



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Addressing a Need: UWinnipeg Trains Aboriginal Teachers

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg today celebrated its new Community-based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (CATEP) with its first group of students as well as its partners: the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg School Division, and the Seven Oaks School Division.

The innovative CATEP program provides opportunities for Aboriginal educational assistants employed in Winnipeg and Seven Oaks school divisions to continue working while earning a BA/B.Ed. teaching degree at The University of Winnipeg through the Province of Manitoba's ACCESS program.

“Our Government is pleased to continue our commitment to ACCESS programs with the funding provided to the Community-based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program at The University of Winnipeg,” said Manitoba Advanced Education and Training Minister Diane McGifford. “We commend The University of Winnipeg for their dedication to innovative educational programs which are an important investment in Manitoba's future.”

“This partnership between The University of Winnipeg, the Province, Winnipeg School Division, and Seven Oaks School Division will make a difference in the Aboriginal community,” said University of Winnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy. “Students of inner-city schools will see Aboriginal teachers as role-models, and the teachers will enhance the entire curriculum by sharing their culture.”

Seventeen students are members of the University's first CATEP cohort, which began last fall. Students are currently taking classes at The University of Winnipeg's Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. In May, the students will begin full-time studies for three months. CATEP is funded for three years with the second and third student cohorts beginning the program in September 2006 and September 2007 respectively.

“The Community-based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program is extremely important because it addresses the whole issue of the severe shortage of Aboriginal teachers,” said Ken McCluskey, University of Winnipeg Dean of Education & Extended Learning.

“All of the partners are united in the belief that we must diversify the face of the teaching population in Manitoba to be reflective of its students,” said Annabelle Mays, University of Winnipeg Academic and Special Projects Officer and former Dean of Education.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 9,200 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their “Entire Educational Experience” (Maclean’s Graduate Survey, November 2004). The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall ‘A’ grade in the areas of teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Find out why. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

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