Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba

Fall Colloquium Series

New Horizons of Knowledge

Please join us for this blockbuster lineup, every Wednesday during the term: 12:30 - to 1:20

Oct 6, Helen Cote, Intern, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, "Damaged Children, Broken Spirits: The Residential School Experience as Told by Aboriginal Elders in Saskatchewan" Room 307 Tier.


Oct 20, Roger Roulette, Aboriginal Languages of Manitoba, and Maureen Mathews, journalist, CBC Radio, "Ojibway Contributions to Contemporary Health", Room 307 Tier.

Oct 27, Lorraine Brundige, Professor, Native Studies, Brandon University, "Aboriginal Women and Education", Room 307 Tier.

Nov 3, Deborah Simmons, Professor, Native Studies, University of Manitoba "More Important than Money: Capital and the New Aboriginal Land Claim Agreements", Room 307 Tier.

Nov 10, Larry Chartrand, Director, Aboriginal Self Government Program, University of Winnipeg, "The Ethics of Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples", Room 307 Tier.

Nov 17, Wanda Wuttunee, Professor, Native Studies, University of Manitoba, "Living Rhythms: Lessons in Aboriginal Economic Resilience and Vision", 137 Isbister.

Nov 24, Gary Farmer, Actor, "Aboriginal Media", Room 307 Tier

Dec 1, Richard Atleo, Visiting Scholar, University of Manitoba, "Tsawalk, a Nuu-chah-nulth World View", Room 307

Photo by Peter Kulchyski
Greetings from the Department Head

Dr. Peter Kulchyski,

It has been a busy summer, but allow me to welcome back graduate and undergraduate returning students, and welcome the new gang.

There is so much going on, as this new and improved newsletter surely shows, that you'll have many opportunities to enrich your thinking outside of the classroom as well as inside it. I want to thank Lois Gray for her outstanding work with us, including putting this newsletter together. I also want to welcome Kimberley Wilde, our new Department Assistant, filling the shoes left by Gloria Spence who went over to Aboriginal Focus Programs (where they pay the big bucks, apparently!). Best of luck to Gloria, who I loved working with for the short period she was here. I will also welcome Renate Eigenbrod to the ranks of our tenure-track department members and congratulate her on being awarded a Faculty of Arts award at the Arts Celebrating Arts event in late September. Finally I have the pleasure of welcoming a dear friend, Deborah Lee Simmons, as a full time sessional instructor with us, teaching courses on the north, this year.

For my own part, I spent the summer (July) on Baffin Island, still working on my Inuktitut and keeping a keen eye on our students who travel up there with Professor Trott and myself. I get up to Lac Brochet now and again to help them develop a local constitution. I've won a $144,000 research grant (over three years) to engage in a study of self-government and resource stewardship in four communities, Grassy Narrows, On, Poplar River and Pimicikamak Cree Nation, Mb, and Fort Good Hope, NWT. Both Ramona Neckoway and Jocelyn Cheechoo have already been working for me on this project, and it's given me funds to go hi-tech, with a new notebook computer, palm pilot, digital camera, and digital tape player all in my new toolkit. I've also applied with the Keewatin Tribal Council to do an oral history of the northern Manitoba treaties, and will find out in November if that funding will come through. I need a bigger briefcase! I published several entries in the Oxford Companion to Canadian History edited by Gerald Hallowell and a book review (of Sherrill Grace's The Idea of North) in Inuit Studies (2004, 28-1), so my name has appeared in print a few times (and not just through being insulted!). I also found out my review of Alan Cairn's book Citizen's Plus appeared in the Canadian Journal of Native Studies, from a 2002 issue. I gave a keynote address at the annual CONGRESS meetings in early June to the Canadian Communications Association called “Dancing the Spectacle: Postmodern Traditions in Northern Aboriginal Communities”.

I hope all students, staff, and faculty will enjoy a productive and pleasurable (yes, the two can go together) fall term.

Peter and Malay Kulchyski address the graduating class at the recent graduation of the Sagkeeng Aboriginal Governance Program.

Aboriginal Student Association (UMASA)
By David Krouse Co-President University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students Association

Hello Everyone,

We, the University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students Association, would like to welcome all new and returning students. We are looking forward to a great and rewarding year.

