

Media Release

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First Nations University of Canada celebrates its largest Spring Graduation on June 15

Regina, Saskatchewan – The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) celebrates its largest Spring Graduation on June 15th. FNUniv is ready to welcome over 190 new alums as the University celebrates its annual Spring Graduation Celebration on Saturday. Graduates will walk across the stage at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina, SK., the location for the annual Spring event.

While graduates officially convocated through the University of Regina in the days leading up, the FNUniv graduation celebration honours each graduate in the First Nations' traditional and cultural way. Every graduation begins with a pipe ceremony with members from the kêhtê-ayak Council leading the day in a positive manner. As the 191 undergraduates and three master's students enter the venue in the Grand Entrance, family and guests will await their official acknowledgement as each graduate receives their embossed leather scroll, the signature mark of the First Nations University of Canada.

This celebration will see graduates from the Faculties of Social Work, Arts, Health Studies, Business Administration, Science, Indigenous Education, Kinesiology, Media, Arts & Performance and the UofR Centre for Continuing Education. Three graduates received their Master of Indigenous Language Education and Master of Indigenous Language Education designation. Throughout the ceremony, the FNUniv's Interim VP Academic will award numerous diplomas, certificates, and degrees during the Spring ceremony. It's an honour to acknowledge faculty member Dr. Marlene McNab, an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of the Indigenous Social Work program at FNUniv. Dr. McNab received her Doctor of Philosophy degree with a Major in Public Policy from the University of Regina.

The FNUniv graduation celebration is a day-long event, starting with the pipe ceremony at 10:00 a.m. in the tipi located at the Conexus Arts Centre. The doors open at 12:00 p.m., and the official program kicks off at 1:00 p.m. This annual event is typically held in June and October, with the Fall location rotating between the two Saskatchewan cities where FNUniv campuses are located – Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. The Spring location, however, is always in Regina, providing a consistent and familiar setting for the celebration.

About First Nations University of Canada

Established in 1976, the First Nations University of Canada is Canada's *only* national First Nations-owned post-secondary institution. FNUniv is a unique educational institution of higher learning specializing in Indigenous Education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of all cultural backgrounds. Our Vision is to aspire to have a transformative impact by bridging our ceremonies, knowledge keepers, languages, and traditions with the delivery of high-quality post-secondary education. For more information, please visit <u>www.fnuniv.ca</u>.

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