

## Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council Report

### Department of Aboriginal Education

January 2012

Submitted by John Hodson, PhD

---

The Department is pleased to report that an MOU between Lakehead and the University of Waikato in Hamilton Aotearoa/New Zealand is just about complete. This is the first agreement of this kind with a university in Aotearoa/New Zealand and creates opportunities for student and faculty exchanges, as well as the possibility of shared research and programming.

#### **Honour Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) P/J Report**

- 2012 recruitment season is upon us and we are busy with all things promotion including placing advertising, and various recruitment activities.
- Starting January 11th Kim Bortolin, Aboriginal Counsellor/Liaison, will be available Wednesday mornings at the Native Student Lounge in the Bora Laskin Building.
- Encouraging students to apply for scholarships and bursaries including the RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program. Selected students are awarded up to \$4,000 each academic year for two to four years to use towards tuition.

#### **NLIP Report**

- **November 2/3, 2011**

##### **Conversation Circles to Support the Development of Additional Qualification Guidelines for Teaching Native Languages -**

The Ontario College of Teachers and Lakehead University invited participants from various education professions including teachers, Native language teachers, education coordinators/directors, advisors, curriculum developers and elders in conversations to inform the development of guidelines for courses leading to Additional Qualifications for teachers that focus on the teaching of Native Languages. The NLIP Coordinator facilitated with a group.

- **November 15-17, 2011**

##### **Circle of Light 2011: A First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Conference**

The conference brought together approximately 1000 representatives from the provincial and First Nation/Federal education systems, academics, Elders, Senators, students and, representatives from First Nation, Métis and Inuit education organizations and communities. The NLIP Coordinator participated in the Native Languages workshops/presentations.

- **November 15, 2011**

##### **Toronto Fairmont Hotel**

The NLIP Coordinator met with James Chapman, Education Coordinator of Sachigo Lake and Vince Dumond, Principal of Martin McKay Memorial School, Sachigo Lake to discuss the possibility of LU evaluating their Native Language Immersion Program.

- **November 16, 2011**

##### **Ontario College of Teachers**

The NLIP Coordinator and the Chair of Aboriginal Education Department met with OCT Director of Membership Services, Linda Zaks-Walker, Manager of Membership Services, Iona Mitchell, Administrative Assistant, Amanda Blaine, and Manager of Teacher Qualifications, David Tallo. The discussions were based on the issues that were brought forward by NLIP students regarding OCT registration and memberships.

- **December 5-7, 2011**

- **Niigaane Ojibwe Immersion School, Leech Lake Reserve, Minnesota**

- The NLIP Coordinator visited the Niigaane Ojibwe Immersion School at Leech lake Reserve, MN. Observed the language classes to grade 6 and talked to the teachers about the program and curriculum. Met with the Director and had a conversation of the possibility of developing a NLIP Native Language Immersion half course.

- The NLIP Newsletter is just about completed and will be ready for electronic distribution once the final approval has been made.