medical doctoral university. McGill is consistently ranked as one of the top universities, both nationally and internationally. It is a world-renowned institution of higher learning with research activities spanning three campuses, 12 faculties, 14 professional schools, 300 programs of study and over 39,000 students, including more than 10,400 graduate students. McGill attracts students from over 150 countries around the world, its 12,000 international students making up 30% of the student body. Over half of McGill students claim a first language other than English, including approximately 20% of our students who say French is their mother tongue.

About Canadian Digital Media Research Network (CDMRN):

The Canadian Digital Media Research Network (CDMRN) is a pioneering initiative committed to fortifying and fostering resilience within Canada's unique information ecosystem. Our mission is to understand the dynamics of information production, dissemination, and consumption across digital media with the goal of empowering Canadians to navigate the complexities of the modern digital age.

Kim Wheeler



Connie Walker

