



**FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA**

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 /// 2024



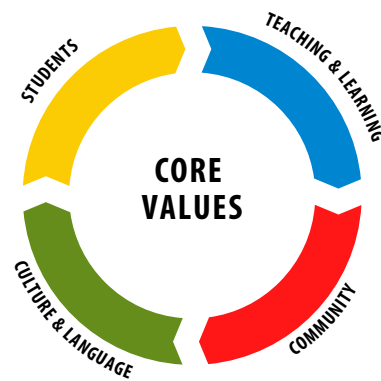
WE ARE UNIQUE

As First Nations people, we treasure and preserve our collective values, and our traditions have been 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 allows 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 Indigenous knowledges, ways of being, knowing, and doing are respected and promoted.

With the diversity and scope of its degree programs, FNUiv occupies a unique role in Canadian higher education.



OUR APPROACH

The First Nations University of Canada blends traditional Indigenous knowledges within the context of Western knowledge systems. This approach results in students understanding both Indigenous worldviews and the technical and professional expertise required in the social work, health, education, and business professions, among other fields.



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 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.

SASKATOON CAMPUS



Situated in Treaty 6 Territory, our Saskatoon campus on the *asimakaniseekan askiy* Urban Reserve 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.

The FNUUniv Saskatoon campus offers multiple programs with the central area of academic programming in Indigenous Social Work.

nēwoskan 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 allows our students 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 PRESIDENT



In last year's annual report, my message continued to focus on deep, structural and systemic changes. As a university, and as part of the natural process, collectively we continue to grow, evolve, adapt, and improve. Creation teaches us that time is not linear, rather cyclical, and the changes we are experiencing now will continue to develop, adjust, and progress in an infinite loop of possibilities into the future – seven generations from now and beyond.

We experience change in our lives everyday – from the change of the date on the calendar to the changing of the seasons or the change from academic term to academic term. It is impossible to know for certain how the changes of tomorrow will unfold, and this can sometimes cause anxiety, but with the possibility of change also comes the excitement of new opportunities to explore, learn, and grow.

As First Nations University of Canada continues to evolve and build on the vision and prayers of our ancestors for Indigenous control of Indigenous education, it is important to reflect on the positive role and healing impact that we can each play as leaders in our own spheres of influence. I see leadership exemplified throughout all the departments and units in this university. Whether you're a program coordinator or work for PPM, Academics, Student Success Services, University Relations, ICEC, or elsewhere, you have a leadership role to play in the continued success and growth of this institution. Your work and service to this university community matters.

Pueblo scholar, Dr. Gregory Cajete states that “[i]n Indigenous communities, individuals rose to positions of leadership based on their service to the people. Indeed, to be of service to one's people was a major goal of every adult member of a tribe. Traditional community was predicated on the perception that all things can be useful, and the qualities of being useful and being beneficial intertwine and in turn imply reciprocity, support, benefit, purpose, and vision” (Native Science, 1996, p.90).

I am humbled to serve as your President, to work alongside you, and to be of service to Indigenous peoples across Saskatchewan and Turtle Island. In this role, as many of you do, I bring the experience and knowledge that I've gained since I obtained my Bachelor of Education in 1989. I've learned that organizations must be seen as a whole system, that siloed thinking and siloed behavior (us-them), does not benefit an organization, that we must anticipate and prepare for continuous and healthy change – adaptive systems (as evidenced in nature) and organizations are open to continuous learning and growth for the purpose of surviving and thriving.

This past year, we have witnessed incredible cooperative/teamwork, and consequently, accomplished so much. The leadership and dedication of our entire university community has created numerous opportunities for change and growth from 2023 to 2024. Some highlights from the year include Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to the Regina campus in April where students, faculty, and staff had an opportunity to engage in a Town Hall. In May, we hosted the Presidents of NSERC and SSHRC, Dr. Alejandro Adem and Dr. Ted Hewitt respectively; world-renowned Māori scholar, Dr. Linda Tuhiwai Smith came to visit and engage with our academic community; while the University of Queensland's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement), Professor Bronwyn Fredericks and senior leader Professor Tracy Bunda visited our Regina campus. I also had the opportunity to meet with members from the Business and Higher Education Roundtable – a national organization that brings together leaders from the business and higher education sector to engage in dialogue and solutions-based discussions that centres around complex challenges.

June 2023 brought Ermineskin Cree Nation and Kanawemahwasowin-Kamik Inc. staff for a visit to Regina. Miigwetch to the *kêhtê-ayak* for the beautiful and necessary work that they have been doing, under Maria Campbell's facilitation, on two-spirited teachings. Furthermore, some amazing teachers (Jack Saddleback, Nancy Cooper, Dr. Janet Smiley, and Elder Shelley Belhumeur) made themselves available to our community to graciously share their lived experiences and knowledge.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*

In July, the late Elder Florence Allen's dream for an intergenerational, experiential, land-based language immersion camp was realized through the generous support of the Suncor Energy Foundation. *ka-nêhiyaw-kiyokânaw*: Indigenous visiting as language revitalization leading to economic reconciliation was awarded \$249,990 for this work. Later that month, construction on infrastructure upgrades and site improvements began at our *nêwoskan* Traditional Campus near St. Louis, SK. I also had the opportunity to network with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). This month, we signed an important agreement with the City of Prince Albert for 5 acres of land, which is designated for a new Northern campus; an initiative that we are working towards realizing in the near future.

After a long hiatus, autumn brought with it the return of the Annual President's Golf Tournament at Dakota Dunes Links where we raised \$65,000 for FNUUniv student scholarships.

