



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Master's in Development Practice:
Indigenous Development

Guided by an understanding of Indigenous principles, experience and knowledge, the University of Winnipeg's Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development (MDP) provides students with the range of skills, knowledge and understanding required to practice sustainable development.



Tansi! Boozhoo! Hello! Bonjour!

Welcome to the first edition of the MDP's bi-annual newsletter! We are excited to share with you some of the exciting ways in which the MDP community is working to create positive change. This newsletter is intended to provide you with updates about our students, graduates and faculty as well as news about events and program developments. We also encourage you to check our FB page, where we regularly post interesting articles and events listings relevant to Indigenous innovations in the field of sustainable development.

Knowledge, like happiness, grows as it is shared.

Miigwech! Ekosi! Merci! Thank you!

Claire Reid, Director MDP

Fall 2015
Volume 1

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MDP STUDENT WINS GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE



MDP is pleased to announce that the inaugural winner of the Global Development Challenge: Ideas that Change the World hosted by WUSC and CECI through the UNITERRA program is Manna Sainju, a second year MDP student at the University of Winnipeg. Through a competitive process, Manna was chosen from among 24 applicants to present her project, together with 3 other finalists, at the 2015 International Forum in Montreal. Her project, "Enhancing Economic Security of Tharus in Nepal," was selected as the winner, awarding Manna the opportunity to access funding and resources to turn her project idea into a reality.

Building on her earlier work in Nepal and her studies in the MDP, in particular the course Managing for Environmental Sustainability, Manna's project proposes the idea of facilitat-

ing pathways to self-determination for marginalized Tharu communities in Nepal, in particular through the promotion of economic independence, and the preservation and celebration of Tharu culture. The Tharu are an Indigenous people who live along the Southern border of Nepal.

Manna proposes to initiate community-led bio-briquette and handicraft making enterprises with the aim of doubling household income. The primary participants in the project will be Tharu women and youth. In collaboration with UNITERRA, Manna will plan for the project to begin in winter of 2016.

Congratulations Manna!

2015 Field Placement Hosts

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (MB)

Blue Quills College (AB)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (MB)

Norwest Co-Op Food Centre (MB)

NORDIK Institute (ON)

UNU-INWEH (ON)

Tree Aid (Ghana)

A Rocha (Ghana)

Murri Mura (Australia)
WASSAN (India)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The MDP was peer-nominated and awarded a 2015 [Manitoba Career Development Award of Excellence](#) in the Organizational Leadership category. The Award committee highlighted the unique training offered in the program and the targeted career transition supports provided through the CN Indigenous Resource as excellent innovations.

2015 SYMPOSIUM

Students returned from their field placements and shared their experiences at the 2015 MDP Symposium on Friday, September 11, 2015.

The field placement component is a critical, and much anticipated, part of the MDP program, giving students the opportunity to learn "on-the-ground" about challenges and opportunities of Indigenous development. The Symposium is an event that is open to the public and is held annually in the first week of Fall term classes. Plan to join us in 2016!!





CN Scholarship 2015 student Sarah Wood

2015/16 MAJOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



University of Winnipeg Graduate Studies Scholarship 2015 student Jasmin Winter



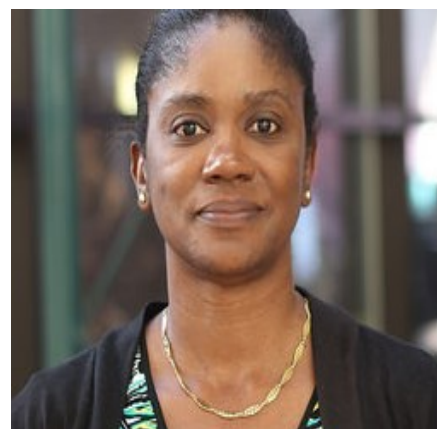
University of Winnipeg Graduate Studies Scholarship 2015 student Leah McDonnell



CDN Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship student Echeta Chinonyerem



CDN Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship 2015 student Aliraza Alidina



President's Award 2015 Barbara Gardner

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICSD)

ICSD 2015

MDP students present at the ICSD Conference in New York.

Pictured right:

Oluwabusola Olaniyan

Leah McDonnell

Barbara Gardner

Adesuwa Ero

The International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) was held at Columbia University, New York City on September 23-24th, 2015, co-hosted by the Master's in Development Practice Global Association and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

The conference theme was Implementing the SDGs: Getting Started, and it focused on identifying and sharing practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). The 17 global goals, ratified by UN, provide the world with a 15-year development agenda to tackle poverty, climate change and inequality.



MDP STUDENT ATTENDS EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY ON CSR



MDP extends its congratulations to MDP student, Jessica Numminen for having been selected to attend the 2015 Executive Briefing Seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Vancouver, BC. Organized by the Corporate Social Responsibility Training Institute (CSR), the event featured an exciting program with leading faculty in this important area of development. President and Founder of the CSR Training Institute, Mr. Wayne Dunn has over 25 years of senior-level global experience with CSR and is an integral member of the MDP's Indigenous Advisory Circle. In participating, Jessica had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the forces driving change, how key stakeholders are responding and what they and their organizations can do to transform these challenges and risks into strategic opportunities.

