

**NEWS
RELEASE**



March 3, 2016

UCN CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF THIRD COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN MANITOBA

University College of the North (UCN) in partnership with the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation held grand opening ceremonies this afternoon (Thursday, March 3, 2016) for the UCN/Pukatawagan Public Library. The ceremony took place at the Sakastew School where the library is located.

This is the third such public library partnership UCN has formed. In 2009 UCN signed an agreement with Norway House Cree Nation. In 2011 a partnership with Chemawawin Cree Nation was formed.

In all three developments, the key has been to provide fully functioning libraries where none had existed before.

Dr. Stan Gardner is the UCN Dean of Library Services and has overseen the development of all three libraries. "It takes time to build a public library to what it should be", said Dr. Gardner who went on to say "Norway House has now reached the tipping point that one can truly say is a public library that anyone would be proud to have in their community."

Dean Gardner also said "public libraries can become the living, breathing heart of a community. It draws in people from all ages, to all interests. It opens up the world in a comfortable, safe environment for everyone. It is more than just books, but a thriving community centre for activities, events, as well as a place for study and contemplation.

This new library in Pukatawagan will be overseen by Gloria Richard, the community Librarian.

For further information, please contact:

Jim Scott, Director

Department of Communications

University College of the North

P: 204-627-8244

E: jscott@ucn.ca