In Oct 2023, I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Hajdu of Indigenous Services Canada to advocate for a new Northern campus. This month also saw the completion of the Saskatoon campus renovations that provided a visually unified look and feel and a much need technology upgrade. In October, we also celebrated the opening of *kôhkom* Bea's Café on the Regina campus. After a year of planning and identifying leaders and teachers, we secured dates for lateral violence to lateral kindness workshops facilitated by Karen MacKenzie. These workshops will happen yearly and regularly for our entire FNUUniv community.

We continue to co-create or sign MOUs with post-secondary and learning institutions nationally and internationally (e.g., University of Regina, Mongolia National University, Stratford Festival, University of Queensland).

Further, many units worked together over the course of more than a year to negotiate with Mastercard Foundation, and the McConnell Foundation on an agreement that will support four pillars: (1) academic autonomy, (2) the National Indigenous Economic Prosperity Institute, (3) Indigenous programming, and (4) the National Indigenous University Senior Leaders Association (NIUSLA). The total donation from MCF was \$23.5 Million and McConnell Foundation \$1.5 Million. Our agreements with both organizations were signed in January 2024.

February 2024 brought an opportunity to partner with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Center (SICC) on an MOU supporting Indigenous language revitalization. We also hosted several ambassadors on campus including:

- Her Excellency Signe Burgstaller, Ambassador of Sweden in Canada
- Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark in Canada
- Her Excellency Trine Horanli Eskedal, Ambassador-Designate of Norway in Canada
- His Excellency Jari Vilen, Ambassador-Designate of Finland in Canada
- His Excellency Hlynur Guojonsson, Ambassador of Iceland in Canada
- Ms. Patricia Warsaba, K.C. Honorary Consul of Iceland for Saskatchewan
- Ms. Ashli Blondeau, Manager of Diplomatic Relations, International Relations, Ministry of Trade and Export Development, Government of Saskatchewan
- Mr. Josh Cossitt, International Relations Officer, Ministry of Trade and Export Development, Government of Saskatchewan
- Accompanied by Mr. Michael Liu, Manager, International Relations and Partnerships, UR International

And in March 2024 we had the opportunity to host Professor Shauna Van Praagh from the Law Commission of Canada.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the First Nations University of Canada for supporting the success of this university. Our message of serving as the epicenter of Indigenous knowledge systems in higher education grounded in an Indigenous owned and operated structure is spreading and stakeholders from across the globe are starting to notice. As a community, we can look forward to more essential adaptation, growth, and opportunity for the year ahead.

Mizowaykomiguk paypomwayotung
Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann
President, First Nations University of Canada

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS



FEARENCE FRANCIS
REGINA CAMPUS PRESIDENT

"The FNUniv Students' Association has been working towards building a strong and inclusive community for all students in the 2023-24 fiscal year. We focused on cultural programming, peer support, and student engagement, honouring our Indigenous heritage and promoting inclusion. We're grateful for the partnerships created and highly hope to continue these relationships. We continue to be thankful for the opportunity to transform student life and create experiences of personal development, connection, and learning. With each other, we can continue to cultivate a vibrant school community for our students, one built on respect and cultural pride.

Thank you for following along this year."



KATE YOUNG
SASKATOON CAMPUS PRESIDENT

"The Saskatoon Student Association is proud to highlight our dedication to supporting students, fostering a sense of community, and strengthening connections to culture. During the 2023-2024 period, we hosted a variety of family-friendly events, including our first post-pandemic Feast, Round Dance, and Winterfest, which featured engaging trapper workshops.

Our team has focused on building a sense of belonging and collaboration among our student volunteers and remains committed to cultivating strong student leadership as we move forward."

WILLOW BEARHEAD
NORTHERN CAMPUS PRESIDENT



kêhtê-ayak COUNCIL



Back row (L to R): Preston Gardypie, William Ratfoot, Mary Lee, Jacqueline Ottmann, Margaret Reynolds, Dennis Omeasoo, and Roland Kaye
Front row (L to R): Jackie Nixon, Late Rose Bird, Maria Campbell (Indigenous Knowledge & Wellness Coordinator), and Margaret Rockthunder

The **mandate** of the **kêhtê-ayak** Council is to provide guidance and advice, give direction, and share critical cultural teachings and protocols about FNUiv programming and activities.

The Council's role is to sit together and find ways to work for the university's and students' benefit.

A vital part of our university community is the **kêhtê-ayak** Council, which includes Elders, Elders' Helpers, and Knowledge Keepers at the Regina, Saskatoon, and Northern Campuses. The Council is the spiritual and traditional knowledge heart of the First Nations University of Canada. It provides guidance on everything from the incorporation of ceremony in our programming to cultural support for our students as well as the integration of Indigenous knowledges in our university programming.

In addition to the support of our administration and academic staff, Elders provide critical support and counselling to our students – offering them a spiritual safe space and crucial guidance as they work their way through challenging and rewarding academic programs.

The Elders support students and aid them in maintaining or developing connections to culture while also managing the pressures of their university education and family commitments. The Elders also assist faculty in incorporating traditional knowledges, teachings, and concepts into their classrooms and online course development. Our Elders work tirelessly with students, staff, and the community through ceremonies, celebrations, pow-wows, land-based learning, culture camps, research projects, and forums. One will find an Elder or Knowledge Keeper at every campus within our university.

As a university community, our Elders are essential, keeping us grounded in our traditional ways of knowing and ensuring we always remain connected to our cultures and community.

WHAT DO WE DO:

The **kêhtê-ayak** Council meets three times a year and is often called to attend special events and meetings. Since 2015, the **kêhtê-ayak** Council has participated in countless events and tackled some of the most pressing issues and questions facing our university community.

