



Media Release

The First Nations University of Canada Focuses on Students' Success Through Fiscally Sound Practices

March 19, 2014 - The minutes are ticking away until the Saskatchewan Government's 2014-2015 budget announcement and preparations are well underway for the First Nations University of Canada's (FNUUniv) Saskatoon Campus move to English River First Nation's Grasswood facilities.

FNUUniv has three campuses, one located in leased space in Prince Albert, another currently in leased space in downtown Saskatoon and the third being the iconic Regina Campus. Both the Regina and Prince Albert Campuses have seen growth in student enrolment and tuition revenue. In Prince Albert, tuition growth came despite the wrap-up of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan and related Access program. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in Saskatoon. Saskatoon has continually been in a deficit position since 2006. Despite the sale of the Duke Street building in 2010, the Saskatoon Campus has had a significant deficit from a high of \$1.1 million in the red in 2010, to a low in 2012/2013 of \$740,000 in the red. Tuition figures and enrolments for Saskatoon have essentially been flat. Even with the substantial operating changes that will take place moving to the new on-reserve location, a small deficit is projected for Saskatoon Campus of approximately \$140,000 in the red for 2014/2015.

"We are focussed on meeting the needs of current and future students and managing our resources wisely to do so," stated Juliano Tupone, FNUUniv Acting President. "Our student body is geographically diverse, located in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina and currently in three community-based programs (Black Lake, Piapot and Onion Lake Cree Nation). In addition, students can be located virtually anywhere and be accessing FNUUniv's online courses. To be fiscally sound and respond to student demand in ways that will maximize FNUUniv's competitive advantage, we are undertaking a strategic repositioning of program offerings in Saskatoon. Our board remains committed to having operations in Saskatoon."

FNUUniv is a unique Canadian institution that specializes in Indigenous knowledge, providing post-secondary education for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students alike within a culturally supportive environment. The University provides a unique opportunity to study in an environment that supports First Nations cultures, languages, and values.

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