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### **UCN's Enrolment Reaches Record Levels**

With 2,699 registered students at the end of February 2019, University College of the North's (UCN) enrolment is the highest it has ever been since its founding in 2004. Headcount enrolment, a count of unique individuals registered in programs, increased from 1,842 students in all programs at all locations on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to 2,699 students in all programs at all locations as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

"UCN is committed to educating northern Manitobans and preparing them for employment opportunities in the north," said Doug Lauvstad, UCN's President and Vice-Chancellor. "I am very excited about our success – at 2,699 students, enrolment at this point in the academic year is well above the 2,051 enrolment count for the entire 2017/18 academic year. We are very proud that UCN is able to serve ever more northerners!"

Enrolment changes at UCN reflect growth across its different campuses and program areas. Enrolment grew on average by 46.5% overall, with enrolment increasing at UCN's main campuses by 20.4% in The Pas and by 39.7% at the Thompson campus. Enrolment increased by 82.7% in UCN's network of 12 Post-Secondary Access Centres and other off-site locations, providing more opportunities for northerners to pursue their education closer to home.

Workplace skills development accounted for an incredible 578 additional students at the end of February 2019, with the balance of enrolment increases occurring in certificate programs. Enrolment in all of UCN's certificate programs grew by 39.2%, led by a 95.6% increase in students enrolled in the Health Care Aid certificate program, and a 115.2% increase in enrolment in the Educational Assistant Certificate. Workplace skills development, which supports industry needs, saw enrolment increase by 344.0%, growing from just 168 students in February 2018 to 746 students in February 2019.

"Our enrolment growth reflects UCN's commitment to increase engagement with industry and with northern communities," said Dan Smith, Vice-President Academic and Research at UCN. "Our efforts have paid off with exceptional growth in industry-related and community-delivered programming, and next year we add a focus on increases in degree and diploma program enrolment. Our recruiters and our faculty and staff have been working very hard to connect northerners with high quality and accessible education opportunities!"

Final enrolment numbers for the 2018/19 academic year, which are expected to reflect even higher student numbers, will be available after June 2019.

The 2018 Manitoba Colleges Review noted that UCN needed to do more to meet the needs of employers and of Indigenous and northern communities. UCN's enrolment success reflects UCN's exceptional commitment to serving Indigenous and northern Manitobans and to contributing to labour force development in the north.

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