



May 28, 2019

UCN Releases its Plan to Strengthen Economic and Community Development in Northern Manitoba

In keeping with University College of the North's (UCN) new Strategic Plan, UCN is releasing details as to how the institution will support economic and social development in the north.

"As the only educational institution located in the north and led by northerners, UCN has a key role to play in helping to strengthen economic and social development in the region," said UCN's President and Vice-Chancellor Doug Lauvstad. "UCN has unique insights into the north, an established network of campuses and training centres, and the infrastructure to contribute to ensuring that northern Manitoba is a crucial economic driver for Manitoba."

Through establishing new partnerships, focusing on employment-readiness training, upgrading northerner's educational preparedness for further education, and by offering new program options, UCN is strengthening the capacity of northerners to gain life-long employment and contribute to their communities.

"Education is a key enabler that will allow Indigenous and northern Manitobans to improve their ability to give back to their communities," said Dan Smith, Vice-President Academic and Research. "UCN is concentrating on providing educational opportunities for students, for communities, and for industries to help ensure that Indigenous and northern Manitobans have the skills they need to pursue their employment goals."

UCN's plan to help strengthen economic and social development focuses on initiatives that further UCN's agenda for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, engages directly with communities and with industries in the north, and strengthens student success.

In part to celebrate the 15th anniversary of its founding, UCN released its new Strategic Plan in April 2019. UCN's vision statement is "Guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings, UCN is building better futures for a stronger North," and its mission is to serve "northern communities and people with education, training, teaching, learning, and research, while being inclusive and respectful of diverse Indigenous and northern values." UCN has established four strategic directions that further defines its vision and mission: (1) support student success; (2) advance an agenda of reconciliation; (3) engage with communities and with industries; and (4) ensure responsible administration. These strategic directions are realized through UCN's operational activities.

Details of UCN's plans to strengthen economic and community development in the north are attached.

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Strengthening Economic and Community Development in Northern Manitoba

UCN's new Strategic Plan helps to ensure that University College of the North (UCN) is contributing to a stronger north through teaching, learning, scholarship and economic and social development. This document details the actions that UCN is taking to help build better futures for a stronger north through supporting northerners, communities, and industries in strengthening their social and economic capacity.

Strategic Directions	Actions Being Taken to Achieve the Strategic Directions	Success Measures
<p><i>Support Student Success</i></p> <p>UCN will recruit more students, provide them with access to post-secondary opportunities and support them through to graduation.</p> <p>UCN will provide relevant and flexible programming leading to good job opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand Health Care Aide Certificate into communities in the north - Offer the Aboriginal and Northern Tourism and Hospitality Management Diploma program - Increase programming related to information and communication technologies - Offer adult learning in UCN's campus at The Pas - Offer a Foundations for Trades program to strengthen student success in trades programs - Offer more adult education and employment readiness training programs in UCN's Post-Secondary Access Centres - Offer a Preparation for Health Programs Certificate to strengthen student success in health programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase enrolment in main campuses by 10% per year, growing to 1,754 in 2020/21 - Double headcount enrolment in Post-Secondary Access Centres, growing to 1,961 in 2020/21 - Offer Adult Learning and upgrading programming in at least six Post-Secondary Access Centres by 2020/21
<p><i>Advance an Agenda of Reconciliation</i></p> <p>Responding to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, UCN's curriculum, systems, and processes will support and reflect the strengths of Indigenous peoples in the north.</p> <p>UCN will create opportunities for self-determined economic and social development by Indigenous communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with MKO to support the transition of healthcare to Indigenous control in northern Manitoba - Partner with the Manitoba Metis Federation to deliver programs - Finalize the establishment of the Centre for Indigenous Community Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase partnerships

Strategic Directions	Actions Being Taken to Achieve the Strategic Directions	Success Measures
<p><i>Engage with Communities and with Industries</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish North Forge North in partnership with the Artic Gateway Group - Establish additional Workforce Development Centres - Open a Career Development Centre at The Pas Campus in partnership with Industry Training and Employment Services - Develop a plan to expand workforce integrated learning (WIL) opportunities for all post-secondary programs - Establish a digital drop-in centre - Establish the Diploma in Practical Nursing offered in Flin Flon as a permanent offering - Offer new information and communications technology programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer workplace integrated learning opportunities in 100% of all UCN's post-secondary programs by 2024 - Increase partnerships - Increase contract training revenue to \$2.5 million annually by 2020/21 - Improve graduation rates in all programs
<p>Recognizing that a strong Manitoba depends on a strong north, UCN will partner with industry and communities in programming, research, and economic development activities, including facilitating participation of northerners in the digital economy.</p> <p>UCN will play a leading role in steering the north towards greater prosperity and resilience in an ever-changing world.</p>		
<p><i>Ensure Responsible Administration</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use recently completed community needs assessments plans to help guide training opportunities in communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Double headcount enrolment in Post-Secondary Access Centres, growing to 1,961 in 2020/21
<p>Quality, effectiveness and efficiency will permeate all that we do.</p>		
<p><i>When these actions are completed, UCN will be offering students upgrading, adult learning, workplace skills, and post-secondary courses and programs that lead to employment opportunities in the north, communities will enjoy greater economic stability, and employers will have access to skilled, local workers to help industries in the north to thrive.</i></p>		



STRATEGIC PLAN



Mission Statement

University College of the North serves northern communities and people with education, training, teaching, learning and research, while being inclusive and respectful of diverse Indigenous and northern values.

Vision Statement

Guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings, UCN is building better futures for a stronger North.

Truth
Wisdom
Honesty
Humility
Courage
Love
Respect

Strategic Directions

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

UCN will recruit more students, provide them with access to post-secondary opportunities, and support them through to graduation.

UCN will provide relevant and flexible programming leading to good job opportunities.

ADVANCE AN AGENDA OF RECONCILIATION

Responding to the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, UCN's curriculum, systems, and processes will support and reflect the strengths of Indigenous peoples in the north.

UCN will create opportunities for self-determined economic and social development by Indigenous communities.

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES AND WITH INDUSTRIES

Recognizing that a strong Manitoba depends on a strong north, UCN will partner with industry and communities in programming, research, and economic development activities, including facilitating participation of northerners in the digital economy.

UCN will play a leading role in steering the north towards greater prosperity and greater resilience in an ever-changing world.

ENSURE RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

Quality, effectiveness, and efficiency will permeate all that we do.

HERE YOU CAN.