FISHER RIVER CREE NATION WELCOMES NEW MDP COHORT



A unique feature of the MDP program is the week-long orientation for new students that takes place before classes begin. A central part of the Orientation is hosted in the Cree community of Fisher River. Chief and Council, community leaders, youth and knowledge-holders share their experiences and knowledge related to the challenges and successes of community development. Discussions include such topics as governance, environmental issues, education, health, traditional knowledge, and the impact of residential schools. Students also are invited to participate in many different cultural activities.

“The orientation was very comprehensive and definitely gave us the opportunity to get to know one another while introducing a lot of the key themes and questions that we will be exploring over the next two years”-MDP Student 2015

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dulce Gonzalez is from Mexico. She has a passion for the preservation and promotion of the environment, traditions, and culture through sustainable initiatives that allow the empowerment and conservation of livelihoods and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

Dulce graduated from the MDP in 2014, having simultaneously completed the Certificate on Indigenous People’s Rights and Policy Development at Columbia University. Dulce began the MDP having completed a BA in International Business and a Certificate on Mexican Indigenous Cultures.

Dulce’s first MDP field placement was in Botswana working on a cultural tourism project with the San people. For her Canadian placement, she worked at Blue Quills First Nations College in St. Paul, Alberta (Treaty 6) where she gained further experience

on Indigenous research methodologies, and food security through permaculture. Her past works in the United States and Mexico include planning and management of programs related to folk art and cultural promotion of Indigenous groups.

Dulce trusts that her studies and experiences gave her an ethical and a holistic approach enhancing the tools, skills and knowledge to work in the sustainable development field. Today, Dulce and her sister have their own specialty coffee business, working directly with small organic coffee producers in Mexico, they are being both committed to environmental conservation, fair trade and respect for life.



MDP Alumni Dulce Gonzalez (far left) with a group of coffee experts in Mexico.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Patricia Fitzpatrick
Associate Professor, Department of
Geography

MDP: INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

A global, interdisciplinary, professional program, the Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development (MDP) builds the skills required to be a successful practitioner of sustainable development. Indigenous knowledge and experience are at the core of an innovative curriculum that cuts across health, management, natural and social sciences. The 24-month course-based program is eminently practical. In the 54 credit-hours of classes, problem-solving, case studies, group projects and critical self-reflection are emphasized and in-class assignments are designed to build the skills needed to be an effective development practitioner.

For more information about the program please contact us at:
+1 (204) 258.2998
email: mdp@uwinnipeg.ca

How did you hear about the MDP program, and what motivated you to become an affiliated member to the program?

I have been involved in the MDP since its inception at the University of Winnipeg. Natural Sciences are part of the core curriculum, and so as the University started to develop its course portfolio, the Department of Geography helped develop the syllabus for 7750: *Managing for Environmental Stability*. This course canvases emerging fields of study, such as effective governance of natural resource, indigenous knowledge, corporate social responsibility, and adaptive management. It is designed to provide real-world experience, and so each year we consider these issues through a recent development, such as the Keeyask Hydro Electric Development Project and the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project.

What are some of the most meaningful initiatives that you have been connected with in the development field, and why were they meaningful to you?

Over the last five years, I have been fortunate to be involved in several different projects that focus on how we manage our natural resources, and what this means for communities.

From 2011-2014, I lead a study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada which considered the development of government and voluntary mining sustainability policies over the last forty years in Canada and Brazil. The purpose of this project was to understand which types of policies were more effective for fostering resilience at the community level.

Starting in 2012, along with Dr. Alan Didick and Dr. James P. Robson, I was engaged by the Consumer's Association of Canada (Manitoba Branch) as an independent expert to critique the approach to adaptive management outlined in environmental impact statements submitted by Manitoba Hydro for the Bi-pole III Transmission Lines Project, and the Keeyask Hydroelectric generating station. Our reports were quoted extensively in the final report written by the Clean Environment Commission, who developed recommendations related to our evidence. The recommendations were built into the final license issued by the Province of Manitoba.

This summer, I was asked to serve as an independent expert – this time for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs - to consider first adaptive management, and later (with Dr. James P. Robson) the Aboriginal Engagement Process employed in Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Project. While our reports do not necessarily represent the position by the Assembly, I was fortunate to participate in a workshop with Cree, Anishinaabe and Dakota Elders and Knowledge Holders relating to their perceptions of the relationship between First Nations and resource development companies and the relationship between First Nations and the land, water, skies and animals.

INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO BUSINESS PLANNING COURSE

This October, for the first time, the MDP offered a condensed version of its popular course, "Indigenous Approaches to Business Planning."

The course was taught by Carol Ann Hilton; a recognized First Nation's entrepreneur from the Nuu chah nulth Nation in British Columbia. Carol Ann is the CEO of Transformation, a premier First Nation socio-economic company, which follows a solutions-based business model focusing on shifting practices and overcoming barriers .

Offering the course in this format, allowed for qualified participants from the community to learn alongside MDP students and earn a certificate of participation.



We welcome your comments and if there is something in these pages about which you would like additional information, please let us know.