Current Council members:
• Co-President: Marcella Gionet - mgionet@umasa.ca
• Co-President: David Krouse - dkrouse@umasa.ca
• Co-Vice-President: Brandi Vesina - bvezina@umasa.ca
• Co-Vice-President: Stuart Desnomie - sdesnomie@umasa.ca
• Treasurer: Natalie Thomas - nthomas@umasa.ca
• Secretary: Julie Lafreniere - jlafreniere@umasa.ca
• First Year Representative: Quentin Elijah - qelijah@umasa.ca
• Sports Coordinator: Warren Sanderson - wsanderson@umasa.ca
• Events Coordinator: Debbie Myron - dmyron@umasa.ca

We, as new Council, for the 2004/2005 year, are focusing on building a stronger aboriginal community at the University of Manitoba. You can learn more about the University of Manitoba Aboriginal Students Association by visiting our website at, www.umasa.ca, or by visiting us in our Student Lounge at 113 Helen Glass.

Meegwech, David
Life on the SSHRC: One student’s summer
by Ramona Neckoway

Greetings! Welcome back from your summer of whatever it is you were up to! I had a busy summer. I met many interesting people, saw some new places, learned a lot and had lots of fun in the process.

I spent some time in Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN), in northern Manitoba, learning about community governance and resource related issues. I had the opportunity to meet some very interesting people from PCN, and was invited along on a trip to tour some of the land situated in PCN territory. The photo that you see here was taken during that trip. While in PCN, I also had the opportunity to attend the Congress of Indigenous Peoples conference and a pow-wow. These were significant events in the community. It was good to hear Inthinemwin (Cree language); I was thrilled to hear the different dialects. I spent quite a bit of time speaking and listening to PCN citizens discuss political structure. I feel very fortunate to have been in PCN, and the reception I received from the community was fantastic! I learned a lot, and met some great people in the process. Being in PCN was a good experience and I look forward to returning there soon.

Native Studies Masters student Ramona Neckoway (foreground) ponders the effect of Hydro development on the Pimicikamak Cree Nation. With her are Robert Kennedy (left), of the National Resources Defense Council, Chief John Miswagon, chief of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation (top centre) and Martha Garrioch (right) member of the Pimicikamak Women’s Council.

In Memoriam
Harry W. Daniels, 1940–2004

Harry W. Daniels, the preeminent 20th century leader of the Métis peoples of Canada died Monday, September 6 in a Regina hospital after a long and courageous struggle with cancer.

He was the national voice for Métis and Non-Status Indian organizations across Canada. He was a charismatic leader who spearheaded national and international initiatives to achieve recognition of the Aboriginal and treaty rights of NCC constituents, and for equitable access to programs and services which, until then, had been limited to registered Indians on reserves.

Daniels served as President of the NCC in the early 1980s and its successor organization, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples in 1997-2000. As NCC President 1981, he was primarily responsible for negotiating the constitutional recognition of Métis peoples into the Constitution Act, 1982. He published: “A Declaration of Métis and Indian Rights” 1979; “We Are the New Nation” 1979; Native People and the Constitution of Canada” 1981. He was Awarded the Aboriginal Order of Canada, and was the first NCC executive to be awarded an Honorary Presidency for life.

In the international arena he called for United Nations pressure on Canada to meet its obligations to Aboriginal peoples in Canada. He led a delegation to the Fourth Russell International Tribunal, and participated in U.N. initiatives on Habitat and on the Environment. He served as a director of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and received a Certificate of Completion from the International Peace Academy in Vienna.

He received an Honourary Doctorate in Law from the University of Ottawa and was a celebrated and award-winning film and stage actor.

Visit www.metisnation.org/ to learn more about Harry Daniels.

photo by Marvin Garrick
**Eagle’s Eye View**  

A scan of the Winnipeg Aboriginal Community

The “Eagle’s Eye View”—offers a holistic, comprehensive and balanced snapshot of the Aboriginal Community in Winnipeg.

This document is the first resource of its kind for our city and for Canada,” says Dr. Judith Bartlett, Chair of United Way’s Aboriginal Task Group. “It is presented without analysis or interpretation so that it may be used to build knowledge, understanding, trust, connections and relationships.”

The Eagle’s Eye View looks at the Aboriginal Community from holistic perspectives, including cultural; social; economic; and political.

