

**O-AGC Report
Department of Aboriginal Education
13 September 2013**

The Department of Aboriginal Education has been active over the summer with the highly successful Native as a Second Language and Odaminowin Language and Cultural Camps and the Native Language Instructors Program that graduated 15 students. The Department also welcomed back to the Thunder Bay Campus our community based Matawa HBEd (Aboriginal) P/J cohorts who returned for their six weeks of studies. The first Matawa cohort is looking at May 2014 for graduation. We are very proud of our strong partnership with Matawa Tribal Council and say *chi mii'gwetch* to them for the summer 2013 wrap-up luncheon they hosted at the Italian Hall.

Our enrolments for this year are currently 199 Native Language students and 42 HBEd students. There has been a decrease in NLIP enrolments over the past two years due to changes in the Admissions process. In response to this the Department is working with the Director of Admissions to ensure that the process is both culturally appropriate and geared to the needs of potential applicants.

The Ontario College of Teachers' Accreditation Committee *Decision Report* (September, 2013) placed several conditions on the accreditation of the HBEd and Native Language programs. The Department is currently finalizing its response to these conditions and will present this material to the Acting Dean on 1 October.

The Department has updated the Transfer Credit Guide used by the Office of Admissions and Recruitment in processing applications to Lakehead programs from Queens, Ottawa and Nipissing. A protocol has also been established to review the Guide biannually to ensure it remains current.

In collaboration with the Acting Dean and Deputy Provost, the Department has started discussions around fallback degree positions for the HBEd and funding for Native Language programs that support the University's Strategic and Academic Plans.

The Department remains concerned regarding the potential for retroactive, unilateral, funding cuts to current budgets from the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives. Any decrease in funding would significantly degrade the Department's ability to provide courses and student support services.

Dr. Wayne Melville
Acting Chair
Department of Aboriginal Education

13 September 2013