

PRESENTATION TO THE NORTHERN LABOUR MARKET COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Carrie Lavallie on behalf FNUniv

- **Thanks for this opportunity to update the committee on a number of initiatives underway at FNUniv that will have an impact on employment in the North, especially for First Nations and Métis people.**
- **FNUniv is developing an institutional strategic plan, the process for which includes extensive consultation across the province with Elders, Aboriginal communities, employer groups and other stakeholders. The Plan will identify key institutional priorities and values for FNUniv's future, and will provide insight into which academic program areas should be the focus of the institution's attention over the next five years. This strategic exercise will make the University more responsive to labour market needs.**
- **In advance of the Plan's submission to our Board (slated for February), there are some strategic initiatives underway to meet urgent priorities, one of which is a renewal of programming for Northern Campus in light of the phasing-out of NEPS. A degree program for mental health and addictions workers, tentatively entitled the "Bachelor of Holistic Health and Healing", is being developed as a proposal in consultation with NITHA and the mental health and addictions sub-committee of NLMC. Consultations with multiple potential partners continue, and FNUniv hopes to have this program approved in time for a first in-take in the Fall 2013 term.**
- **FNUniv has a high priority the continued presence and program diversification of Northern Campus as a valuable gateway for Aboriginal people into advanced education. One area under re-development, in consultation with SIIT and other partners, is access and transition programming for Aboriginal students. FNUniv is also working to expand its capacity in distance education, and is rebuilding its community-based programming.**
- **President Doyle Anderson is building partnerships towards increasing FNUniv's capacity in the areas of business, entrepreneurship and leadership, in conjunction with new potential programming to serve the labour needs of the mining, engineering and resource industries. One goal of this proposed expansion and development of programming is to ensure that Aboriginal people have opportunities to pursue careers in these areas at the management and professionally skilled levels.**
- **Members of the committee are welcome to contact Professor Richard Missens, Special Advisor on Strategic Planning, or Dr. Lynn Wells, Vice-President Academic, about any of the initiatives mentioned in this report.**