**Download a hefty pdf copy of the report at: www.unitedwaywinnipeg.mb.ca**

---

**Book Launch**  

by Dr. Wanda Wuttunee

I would invite people to be part of a launch of my new book Living Rhythms: Lessons in Aboriginal Economic Resilience and Vision at my talk in November. There are few seminal works in the area of Canada’s Aboriginal economic development. Living Rhythms offers a current perspective on indigenous economics, planning, business development, sustainable development and indigenous knowledge systems. A series of cases studies feature Aboriginal communities and organizations that are adapting to economic and social development based on their own indigenous knowledge and wisdom. It contains dynamic, analytic stories written with their local citizen teams and leaders.

In observing Aboriginal economic development, business and entrepreneurship growth, the issue of what choices will be made to meet community and individual goals is of paramount interest to a strong Canadian economy. Will Aboriginal communities cherish the environment, elders and traditions or will maximizing returns on investment be the objective?

Are these objectives mutually exclusive? What does it mean to Aboriginal communities to meaningfully participate in the economy? What are the benefits and what are the costs?

The manuscript makes a significant contribution to the field by embracing sustainable development concepts, principles and highlighting Aboriginal concepts of wisdom, spirituality and ethics. Further, the sustainable development definition now includes ancient Aboriginal wisdom and the gift of the Earth Mother through concepts of Aboriginal spirituality and ethics. Finally, these community stories demonstrate the success of Aboriginal community-centered planning, learning and action for economic diversification and local area partnerships. Indigenous knowledge systems are central to vital, strong Aboriginal communities.

From the author, “as Aboriginal peoples, we may not want to mirror completely mainstream business choices. We may bring emotion, spirit and caring in addition to strong business skills. We may choose a package of strategies that in the end provides balance in ways that vary across Aboriginal nations but maintain an integrity that is not seen often in the business world.”

---

Carl Stone (first left), student advisor at the Aboriginal Students’ Centre explains the ropes to incoming MA students (clockwise from the left) Julie Nagan, Jac-Lynn Wascyliw and Debbie Grimes.

New grad students not pictured here are: interdisciplinary PhD candidate, Nahanni Fontaine and MA candidates Holly Alston, Glenn Tssezzaze, Wendy Ross.
Public Lecture: Oct 13, 2004, 12:30 - 1:30 PM, Room 1L11 U of Winnipeg. Timothy Di Leo Browne, “The History and Genesis of Michif”. Michif is an extraordinary language featuring Cree verbs and French nouns, a reflection of its speakers’ mixed cultural heritage. A language of the Métis, Michif is spoken in scattered prairie communities of Canada and the United States. It developed along the Red River of southern Manitoba in the early 19th century. Visiting speaker Timothy Di Leo Browne will address the language’s history and grammar, speculate on its future, and demonstrate the extent to which non-linguistic factors can motivate linguistic change.

Radio Broadcast: Tune in to Aboriginal Connections on UMFM radio at 101.5 FM, every Tuesday from 1 to 2 pm. Monica Sinclair hosts this talk show with a feature presentation and community announcements. The show covers just about anything that has an Aboriginal viewpoint or perspective from a student talking about their experience at University of Manitoba, to poets reading their poems, to guest lectures in a colloquia series. There is news, views, events and of course, music and feature interviews with the artists.

CINSA 2005: Call for Papers
The Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association (CINSA) invites papers from all disciplines of Native Studies for its 2005 conference, “Enweying: The Way We Speak Together” at Trent University, Peterborough Ontario, June 9th to 11th 2005. Papers in the following thematic subjects are especially welcome: Performance and Storytelling, History, Environment, Technology and Media, Arts and Literature, Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal relations, Indigenous Knowledge in the Academy. Please send proposals (250 word max.) and a curriculum vitae (1 page) by November 30th, 2004 to cinsa2005@trentu.ca.
Faculty News:

Dr. Fred Shore

The 32.100 Colonizers and the Colonized Orientation course during the last three weeks of August had 25 students this year. They are now ready and rarin’ to go and everyone at the Aboriginal Student Centre, The Aboriginal Business Education Program, Continuing Education Summer Session and Dr. Shore of Native Studies are to be congratulated. Of course, without the students there would be no one to congratulate. So a hearty congratulations to all the students who successfully completed the course.

