



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

PAGC Calls for Federal Funding for FNUiv's New Northern Campus

(Pre-Confederation, Treaty 5, 6, 8 & 10) *Prince Albert, Sask.* – The 12 Chiefs of Prince Albert Grand Council's (PAGC) have unanimously agreed to pursue federal support for the construction of the First Nations University of Canada's (FNUiv) new Northern Campus in Prince Albert. This effort is part of a broader strategy to strengthen Indigenous education and advance community development in central and northern Saskatchewan.

"The mandate by the leaders of our 12 member nations sends a clear message of our shared resolve. Securing federal funding for the FNUiv Northern Campus goes beyond infrastructure; it is a commitment to the future of Indigenous education, reconciliation and our collective future. We stand ready to work alongside the federal government to realize this vision," said Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte of the Prince Albert Grand Council.

With a revised funding bid of \$25 million from Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, FNUiv has committed \$8.35 million of its reserves, secured a \$10.99 million mortgage, and is aiming for a \$5.5 million fundraising target to finance this initiative.

"This is more than a capital venture; it is an investment in our youth, our culture, and our future. This campus is envisioned as a hub for Indigenous scholarship, reflecting our commitment to education as a means of sustaining our culture and communities. We call on federal decision-makers for prompt and decisive funding action," said Fourth Vice Chief Craig McCallum of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

The City of Prince Albert has shown its support through the symbolic provision of a five-acre plot of land for \$1, signifying a deep commitment to reconciliation and progressive community initiatives.

"Prince Albert has laid the foundation with a land donation, and with our finances prepared, we now urge the federal government to advance a campus that honours our distinct cultural, traditions, and languages. This campus is crucial for northern Saskatchewan's growing population, which faces unique challenges. It will be more than a learning institution—it will symbolize the resilience and educational

aspirations of our communities," said Chief Karen Bird of FNUniv's Board of Governors.

"As educators and stewards of Indigenous knowledge, we are deeply committed to this new campus. It embodies our dedication to serving the unique educational needs of northern Saskatchewan and actualizing the vision our Chiefs have set forth. With federal support, we can offer a culturally grounded academic environment right in the heart of the North—where it's most needed," said Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann, President of the First Nations University of Canada.

The project, shovel-ready once federal funding is secured, is expected to significantly bolster the local economy of Prince Albert by creating employment opportunities and fostering long-term economic development.

About Prince Albert Grand Council:

The Prince Albert Grand Council is one of the largest tribal councils in Canada with a membership of over 44,000, representing 12 First Nations and the 28 northern communities in the territories of Treaty 5, 6, 8 & 10. To learn more, visit pagc.sk.ca.

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