

Year End Report

to

Ojimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council

Department of Aboriginal Education

18th April 2016

A summary of some of the many of the activities that we have undertaken this year:

1. Promotion of our programs: department members have travelled to a variety of conferences, communities and career fairs giving information on our programs, and encouraging prospective students to consider becoming a teacher. We hired a graduate student, Tamara Bernard, to travel to many of the high schools in the region to encourage high school students to think about future study in Aboriginal Education. We hope these efforts will result in more students registering in our programs in the upcoming terms, and believe they will continue to have an impact for some time to come. I would like to thank many offices for their help with this, in particular I would like to thank Anna Chief for all the assistance she provided Tamara.
2. We developed a proposal for the delivery of our HBEd program in partnership with Sandy Lake First Nation. This will involve delivering the program over six years, with students taking classes over the first few years entirely in Sandy Lake or online, and then gradually shifting their studies to Thunder Bay, until the last two years which will be delivered entirely on the Thunder Bay campus. We hope to start this program this fall.
3. With support from the Deputy Provost, we submitted an application to Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada's Post-Secondary Partnerships Program, for funding to support the further development of our Sandy Lake program.
4. The revised HBEd program was submitted to the Ontario College of Teachers for 'verification' (that it meets the new requirements for expanded teacher education programs). We are currently revising the Native Language Teacher Certification program to meet these same requirements of an expanded program.

5. The department has worked hard to reduce its costs this year. We held off hiring one administrative position for the year, in order to save money. For the upcoming year, Bruce Beardy's role will temporarily be as Department Program Manager, so that he can more fully assist with our HBEd and NTEP programs, as well as manage the NLIP program.
6. We have undertaken a major project to upgrade all our filing. This will be very important in ensuring the continued integrity of our student records.

My thanks to all the people and departments across campus who have helped us this year.

Miikwech

Donald Kerr,
Acting Chair