Dr. Emma LaRocque

Dr. LaRocque received a SHRRC grant of nearly $10,000, and $14,000.00 from the Canada Council for the Arts in support of the Aboriginal Writers of Canada Conference, “For The Love of Words”

Dr. Chris Trott

In April, Chris Trott presented a paper entitled “Mission and Population Dynamics in North Baffin Island” at the Society for American Anthropology Meeting in Montreal and in August he presented a paper called “St Luke’s Hospital, Panniqtuuq: History, Inuit and Qallunaat” at the 14th Inuit Studies Conference in Calgary. He has been invited to present a paper on religious change in North Baffin Island at the American Anthropological Association meetings in San Francisco in November. Most of all, he is looking forward to his research leave from January to June 2005. He intends to spend his leave in England conducting further research on the missionaries to the arctic. This will involve travel to Birmingham, Liverpool, Norwich, Cambridge, Durham, and Cambridge. It is a tough life – but someone has to do it!

Dr. Glen McCabe earns honors from American Psychological Association

Glen McCabe’s PhD dissertation has been selected for Special Recognition by the American Psychological Association (APA). The dissertation is entitled, “Finding the Healing Path: the Therapeutic Conditions of Aboriginal Traditional Healing”. Glen was told that he is the first person from Canada to receive such recognition in the area of Ethnic and Minority Affairs. He’s also been invited to talk about his research at the APA Convention in Hawaii this year, where he will receive the recognition of that organization.

“I feel very honoured by this,” says McCabe. “But I am also interested in letting everyone in our community know that this is for all of us. It takes a whole community to make this kind of thing happen, not just the writer and the people who participated directly. From this, thousands of people in America and Canada will be aware of the kind of work we are doing here in Manitoba to advance the contribution of Aboriginal people in knowledge and understanding about the meaning of wellness and healing. Tansi, miigwech, merci, thank you”

Dr. McCabe is a Metis scholar from Manitoba who earned his PhD at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Education in 2004. He has worked as a counsellor at the U of M Student Counseling and Career Centre. He recently moved to a teaching position in the Faculty of Education.

Dr. McCabe’s work in the field of Aboriginal Healing Ways is a much needed and welcomed contribution. His dissertation is being revised for publication, hopefully within a year’s time. He is a member and supporter of the U of M Annual Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering, and a recording artist, who plays a variety of music from blues, country, and folk to jazz. He has two CD’s to his credit.
Maybe I shouldn’t have smiled ... But I was on holidays in a small town (Dwight) close to Algonquin Park. While I and my family were enjoying the beautiful environment of this region just 1 1/2 hrs. drive north of Toronto, I was also looking for stories and histories of the Aboriginal people of the area - after all, the park is named after one of their nations, the Algonquins. However, I did not find anything - except a stereotypical display of pre-contact life in the Visitor’s Centre (which is very spacious and tells a lot of other stories) and this life-size figure (together with another one of “an Indian” in a canoe) in front of a craft store for tourists. So in the midst of total ABSENCE of the real people and their real stories about how they still have to fight for land they had never signed away (like the Algonquin Park) I found the PRESENCE of images that relegates Aboriginal people to the past, to the imaginary and the exotic, that commercializes their culture and dehumanizes the people. Algonquin means “allies,” and the Algonquins were allies of the British in 1812, but instead of being rewarded for their efforts they had and still have to fight for their rights.

It is hi/stories like these that need to be told in Canadian educational institutions. This is why I teach in Native Studies.

Web Links

White Bison, Inc., is an American Indian non-profit organization based in Colorado that offers healing resources to Native America. These resources, include a daily email called “Meditations With Native American Elders.” Subscriptions are free at www.whitebison.org

The National Congress of American Indians is one of the oldest and largest tribal government organizations in the United States. According to its website, NCAI is a forum for consensus-based policy development among its membership of over 250 tribal governments. NCAI informs the public and governments on tribal self-government, treaty rights, and policy issues affecting tribal governments. The web address is: www.ncai.org.

