

## **GFC Aboriginal Education Committee Annual Report 2013-14**

### *Meetings*

The Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC) held four meetings in the period from September 2013 to August 2014:

September 17, 2013

December 5, 2013

February 25, 2014

June 19, 2014

There was quorum at all meetings except June 19, 2014. Time-sensitive decisions from that meeting date were addressed subsequently by voting conducted via email. The committee also developed an Aboriginal Education Committee website.

The primary accomplishments of the Aboriginal Education Committee this year were the formation of five working groups, contributions to the planning for the new FNMI Gathering Place, and submission of the *Blackfoot and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Protocol Handbook* to General Faculties Council for approval.

### *Working Groups*

The Aboriginal Education Committee formed five working groups, as follows:

Gathering Place Working Group

Cultural Advancement Working Group

FNMI Enrolment and Student Success Working Group

FNMI Research Issues Working Group

Indigenization of Curriculum Working Group

The AEC developed Terms of Reference for the working groups, including purpose, mandate, membership, and responsibilities. The process of refining the Terms of Reference for each working group still is underway. In the meantime, each group has a membership that has been meeting and providing verbal updates to the Aboriginal Education Committee on its ongoing work.

### *FNMI Centre and Gathering Place*

The Gathering Place Working Group met four times from December to June to advise on the development and renovations of Paterson Centre to serve as the Interim FNMI Gathering Place. In addition, working group members participated in the President's consultations with students and Elders regarding the Gathering Place. Renovations were completed on budget and on time, and FNMI Centre staff

moved into the new Gathering Place in August 2014. This is a significant accomplishment for the University, and one in which members of the Gathering Place Working Group and the broader Aboriginal Education Committee played a key role.

The AEC also provided consultation on the search committee structure and hiring process for the Director, FNMI Centre. This hiring process currently is underway.

### *Protocol Handbook*

The *Blackfoot and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Protocol Handbook* was developed to share information and serve as a guideline for university faculty and staff who are hosting university events that incorporate recognition of Blackfoot and FNMI cultures and/or hosting Blackfoot or other FNMI peoples at the University of Lethbridge. The protocol handbook was submitted to the GFC Convocation Committee for information in Fall 2013, and it was approved by General Faculties Council on October 7, 2013.

Submitted by Judith Lapadat  
Associate Vice-President (Students)  
Chair of the Aboriginal Education Committee  
September 22, 2014