May 2023 – Prince Albert

We held our annual sweat lodge and feast at *nêwoskân*. There were updates on research initiatives and an opportunity to partake in the NC Cultural Retreat, which provided a chance to interact with staff and faculty.

September 2023 – Saskatoon

kêhtê-ayak Council was held in Saskatoon to partake in the Indigenous Social Work Celebration.

October 2023 – Saskatoon

2SLGBTQ Workshop – Janet Smylie & Nancy Cooper

November 2023 – Edmonton

Through external funding, our **kêhtê-ayak** Council had an opportunity to attend the National Elders Gathering in Edmonton. It was a gathering of approximately 5000 Elders to share ideas and discuss issues around culture and language revitalization, reconciliation, missing and murdered Indigenous women and climate change.

In Memoriam:

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of another **kêhtê-ayak** Council Elder who passed on in late 2023, the late Rose Bird (Prince Albert). She contributed to our university, staff, students, and larger communities.

We will never forget her teachings, and she is dearly missed.

nēwoskān Traditional Campus

On May 9, 2023, FNUUniv entered into an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan (Minister of Government Relations) and the Government of Canada (Infrastructure Canada) for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The FNUUniv has been granted \$2,484,010 for the Lands-based Learning Centre in St. Louis, SK.

The **kēhtē-ayak** Council has gifted the Traditional Campus with the name **nēwoskān**. The literal translation of this Cree name was discussed with the Elders and means that of wholeness with reference to unity, a collective of life itself.

The objective of the project is to build/renovate new facilities, which will include:

- New overnight cabin facilities for Elders, shower/washroom facilities for camp users;
- Renovate the mess hall with a commercial kitchen; install a new water treatment/distribution system and sewage holding tank; and;
- Add a new permanent sweat lodge structure.

FNUUniv has followed the Infrastructure Canada bid process (Advance Contract Award Notice) for the direct award to Stone and Arrow (partnership with Stantec) to function as FNUUniv's engineering and construction project management. The successful project bidder for the construction manager position is Erickson Contracting & Management Ltd (ECM).

To ensure that FNUUniv is eligible for the full grant funding from ICIP, the FNUUniv Board of Governors has invested an additional \$1.3M into the project. This rise in expenses was due to increased construction costs because of the changes in the construction industry since the ICIP agreement was signed.

FNUUniv will begin exploring the potential for a revenue-generating stream for the site (facility rental) when the site is not occupied by FNUUniv programs. The revenue generation will offset the capital investment, by including an operations budget for maintenance, utilities, staffing, and ensure a reserve capital repair account is set up for future maintenance of the facilities.

The project is anticipated to be completed in October 2024 if there are no considerable delays beyond our control. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will need to be planned with federal and provincial dignitaries as a requirement of the ICIP funding.



nēwoskān Traditional Campus, St. Louis, SK

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ENROLMENT

FNUUniv began three new community-based programs in Fall 2023, with two programs based in the North to serve students who cannot relocate to the nearest available campus and one program in Ontario.

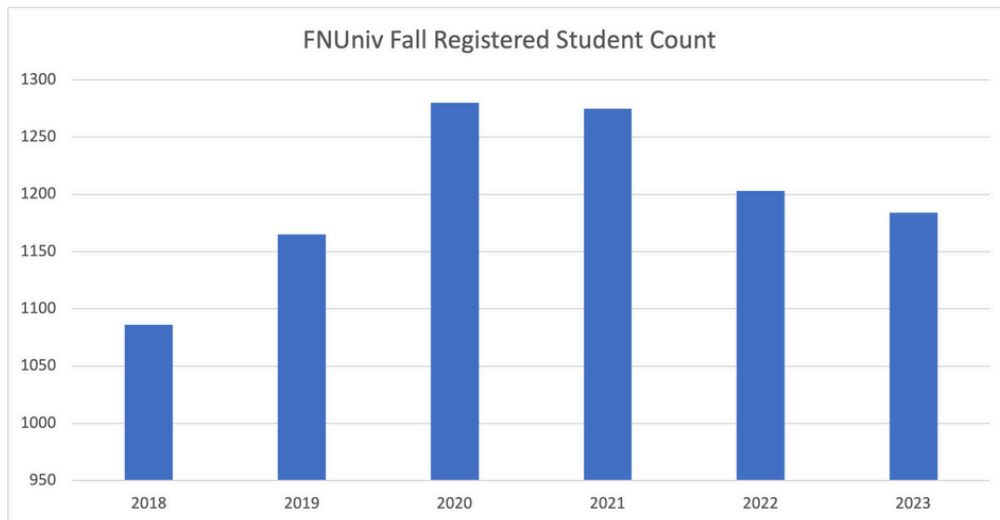
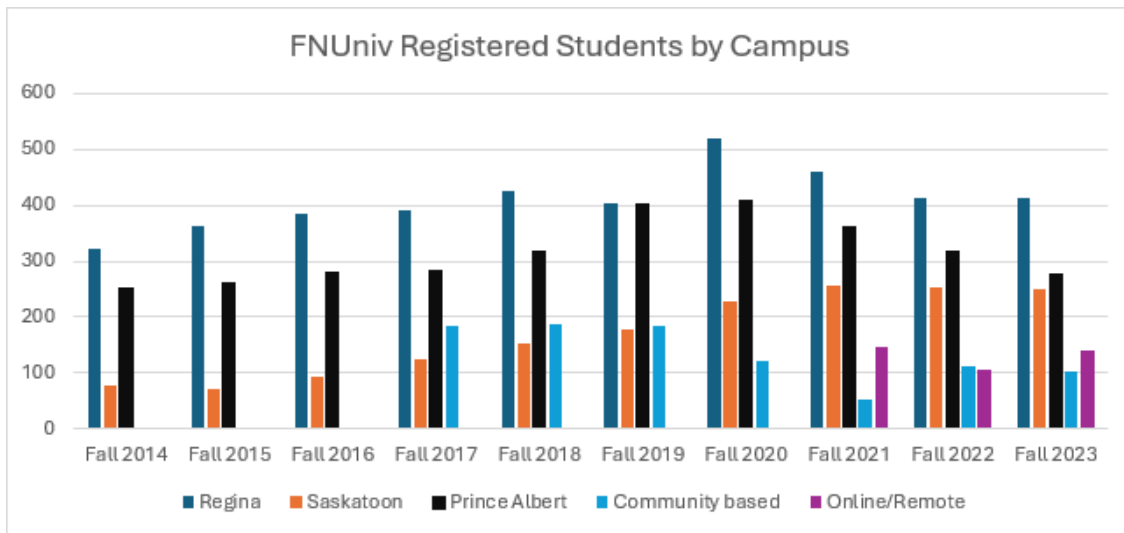
New