The European Network for Indigenous Australian Rights (ENIAR) Newsletter: eniar.org

Canadian Ethnic Studies Association e-Bulletin is published at: http://www.ss.ucalgary.ca/ces/CES_en_E-Bulletin.htm

Aboriginal Educational Resources Database of Canadian post-secondary education is located at http://tortoise.oise.utoronto.ca/~first/scholars.html

During October, Peak of the Market growers will donate 50 pounds of fresh vegetables to Winnipeg Harvest Food Banks for every person who signs up for free e-mail recipes at www.PeakMarket.com

Check out the new U of M Aboriginal Students Association website at www.umasa.ca. Webmaster David Krouse and friends have created the first ASA website. The ASA invites students to Come join up!, and make this “Student” run website a model for other Aboriginal students.
CINSA Conference welcomes Mauri delegates from New Zealand

The annual CINSA conference was held this year in conjunction with the CONGRESS meetings, and participants thought this was a very successful co-ordination of events. Keynote speakers included our own Dr Emma LaRocque on ‘Negotiating Culture and the Canon’, Inuit Tapariit Kanatami President Jose Kusugak on ‘Charting the Future in the New Millennium’ for Inuit, and University of Alberta Professor of Native Studies Frank Tough on ‘Metis Scrip and Metis Claims in Northern Saskatchewan’.

A visit by Maori educators was also a high-light for many as they spoke about integrating traditional Maori culture into post secondary education in New Zealand. The banquet was entertained by ribald, street level poetry offered up by The Aboriginal Writers Collective of Manitoba.

Faculty News Dr. Wanda Wuttunee

Since the term ended in April, I have been busy making presentations and attending conferences:
• I delivered a presentation entitled As If People Matter: Aboriginal Business Leadership at a Leadership Conference at the University of Saskatchewan in May. It was interesting since it was not dedicated to Aboriginal perspectives but took a much broader view of leadership.
• I made a presentation on a northern co-ops research project at the Canadian Association for Studies in Cooperation. This project continues with a team of scholars spread across Canada. It builds on field work conducted in Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet NV and Deline, NWT. My presentation to the Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association in June was based on my up-coming book entitled Living Rhythms: Lessons in Aboriginal Economic Resilience and Vision.
• The presentation to the conference at the University of Saskatchewan “Building Futures With Mother Earth Land: A Sustainable Economic Base for Aboriginal People” focused on perspectives on land and development based on my research for the past 10 years. I brought together people from around the world.
• The Okanagan Nation Alliance hosted a one-day conference entitled “The Unity Principle-Nation Building Through Economic Development”. I spoke on my research highlighted in Living Rhythms. It was a full and exciting day.
• The Academy of Management hosted a panel session on Indigenous Entrepreneurship at their recent conference in New Orleans. My perspectives on the topic will be captured in a chapter for a book edited by a New Zealand professor who was part of the panel. He did research in Churchill, Manitoba so he knows our locale.
• Other writings “on the books”, include a chapter on respectful research with Aboriginal peoples, northern co-ops and their impact on Aboriginal economic development and a joint effort on wealth creation in Aboriginal communities. I plan to work on a project focusing on growth of enterprises in Aboriginal communities in Canada and the US, with a colleague at the Conference Board of Canada. Look for some of my writing in First Perspective, a national grass/flax roots newspaper.

As board member with Assiniboine Credit Union I am working with their community economic development projects in the local community. As a board member of the Institute of Research on Public Policy, I am participating in a panel session in New Brunswick on Aboriginal Governance. I am also on a conference planning committee for a conference in Costa Rica for Indigenous Women in Development.

The real highlight of the last few months was the opportunity sing with my daughter as DancingSun Singers and open the Canadian Association of Literature and Language Studies at the Learneds.
For the Love of Words
Aboriginal Writers of Canada

by Dr. Emma LaRocque

The first ever national conference combining critical and creative appreciation of Aboriginal Literatures was held on Sept 30 to Oct 2, 2004 in Winnipeg.

Envisioned by Native Studies professor Dr. Emma LaRocque and co-ordinated by Dr. Renate Eigenbrod, “For the Love of Words: Aboriginal Writers of Canada” brought together scholars and writers, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The conference attracted 80-100 participants.

In addition to a dynamic program of readings by 15 Aboriginal poets, novelists and playwrights such as Ian Ross, Drew Hayden-Taylor, Daniel David Moses, Lee Maracle, Ruby Slipperjack, Marylin Dumont, Gregory Scofield and Duncan Mercredi. There were also book launches and academic panels. Both panelists and readers described the conference as “challenging” and “inspiring”.

The conference was made possible by generous support from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office, Departments of Native Studies and English, the Institute for the Humanities, the Office of Accessibility and St. John’s College. Dr LaRocque (with Dr. Eigenbrod) received substantial grants to support the conference from SSHRC and Canada Council for the Arts.

snowbound

it’s been a long ride on a bad road
made worse by unexplained detours
appearing on blind trails
snowbound
held hostage by myself and a bad road
caught in a time warp
in some northern camp
next to nowhere
and damned up rivers
going nowhere to feed the south

excerpt from “the duke of windsor”
poetry by Duncan Mercredi.

