



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Minister of Advanced Education

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

March 20, 2024

Richard Boudreault, Chair
Board of Governors
First Nations University of Canada
1 First Nations Way
REGINA SK S4S 7K2

Dear Richard Boudreault:

Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Budget provides record investments in our province's present and future, with a focus on education, health care, and the well-being of our communities. Our rapidly growing economy is attracting more people and creating more jobs, and our strong and innovative post-secondary sector is essential in supporting that growth. *Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy*, announced earlier this month, underscores our commitment to supporting a thriving, talented workforce.

This budget year marks the conclusion of the four-year multi-year funding agreement. Our government's multi-year funding commitment and your dedicated planning and improvement efforts have ensured that Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector remains financially sustainable and aligned with the priorities of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*.

As we begin the collective work to establish a new agreement, we appreciate the discussions this past year regarding the importance of stable, predictable funding, as well as the growing pressure on budgets and financial sustainability efforts. We heard your concerns and are very pleased to provide a 2.2 per cent one-time increase to your 2024-25 operating grant. This positive adjustment to your funding will be reflected in an amendment to the current multi-year funding agreement. We appreciate your commitment to reporting on the progress and impact of your efforts and look forward to ongoing collaboration on the development of a new multi-year funding agreement.

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The 2024-25 Budget tabled today includes \$4,013,100 for the First Nations University of Canada for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The attached appendices (Appendix 1 – Detailed Schedule of Funding, and Appendix 2 – Funding Details) provide additional details about government’s investment and its intended uses.

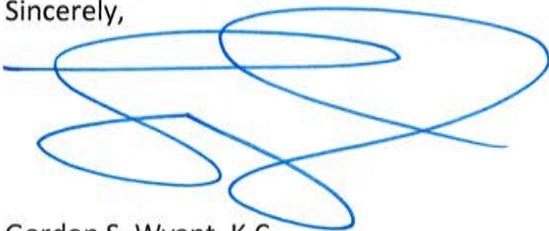
Budget investments in training are aligned to ensure Saskatchewan’s labour force can keep pace with the opportunities created by industry. The *Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy* will provide a blueprint for post-secondary institutions and industry to prioritize investments in programs, services and initiatives that connect people to jobs, recognize skills and address labour needs for emerging sectors.

Ministry officials will be in contact with representatives at your institution to discuss the following 2024-25 accountability requirements and due dates:

- **Agreement to Submit Required Multi-Year Funding Reporting** – due April 15, 2024 (as per Eligibility Criteria 1 in the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding*);
- **Multi-Year Funding Accountability Reports** – due June 28, 2024, and January 31, 2025 (as per Eligibility Criteria 2 and 3 in the MOU);
- **Revenue and Expenditure Reports** – due June 28, 2024; and
- **Performance Framework Report** – due June 28, 2024.

We appreciate the contributions from your institution as we work together to ensure a bright future for Saskatchewan, by providing our residents with the high-quality education and training they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education

Attachments

cc: Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann, President, First Nations University of Canada
Istvan Samayoa, Director of Finance, First Nations University of Canada
Rebecca Carter, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
First Nations University of Canada

Funding Schedule April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

	2024-25 Funding	2023-24 Funding
<u>Operating Funding</u>		
Base Operating Grant	\$ 3,674,300	\$ 3,674,300
2.2% Increase (one-time)	81,000	—
Total Operating Funding as per MYF MOU*	\$ 3,755,300	\$ 3,674,300
<u>Other Funding</u>		
Bachelor of Indigenous Education Programs	207,800	69,000
Indigenous Languages Scholarships	50,000	50,000
Total Other Funding	\$ 257,800	\$ 119,000
Total Funding	\$ 4,013,100	\$ 3,793,300

* MYF MOU = *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding 2021-22 to 2024-25 Amendment*

APPENDIX 2
Funding Details
First Nations University of Canada

Other Funding

Bachelor of Indigenous Education Programs

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$207,800** to support three Bachelor of Indigenous Education (BIED) programs, as follows.

BIED - Cree	Waterhen Lake First Nation	Yr 2	\$ 71,400 ¹
BIED - Dene	Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation	Yr 2	71,400 ¹
	La Loche and Clearwater River Dene Nation	Yr 3	65,000 ²
Total			\$ 207,800

¹ Reporting requirements outlined in the February 6, 2024 ministry approval letter. Cohort 1 began in 2023-24.

² Reporting requirements outlined in the August 24, 2022 ministry approval letter. Cohort 1 began in 2016-17 and ended 2019-20; Cohort 2 began in 2022-23.

Indigenous Languages Scholarships

The 2024-25 Budget includes **\$50,000** to support students studying Indigenous languages. The ministry will disburse these funds in fall 2024. Reporting will be required on an annual basis with details and timelines developed in collaboration with First Nations University of Canada.