- Hatchet Lake Dene Immersion Bachelor of Indigenous Education (BIED) (2023-2027)
- Waterhen Lake Cree Immersion Bachelor Indigenous Education (BIED) (2023-2027)
- *Kanyen'keha* (Mohawk) Certificate in Indigenous Language (Fort Erie, Ontario) (2023-2025)

On-Going

- Clearwater River Dene Nation Bachelor of Indigenous Education (Dene Immersion)
- La Ronge Business Administration
- Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Labour Force Development (TATC LFD)/Quinton, SK) Certificate in Indigenous Social Work.
- Parkland College Bachelor of Indigenous Education (BIED) Program

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



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA INC.

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024



REVENUE

Total revenues increased from \$27.5M to \$28.3M (an increase of \$0.8M or 2.8%) with the growth being primarily driven by:

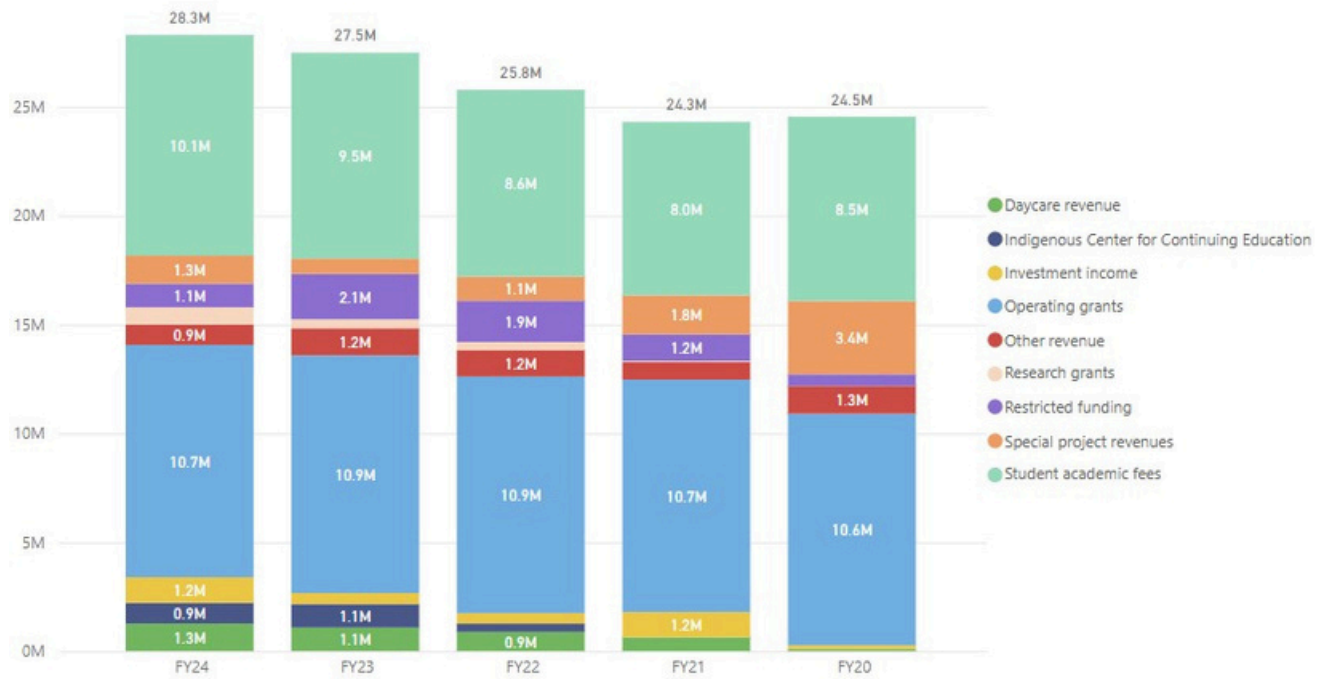
- Student academic fees increased by \$0.6M. This growth was primarily attributed to an overall growth in academic enrollment.
- Investment income related to interest revenues increased by \$0.6M due to improving market conditions between FY23 and FY24.
- These increases were off-set by the decrease in COVID-19 funding which decreased by \$1.0M, and was reflective of the last remaining funding that had been originally provided in FY21 and has now been completely utilized.