Duncan was a presenter at the “For Love of Words” Conference in October.

Bea Medicine (above right) of the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota, was able to catch up with some old friends at the Aboriginal Literatures conference. Following her presentation at the Native Studies Colloquium on September 29, Bea reconnects with friend and colleague, Dr. Kathy Buddle-Crowe (left), Professor of Anthropology, University of Manitoba.

Excerpt from email to Dr. LaRocque about the conference

“Thank you! Mahsi cho, for your great work because our conference, with the great discussion, panels and readings, was a truly historic occasion.

I cannot remember a conference where so many of our finest Aboriginal authors came together with top academics to share their work and celebrate the renaissance happening globally with Aboriginal and world indigenous literature.”

Richard Van Camp
Awards

* Journalism Scholarship for Native Canadians from the Canadian Press awards a $4,000 scholarship. Contact Deborah McCarney, Canadian Press: dmmccarney@cp.org
* The Dr. Andrew Taylor Award ($1,000) will be offered to the student who shows the most promise in Northern Canadian Studies.
* November 1 is the next deadline for Graduate Student Conference Travel Awards.
* SSHRC applications from graduate students due in the Native Studies office by Nov. 8. Information on these awards is available from the Native Studies Graduate Program Office, Room 535 Fletcher Argue.

Calls for Papers

6th Annual Symposium: Aboriginal Studies, sponsored by the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre at Queen’s University, runs November 12 to 14 at Queen’s University. The theme shall be “Art and Literature.” For more information contact Norman Shields, Symposium Coordinator, Ph (613) 533-6970, Email: hg4@post.queensu.ca

Elizabeth Dafoe Library will present 6 lectures by UofM graduate students. Native Studies PhD Student Nahanni Fontaine will present “A Reflection on Anishinaabe Ikwe’s Gang Participation in Manitoba. An examination of the participation of young Aboriginal women in gangs,” on October 29 12.30-1.30, Iceland Board Room, 3rd Floor, Elizabeth Dafoe Library. Contact Jim Blanchard at 474-6846.

Odds’n’ends

E-YES-CI-KAN-NI-WAK, National Aboriginal Gambling Awareness Conference will be held November 2 to 4 at the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg. For more information contact Janette Thomas at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, 987-4124.

Developing Alternative Energy Resources on Aboriginal Traditional Lands will be held November 15-16 at the Grand Hotel and Suites, Toronto. Call 1-800-443-6452 for more information.

Volunteers Needed: North End Justice Solutions, a Youth Justice Committee made up of North End residents is looking for volunteers to work with young people who have broken the law, or otherwise gotten into trouble in the community. For more information contact: Rhonda Garrioch (204) 589-1721

The Native Data Network (NDN) is a new non-profit organization in Manitoba, with a mission is to get as many Aboriginal people involved with the voting process as possible. The NDN is a data collection service that collects the names and contact information of all First Nation, Metis, Inuit, and non-status people living in the City of Winnipeg. Their aim is to keep members within the Aboriginal community informed on current issues, programs, social events, and announcements. The website is located at http://ndn.yia.ca or email: ndnetwork@hotmail.com

Community University Institute for Public Research CUISR is a partnership between community organizations and faculty and graduate students from the University of Saskatchewan. CUISR serves as a focal point for community-based research. Abstracts of research projects funded through this institute are available at http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/

Aboriginal Education Strategy

Increased high school graduation rates and employment opportunities for Aboriginal students are the goals of the new provincial strategy - the Aboriginal Education Action Plan.

Advanced Education and Training Minister Diane McGifford and Education, Citizenship and Youth Minister Peter Bjornson recently announced that the province has allocated $400,000 to 38 projects in schools across the province aimed at increasing the involvement of Aboriginal parents and families in education.

The Aboriginal Education Action Plan features these objectives. Increasing:
* high school graduation rates,
* access to and completion of post-secondary education,
* entry and participation in the labour market,
* research on Aboriginal education and employment
* increasing the number of Aboriginal teachers through the enhancement of community-based bachelor of education programs in Winnipeg and northern Manitoba, and mentoring programs to encourage Aboriginal high school students to explore teaching careers.