MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate

From: Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni

Date: May 14, 2015

Subject: O-AGC Member to Senate Report

The Ogimaawin- Aboriginal Governance Council met on April 21st in the Restorative Justice Room in PACI. Prior to the meeting members were offered the opportunity to take a tour of the new Law School led by Dr. Lee Stuesser, Dean of the Faculty of Law. Ms. Sarah Browne, Institutional Analysis, gave a presentation on Aboriginal Self-Declaration Statistics at Lakehead University.

The Advisors' Ad Hoc Committee is preparing a draft report which will cover: concerns; loss of programs; changes to programs; Aboriginal faculty and staff reductions; history about the initiation of aboriginal programs, and student intake and graduation rates.

There was a discussion regarding the various reductions in government funding for aboriginal students. High school graduates are given preference for post-secondary band funding over mature students, although the mature students demonstrate greater success rates in completing degrees. Dr. Stevenson suggested that Lakehead University will be looking into creating additional funding, possibly leveraging, for mature students.

The Senate Academic Committee (SAC) presented Senate with an assessment framework for evaluating eligibility for indigenous content requirement. Senate adopted the framework as proposed in March 2015.

In response to the social media campaign and other media coverage regarding the Indigenous Content Requirement, the Provost's Office, Dr. McPherson, and Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux have prepared an FAQ to address concerns and questions. It was reported that a Working Group Committee was struck to look at the needs of faculty and staff with regards to the introduction of the Indigenous Content Requirement.

The O-AGC can assist administration during the implementation of the Indigenous Content Requirement policy by becoming knowledgeable and communicating accurate information when presented with the opportunity. It was suggested that each organization could send out a media release in support of the program. An FAQ will be distributed by SAC for referencing to insure accurate and consistent information is being relayed.