EXPENDITURES

Total expenses increased from \$26.1M to \$29.7M (an increase of \$3.6M or 14%) with the increase being attributed to the following:

- Supplies and services increased by \$2.6M. This includes \$1.1M in bad debt expense carried through the Statement of Operations, related primarily to student academic fees and community-based programs.
- Special project expenses increased by \$0.6M. These expenses are reflective of the special project revenue the University obtains from external parties for specific initiatives led by the University.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Financial Statements for the Year Ending March 31, 2024 are available on the website:
<https://www.fnuniv.ca/about-us/annual-reports-financial-statements/>

APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT & ACADEMIC TEAM

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Istvan Samayoa, Chief Financial Officer

March 1, 2024

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

Dr. Tara Turner, Associate Dean, Community-Based Programs and Projects

June 1, 2023

Dr. Edward Doolittle, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

March 1, 2024

FACULTY

Reanna Daniels
Lecturer, Indigenous Education

April 1, 2023

Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter
Assistant Professor, Indigenous Communication & Fine Arts, Indigenous Business & Public Administration

July 1, 2023

Amanda Gannon
Lecturer, Indigenous Health

July 1, 2023

Dr. Norma Dunning
Assistant Professor, Indigenous Health

August 1, 2023

MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT TEAM

Cory Amiskusees
Plant Property & Maintenance Manager

December 2, 2023

Kristin Francis
Director of Communications

January 2, 2024

RECOGNIZING YEARS OF SERVICE

Our employees' hard work and dedication to the institution does not go unnoticed. This year, the First Nations University of Canada honoured 15 faculty and staff. FNUUniv Senior Management hosted a wonderful dinner where personalized gifts were presented to each employee to acknowledge the excellent years of service they provide to the students, colleagues, Elders, and the community.

5 YEARS

Donald Hanslip
Plant, Property, and Maintenance

Otto Ripoll-Leal
Library

Bonnie Rockthunder
Advancements

10 YEARS

Loretta Bear
Finance

Lisa Bighead
Registrar's Office

Andrew Miller
Indigenous Studies

Michelle Parenteau
Student Success Services

Tara Turner
Community-Based Programs and Projects

15 YEARS

Candace Cappo
Community-Based Programs and Projects

Trina Joseph
Administration

Hongru Lui
Library

20 YEARS

Carrie LaVallie
Academics

Jackie Nixon
Student Success Services

30 YEARS

Lianda Tanner
Registrar's Office

Arok Wolvengrey
Indigenous Languages, Literature and Linguistics



(L to R): Arok Wolvengrey, Loretta Bear, Bonnie Rockthunder, Lianda Tanner, Trina Joseph, Michelle Parenteau, and Andrew Miller

RESEARCH

The 2023 year was a challenging year of transition for the Research Office. The Research Facilitator and Funding Officer went on a one-year Maternity Leave earlier in the year. Despite the search for a replacement term, the position was unfilled for 2023.

In June 2023, **Dr. Bettina Schneider**, Associate Dean of Research, Grad Studies and Community Programs, transitioned out of her role and back into a faculty position. **Dr. Tara Turner** stepped into her place.

August 2023 saw the completion of the creation of the Research Data Management Strategy. Initial surveys to staff and faculty went out in May of 2023, asking for input about who FNUUniv faculty manage and share research data beyond their research projects, how FNUUniv might help facilitate data management activities, understand some of the differences in research data management practices and needs across the disciplines. According to the Tri-Council of Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), post-secondary institutions “create and share, with the agencies and on its website, an institutional research data management (RDM) strategy that describes how the institution will provide its researchers with an environment that enables and supports RDM.” The purpose of the strategy is to encourage and support responsible data management in research by FNUUniv faculty and with Indigenous communities in a good way.

In December 2023, the Associate Dean role was separated into two positions, and a search committee launched in January 2023 for a faculty member to fill the newly created Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies role, with **Dr. Tara Turner** maintaining the Associate Dean of Community Programs role.

January 2024 saw the return of Cheyanne Desnomie, Research Facilitator and Funding Officer.

In March of 2024, **Dr. Edward Doolittle** was appointed the new Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs.

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARD RECIPIENTS

March of 2024 also saw the second call for the **FNUUniv Board of Governors Research Award** applications. These awards provide FNUUniv faculty with funding to undertake research and scholarly work that has the potential to develop into larger-scale, externally funded research programs. **Dr. Edward Doolittle**, **Dr. Susannah Walker**, and **Dr. Vincent Ziffle** were the recipients of the 2024 FNUUniv Board of Governors Research Award.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

PROJECTS & LEAD FACULTY MEMBERS

Investigating the Attitudes of Aboriginal Students in University Research - **Dr. Edward Doolittle, Dr. Miriam McNab**

Natural Resource Partnership and New Venture Creation in a First Nation Context - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

AYEEP Survey - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Explanatory English-Cree Dictionary of Mathematics Terms - **Dr. Arzu Sardarli**

Pawatamowin: Creating Space for Indigenous Thought in Teaching Writing - **Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly & Dr. Angelina Weenie**

Partnership on University Plagiarism Prevention - **Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly & Dr. Angelina Weenie**

Application of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge to Modern Technology - **Richard Dosselmann**

Southern SK Medicinal Plant - **Dr. Vincent Ziffle**

Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC) - **Moses Gordon & Tammara Quewezance**

Indigenous Elders' Stories of Traditional Birthing and Child-Rearing Practices - **Dr. Brenda Green**

Moving Across Spaces-UofR - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

Sask Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR) - **Cassandra Wajuntah**

Moving Across Rural and Urban Aftercare Spaces-SHRF - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

