



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

**June 21, 2006**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre Offers Free Summer Day Camps to Inner-City Youth**

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg's Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre will play host this summer to a series of unique free day camps for community children specializing in sports, traditional games, and arts and crafts.

In partnership with The University of Winnipeg Wesmen, Wii Chiiwaakanak will present two weeks of skills training from August 14 – 25 in basketball, volleyball, and traditional games to 40 disadvantaged inner-city youth aged 12 to 17.

“The Wii Chiiwaakanak Sports Camp will build skills, confidence and team spirit, while encouraging development of more general learning, inter-personal, and success-related skills,” said Christine Boyes, RBC Community Learning Commons Coordinator and coordinator of the Wii Chiiwaakanak summer camp programs.

University of Winnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy said the sports camp illustrates the University's commitment to share its resources with its inner-city neighbours. “A sports skills camp of this nature will have a positive impact by fostering camaraderie and cooperation among the participants. It will build self-esteem and proficiency in various sports and games, and provide a solid foundation for our community's children to reach for—and achieve—future goals, educational and otherwise.”

The Aboriginal Youth Arts & Crafts Summer program will begin in early July 2006 and run three days a week, for eight consecutive weeks. Approximately 30 youth, aged 12 to 17, will participate in two major art projects: painting on canvas and soap stone carving. The Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre will be open to youth interested in spending additional time working on their projects. The students will also participate in a tour of the Winnipeg Art Gallery exploring ideas and insights into art. Upon completion, the art projects will be displayed for four weeks each at the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre (509-511 Ellice Avenue), Owiisookaageg Inc. (302-338 Broadway), and the Inner City Aboriginal Neighbours office (563 Ellice Avenue). After the showings, the young artists may take their art work home.

“This is an ideal opportunity for young members of our inner-city community to discover and develop their creative and artistic talents in a supportive and enriching environment,” noted Dr. Axworthy. “We hope this will just be a stepping stone towards future creative endeavours and accomplishments that celebrate their Aboriginal culture and heritage.”

Registrations are still being accepted for the various summer camps; priority will be given to local inner-city youth.

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