

USask and Prince Albert Grand Council sign MOU

SASKATOON – The University of Saskatchewan’s (USask) President Peter Stoicheff met with the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte in Prince Albert today, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between their organizations.

PAGC represents 12 First Nations and the 28 northern communities under the umbrella of Prince Albert Grand Council.

The agreement establishes networks of diverse expertise needed in the development efforts of PAGC communities, and collaboration on projects and research activities that have mutual benefits for both partners. It assures PAGC’s input into programs and courses offered by the university, especially at the USask campus at Prince Albert.

“This agreement will help to shape a framework for dialogue and sharing of information between the PAGC and the university,” said USask President Peter Stoicheff. “It has a strong focus on supporting Indigenous students. The Memorandum of Understanding represents an opportunity to renew and strengthen our respectful and reciprocal working relationship, while supporting our Indigenization efforts at the new USask Campus in Prince Albert.”

The University of Saskatchewan’s Plan 2025 and its Indigenous strategy is focused on working alongside Métis, Inuit and First Nations peoples on Indigenization, reconciliation and decolonization efforts and initiatives at the University.

Northern Cree, Dene, and Dakota knowledge systems will provide a framework for Indigenous epistemologies, methodologies, and pedagogies that will inform teaching, learning, research and relationships.

“We are thrilled to sign this memorandum of understanding with the University of Saskatchewan,” said PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte. “The university is moving in a direction that is heavily focused on reconciliation and Indigenization, and we are in support of their plans to ensure that its campus programs, courses, research and support services better reflect the needs of their First Nations students, especially those from our PAGC communities in northern Saskatchewan.”

The University of Saskatchewan has made major efforts in establishing relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities within the province. The new University Plan 2025, a seven- year strategic plan, has Indigenization as one of its pillars. The hiring of Jacqueline Ottmann, vice-provost of Indigenous Engagement is welcome news for PAGC.

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ABOUT THE PRINCE ALBERT GRAND COUNCIL

The Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) is a tribal council representing 12 First Nations in northern Saskatchewan. PAGC is founded on the cultural diversity of its member First Nations and promotes the preservation of languages, traditional practices, knowledge sharing, ceremonial events, and ritual expressions that promote health and social well-being for all.