21st Century Tools for Indigenous Languages - **Dr. Arok Wolvengrey**

2022 Indigenizing University Mathematics Conference - **Dr. Edward Doolittle**

CMESG Conference - UBC - **Dr. Edward Doolittle**

SSHRC STEM as Place - **Dr. Edward Doolittle**

Carbon Capture by Boreal Afforestation - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Elders' Residency on Medicinal Plants and Languages - **Dr. Vincent Ziffle**

SPECIAL PROJECTS & LEAD FACULTY MEMBERS

Young Writers - **Dr. Jesse Archibald-Barber**

Seed funding for Research in Indigenous Studies - **Dr. Blair Stonechild**

Native Prairie Area Project - **Dr. Fidji Gendron**

Wiseman Mathematics Contest - **Dr. Arzu Sardarli**

Indigenous Youth Entrepreneurship Camp - **Jason Bird**

Medicine of the Arts Project - **Audrey Dreaver**

Online Admin Certificate - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Financial Empowerment Course - **Dr. Bettina Schneider**

National Science Laboratory Video - **Dr. Arzu Sardarli**

Indigenous Leadership Program - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Let's Talk Science - **Dr. Vincent Ziffle**

Indigenous Leadership & Governance Program Training - **Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Sharing Sask Endangered Languages on Radio and Online - **Shannon Avison**

Birth Support Worker - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

Indigenous Youth Comic Book Art Camp - **Audrey Dreaver**

ka-nēhiyaw-kiyokānaw: Indigenous visiting as language revitalization Initiative - **Andrea**

Custer

Indigenous Teaching Fellowships in Indigenous Media Narratives - **Shannon Avison**

Elder Self-care Medicine Teaching Program - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

Elders Cultural Traditional Based Activities - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

Journalism Schools Canada - **Shannon Avison & Patricia Elliott**

wāsākāmā (Make A Circle) - **Dr. Carrie LaVallie**

Legacy Program FNUiv Business Students - **Jason Bird & Dr. Bob Kayseas**

Sharing Indigenous Languages On Radio and Online - **Shannon Avison**

These Stories Have Walked a Long Way II - **Dr. Andrew Miller**

Indigenous Peoples, Media, and Democracy Conference - **Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter**

Inspirit Foundation - Media Narratives (CFNU) - **Shannon Avison**

Business MITACS - **Dr. Merelda Fiddler-Potter**



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 an opportunity to work with others and educate students in their home communities. We continuously seek and welcome those partnerships year after year.

Over the year, the First Nations University of Canada has sustained and created sixteen new regional and international partnerships, enriching our university's growth.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

Canada

- Urban Economy Forum (UEF), ON
- Stratford Festival, ON
- Star Blanket Cree Nation, SK
- Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC), SK
- Influence Mentoring Society, AB
- National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food
- Chalupiak & Associates
- St. John's Ambulance
- City of Regina
- University of Regina

Australia

- University of Queensland
- University of Newcastle (in progress)

Mongolia

- Mongolia National University

New Zealand

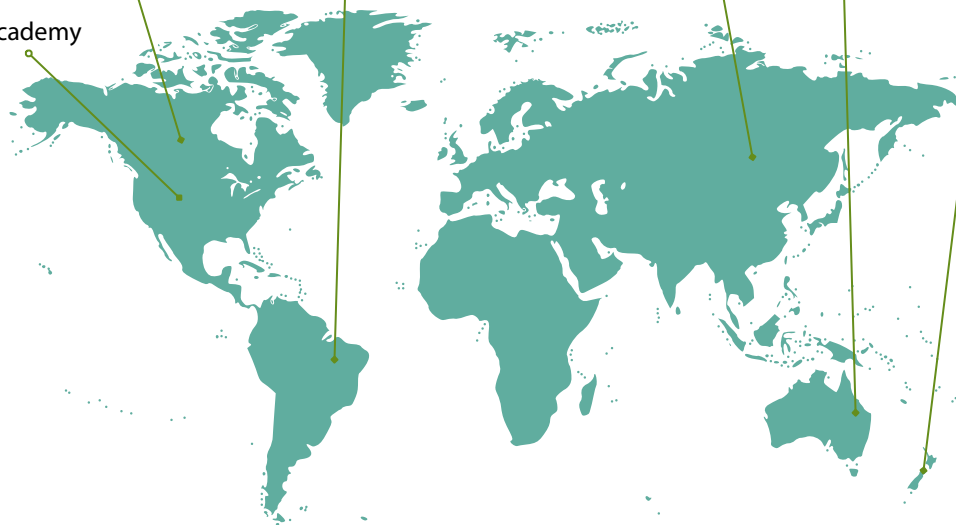
- University of Waikato (in progress)

Brazil

- Uniter Educacional S/A

USA

- VMWare IT Academy



SCHOLARSHIP, AWARD, & BURSARY RECIPIENTS

The First Nations University of Canada has numerous scholarships, awards, and bursaries available to FNUiv students. Application deadlines are twice per calendar year, February 28 and October 31. Students are encouraged to apply and must meet all eligibility requirements.

We appreciate the tremendous support from the donors and contributors throughout the year. Your financial contributions aid our students' success and education goals.

Congratulations to all recipients.

RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2023-2024 YEAR:

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARD, OR BURSARY	RECIPIENT		AMOUNT AWARDED PER TERM
	October 2023	February 2024	
4 Seasons of Reconciliation I	JR Brass		\$ 2,500.00
4 Seasons of Reconciliation II	Amelia Friday		\$ 2,500.00
4 Seasons I Scholarship		Twila Manitoopies	\$ 5,000.00
4 Seasons II Scholarship		Breanne Carrier	\$ 5,000.00
Adam Dreamhealer Prize		Keith Lloyd	\$ 500.00
BMO Financial Group Indigenous Business Scholarship	Nikia Pratt		\$ 2,500.00
	Justin Holness		\$ 2,500.00
	Nowell McNab		\$ 2,500.00
	Christine Preston		\$ 2,500.00
		Barry Warner	\$ 2,500.00
		Fearence Francis	\$ 2,500.00
		Phoenix Isnana	\$ 2,500.00
Bobby Bird Memorial Scholarship	Nowell McNab		\$ 600.00
Drs. Lewis and Elisabeth Brandt Scholarship	Ernestine Ray		\$ 3,980.00
	Kaitlynn McArthur		\$ 3,980.00
Edna Irene Allen Estate Scholarship		Tasha Brass	\$ 700.00
FNUiv Library Book Award		Mason McKenzie	\$ 300.00
Freda Ahenakew and Jean Okimāsis nēhiyawēwin Scholarship	Kaitlynn McArthur		\$ 500.00
		Stewart Harper	\$ 500.00
Grain & General Services Union Bursary		Michelle Throassie	\$ 2,000.00
Hudson's Bay Company Student Achievement Award for Excellence	Christine Preston		\$ 2,700.00
	Kris Smallboy		\$ 2,700.00
Indigenous Author Award	Danielle Lanouette		\$ 350.00
Jack Adilman Scholarship		Fearence Francis	\$ 750.00



CONTINUED RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2023-2024 YEAR:

SCHOLARSHIP, AWARD, OR BURSARY	RECIPIENT		AMOUNT AWARDED PER TERM
	October 2023	February 2024	
Jean Shoebridge Memorial Book Prize	Shalene Albert		\$ 225.00
	Marie Merasty		\$ 225.00
		Layne Fleury	\$ 225.00
		Kaitlynn McArthur	\$ 225.00
Jerry and Florence Kayseas Scholarship	Destiny Gunville		\$ 2,000.00
		James Masuskapoe	\$ 2,000.00
		Jacob Goodpipe	\$ 2,000.00
Jo-Ann Episkenew Indigenous Writing Award	Aiden Akan-Kinistino		\$ 400.00
Joely BigEagle-Kequahtoway Award	Brayden Benjoe		\$ 500.00
		Georgette Arcand	\$ 500.00
John B. Tootoosis Award	Chantel Dreaver		\$ 800.00
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Award	JR Brass		\$ 1,000.00
Out of Province Indigenous Student Award	Wilson Bearhead		\$ 5,000.00
Pro Metal "Every Child Matters" Bursary	Amelia Friday		\$ 2,500.00
		Bonnie Bruce	\$ 2,500.00
Rose Nolan Scholarship	Chandre Lerat-Yew		\$ 5,000.00
SaskGaming (Casinos Regina & Moose Jaw) Indigenous Business Administration Scholarship	Fearence Francis		\$ 2,500.00
SaskGaming (Casinos Regina & Moose Jaw) Indigenous Hospitality, Tourism, and Gaming Management Scholarship	Fearence Francis		\$ 2,500.00
SaskEnergy Scholarship	Christine Preston		\$ 1,000.00
	Fearence Francis		\$ 1,000.00
	Krysta Hatfield		\$ 5,000.00
SGI (Stan Hamilton) Scholarship	Justin Holness		\$ 2,500.00
The Solomon Ratt Indigenous Language and Language Literacy Scholarship	Kaitlynn McArthur		\$ 1,000.00
		Cheyenne Fontaine	\$ 1,500.00
		Eden Fontaine	\$ 1,500.00
		Chastity Sylvestre	\$ 1,500.00
		Bernadette Besskkaystare	\$ 1,500.00
		Kaitlynn McArthur	\$ 1,500.00
		Carlie Lemaigre	\$ 1,500.00
		Shirley Sha'Oulle	\$ 1,500.00
The Co-operators Scholarship		Faye Cote	\$ 500.00
		Fearence Francis	\$ 1,250.00
		Taylor Head	\$ 1,250.00
Tony Cote Scholarship	Kaitlynn McArthur		\$ 1,000.00
		Kaitlynn McArthur	\$ 1,000.00
Viola Anaquod Single Parent Bursary		Savannah Bird	\$ 2,000.00

pamināwasowin CHILD CARE CENTRE



The *pamināwasowin* Child Care Centre summary honours the traditions, culture and growth of our Indigenous community and highlights the achievements, stories and connections made over the past year.

We welcomed new children, families, and staff into our growing program during 2023-2024. Enrolment has increased over the past year from 70% to 95% enrolment.

CULTURAL EDUCATION AND CELEBRATION

We have deepened our commitment to cultural education by incorporating Indigenous language, traditional storytelling, and arts and crafts activities that celebrate our community's rich heritage and traditions, fostering a sense of pride and identity among our children.

LAND-BASED LEARNING

Our children have had the opportunity to engage in land-based learning activities, such as gardening, traditional medicine harvesting and outdoor adventures that connect them to the land, instill a sense of stewardship and deepen their understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Through partnerships with local Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members, we have organized cultural events, sharing circles and ceremonies that have strengthened intergenerational bonds, promoted cultural resilience and enriched the lives of our children and families.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

Playground construction began in the fall of 2022. Playground development has advanced, with expected completion in the fall of 2024.

***kôhkom* Bea's Café**



Renovations began in 2023, and a grand opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony followed on October 27th, 2023. The event honoured one of our Elders, the late Beatrice Lavalée and recognized the re-opening of *kôhkom* Bea's Café. The café has expanded to offer catering services to our First Nations University of Canada and community.

