Faculty of Education’s
Fifteenth Annual
Graduate Student Symposium

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The purpose of this study was to examine how the educational services provided by a Manitoba First Nations school can be designed and improved to foster student engagement in quality academic and vocational programs through the teaching and maintenance of Cree culture, traditions, and language. Interviews with one current Grade 12 student, one former graduate (within the past 5 years) and one student who did not complete school (within the last five years) were conducted. Questions were related to student engagement, program quality and the significance of teaching Cree culture, traditions and Language in the school setting.

Recruitment was conducted through purposeful sampling. Interviews were conducted at a place and time convenient to participants, and lasted for no more than one hour. Participants are not identifiable by their individual comments, and pseudonyms are utilized in any commentary used as supporting quotations. Participants were assured through the consent letter that their responses would remain anonymous and confidential, that they could withdraw from the study at any time, and that all identifiers would be stripped from the analysis and dissemination of the results of the study. Participants and/or schools were designated with pseudonyms. Findings will be used to improve the learning conditions of the school and may be disseminated in local community newsletter, professional and academic journals, and conference presentations.

I hope to present this research paper in either a traditional paper presentation or a roundtable format.