

# MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***\$500,000 Scotiabank Travel Bursary to Support Indigenous Students at First Nations University of Canada***

Regina, SK — August 28, 2025 – The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) is proud to announce a transformative three-year, \$500,000 investment from ScotiARISE, Scotiabank’s \$500 million community investment initiative. The new Scotiabank Pathways to Success Travel Bursary will help remove financial barriers for Indigenous students who need to travel for academic, professional, cultural, or research opportunities.

For many Indigenous students, especially those navigating systemic financial challenges, travel costs can be a major obstacle. These expenses often prevent students from participating in opportunities that could shape their careers, deepen cultural connections, or advance their studies.

Through this bursary, students will be able to apply for support in the following areas:

- Academic Travel – attending courses or semesters not offered locally.
- Professional and Networking Trips – accessing internships or industry events.
- Cultural and Community Engagement – participating in land-based learning and cultural exchanges.
- Research and Advocacy – presenting Indigenous knowledge at conferences.

FNUniv President Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann expressed her deep appreciation for the gift, stating: “The partnership with Scotiabank and the Pathways to Success Travel Bursary will enrich First Nations University of Canada students’ learning experiences by providing opportunities for provincial, national, and international travel. Experiencing the world beyond our campuses deepens learning, inspires lifelong networks and friendships, promotes personal and professional development, motivates and sharpens resolve for program completion. We are truly grateful for this gift, and I look forward to seeing it positively impact the lives of FNUniv students. Gitchi-miigwetch.”

“Supporting Indigenous youth by removing barriers to educational attainment is essential to helping them develop the skills they will need for their chosen careers and achieving their full potential,” said K.D. Singh, District Vice President, Saskatchewan South, Scotiabank. “We are proud to offer the

Scotiabank Pathways to Success Travel Bursary to help ensure FNUiv students can fully participate in experiences that strengthen both their academic and personal growth.”

Tyrone Perrault, FNUiv student and recent co-writer of an international musical honouring Indigenous veterans, knows first-hand the impact of travel opportunities. Earlier this year, he represented FNUiv in Seoul, South Korea, collaborating with students from Canada and Korea on *R;LINK*, a production commemorating cultural ties and Indigenous contributions during the Korean War. “Opportunities like this make all the difference,” said Perreault. “For many of us, the challenge isn’t a lack of ambition — it’s the cost of getting there. With support from this bursary, we can step into new spaces, represent our communities, and grow in ways that will shape the rest of our lives.”

Eligibility: Current FNUiv students in good academic standing who are accepted to participate in an approved academic, cultural, or leadership travel program can apply for a bursary. More details, including application deadlines, will be available on FNUiv’s website at a later date.

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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. FNUiv 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](http://www.fnuniv.ca).

**About ScotiaRISE**

ScotiaRISE is Scotiabank's \$500 million community investment initiative aimed at helping remove barriers and increasing access to a more resilient future for individuals, families and communities across our footprint. Through strategic community partnerships, ScotiaRISE invests in three focus areas: improving high school and post-secondary participation, removing career barriers, and supporting newcomer economic inclusion. ScotiaRISE also invests in programs that address reclamation of

Indigenous language and culture as well as urgent and basic needs, such as improving access to basic supports like food, water and shelter. Since its launch in 2021, ScotiaRISE has invested over \$150 million and partnered with over 300 organizations worldwide to provide the tools people need to reach their full potential.