



# MANITOBA COLLABORATIVE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION BLUEPRINT FOR UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

## Making Excellence in Indigenous Education a Priority

We, as universities, colleges and public school boards in Manitoba, celebrate the gifts that Indigenous students and educators bring to post-secondary educational institutions, including Indigenous knowledge and intellectual traditions, models and approaches to learning. These serve as valuable resources for advancing Indigenous education and for enhancing the educational milieu for all learners in Manitoba.

We acknowledge the distinct perspectives and realities of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students based on their diverse history, culture, language, philosophy, traditional knowledge and experience. We acknowledge the particular contributions of the Indigenous peoples of the Anishnaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dene, Dakota, Inuit and Métis Nations.

We recognize the Nation-to-Nation relationships affirmed in the Treaties, the Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Canadian Constitution, and Indigenous understandings of rights, title and Treaties. Historic inequalities and colonial processes have interfered with these relationships and rights, which continue to affect Canada today.

We recognize and affirm our obligation and unique opportunity as educational leaders, to promote and advance the right to education of Indigenous peoples, in accordance with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

We support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Manitoba, which requires building and maintaining relationships and partnerships. This will establish a strong foundation of mutual respect and appreciation for the diversity of all cultures. This will require strengthening and supporting meaningful community connections, as an integral part of an ongoing dialogue about our shared history and collective future. This will require consideration of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action related to education issued on June 2, 2015.

### THE SIGNATORIES COMMIT TO:

1. Engaging with Indigenous peoples in respectful and reciprocal relationships to realize the right to self-determination, and to advance reconciliation, language and culture through education, research and skill development;
2. Bringing Indigenous knowledge, languages and intellectual traditions, models and approaches into curriculum and pedagogy;
3. Promoting research and learning that reflects the history and contemporary context of the lives of Indigenous peoples;
4. Increasing access to services, programs, and supports to Indigenous students, to ensure a learning environment is established that fosters learner success;
5. Collaborating to increase student mobility to better serve the needs of Indigenous students;
6. Building school and campus communities that value diversity, foster cultural safety and are free of racism;
7. Increasing and measuring Indigenous school and post-secondary participation and success rates;
8. Showcasing successes of Indigenous students and educators;
9. Reflecting the diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures in Manitoba through institutional governance and staffing policies and practices; and
10. Engaging governments and the private and public sectors to increase labour market opportunities for Indigenous graduates.

Signatories endorse the intent of this Blueprint. Within the unique context of each institution, we are committed to collaborative development, implementation and evaluation of the requisite policies, procedures and practices of our institutions and the broader community to advance Indigenous education and reconciliation. These commitments will be set out in a 5-Year Manitoba Indigenous Education Collaborative Blueprint Implementation Plan, to be entered into in 2016.

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Assiniboine Community College

Mr. Ken Cameron, *President*  
Manitoba School Boards Association

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