

Aboriginal Education

Report to the

Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council

26th September 2016

1. Our Native Language Instructor Program this summer was very successful. Thirteen students started the program, and three students graduated. Changes have been made to the program to meet the demands of the increased teacher training requirements: starting with this year's class, students will now be required to complete four summers of classes, plus courses online during the winter months. As well, the practicum requirement has increased to 80 days.

Many thanks to our fantastic instructors—and to Francine and Bruce—for a terrific summer!

2. A new person has joined us in the department – Brandi Shorthouse is the Department's new Administrative Assistant. She is helping to relieve the load, and hopefully will help to provide a constant and welcoming presence for our students. Please join me in welcoming her!
3. Bruce Beardy's position has changed for the year: this year he is Program Manager for the department's programs. This change recognizes some of the work that Bruce already does for the department. We will be making fuller use of Bruce's skills across the department.
4. Along with Dean John O'Meara, I met with the Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL, the Directors of school boards across the province), to discuss ways we could encourage young people in schools, and particularly young indigenous people, to consider a career in teaching, and also ways to help our graduates find jobs with these boards. Some of this work will be long-term, but I am hopeful we can build relationships and projects here that will slowly increase the number of indigenous teachers we see in classrooms teaching all grade levels and subjects, indigenous administrators, etc.

Donald Kerr
Acting Chair