The additional service will provide a second stream of revenue for the café.



ICEC

INDIGENOUS
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
CENTRE

INDIGENOUS CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTRE (ICEC)



Most notably, the Advancing Re(al)conciliation course, which educates learners through truth-telling and inspires action, successfully launched on June 21st, 2023, on National Indigenous Peoples Day, has been growing in demand rapidly.

Through course expansion, ICEC has also issued a significant number of digital credentials in the form of Professional MicroBadge, MicroCredential, or MicroCertificate to learners across Canada. In partnership with **MyCreds™**, these digital credentials recognize learners' hard work and dedication and provide them with a valuable tool for showcasing their skills and knowledge to potential employers and educational institutions.

For First Nations University of Canada's Indigenous Continuing Education Centre (ICEC), 2023-24 was a year of significant growth and accomplishment with respect to course expansion, increased enrolments, and community collaboration.

Throughout 2023-24, ICEC saw a rise in interest in professional development opportunities from local and remote communities, non-profit organizations and large corporations, indicating ICEC's expanding national reach. As such, overall enrolment increased from the previous year, reflecting the growing demand for ICEC courses.

ICEC expanded course offerings during 2023-24 that align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action and leverage FNU's **National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE)** content. ICEC added our new Professional MicroBadge short online courses: **Advancing Re(al)conciliation, Indigenous Economic Worldviews, Indian Residential School System in Canada: Origins and History and Building Research Relationships with Indigenous Communities.**

ICEC continues to foster collaborative partnership opportunities with organizations and communities to build competencies and skills that will contribute to Indigenous community initiatives' capacity, efficiency, and sustainability. Three valued ICEC partnerships offer programs designed for capacity building to offer the First Nations Communities; **FNU's Board Governance Training and Indigenous Leadership Program** in partnership with Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS), **Indigenous Research Methodologies** courses in partnership with The Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC), and **Data Centre Virtualization** in partnership with VMWare Academy.

As we strengthen our ties with a growing number of partners and Indigenous communities, FNU remains committed to providing ICEC's exceptional culturally enriched continuing education and professional development programming for all learners, from coast to coast to coast throughout Canada.



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The National Centre for Collaboration

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR COLLABORATION IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (NCCIE)

The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education (NCCIE) completed a series of Elder interviews on teaching and research that can now be found on the [NCCIE website](#).

A YEAR IN REVIEW



ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION POWWOW 2023 - APRIL 2023
The 2023 Spring Celebration Powwow welcomed over 8,500 spectators, dancers, singers, Elders, Veterans, volunteers, and spectators to witness a beautiful part of our culture and traditions. The powwow committee is a dedicated group that continues to foster relationships within the province to bring this annual powwow to the community.



SPRING 2023 GRADUATION CELEBRATION – JUNE 2023
The annual Spring Convocation ceremony honoured graduates from the FNUUniv Faculties of Social Work, Arts, Business Administration, Science, Education, and Media, Art & Performance. Three graduates received their Masters of Indigenous Education degrees. Overall 165 graduates walked across the stage, one of the highest numbers of graduates in recent history.



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA & FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA RENEWAL OF UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP – JUNE 2023
The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reflects the U of R's and FNUUniv's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and provides mechanisms for the two institutions to enhance communication, strengthen collaboration, and build on Indigenous ways of knowing over the next five years.



INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM (INSW) CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN SASKATOON – OCTOBER 2023
Current students, alumni, faculty members, and staff all gathered in Saskatoon to commemorate 50 years of Indigenous Social Work (INSW) as a university program, originating even prior to the start of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, the original name of First Nations University of Canada. The day included panel discussions on the history of the university and the INSW program. A large portrait of distinguished members that impacted the INSW program over the past 50 years, painted by artist Cristian Barreno, was presented to the FNUUniv.



FALL 2023 GRADUATION CELEBRATION – OCTOBER 2023

The annual Fall Convocation ceremony held in Prince Albert, SK., celebrated the achievements of graduates from the FNUUniv Faculties of Social Work, Arts, Business Administration, Science, Education, and Media, Art & Performance. A total of sixteen graduates were awarded their Master's degrees, while an impressive 107 graduates walked across the stage in recognition of their accomplishments.



ANNUAL ELDERS CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 2023

The annual Christmas dinner for Elders took place at the Regina Campus, organized by the Elders' office. This event serves as a wonderful opportunity for the FNUUniv community to gather with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, enjoy a festive holiday meal, exchange gifts, and welcome special guests, including Santa and our 2023-2024 Miss FNUUniv.



FNUNIV HOSTS A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND Q&A WITH CANADIAN ASTRONAUT JEREMY HANSEN – FEBRUARY 2024

First Nations University of Canada Regina campus hosted Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen for a presentation on his upcoming Artemis II mission. Jeremy is set to become the first Canadian to travel to the Moon.



REGINA STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ROUND DANCE - FEBRUARY 2024

The FNUUniv Regina Student Association hosted their Annual Round Dance, creating an atmosphere buzzing with excitement. The First Nations Veterans Memorial Tipi overflowed with guests ready to dance the night away, as the rhythmic sounds of drums and singing resonated throughout the entire building.

FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF CANADA

**WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE
SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS WHO ASSIST
THE FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA
IN ACHIEVING OUR MISSION**

The First Nations of Saskatchewan

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)

Government of Canada, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Advanced Education

University of Regina (UofR)



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

***nêwoskan* TRADITIONAL CAMPUS**

St. Louis, SK